



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, November 5, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:34 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 of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 38-16(4):
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY WEBSITE**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories takes its obligation to account for its decisions and actions seriously. We recognize the people of the Northwest Territories have the right to know what their government is doing for them and how it is expending public funds. There are many different ways in which the GNWT can account for its actions, ranging from exchanges between Minister and Regular Members here on the floor of this House to the routine publication of information and reports about government's activities.

Recently the departments of Finance and Executive have collaborated on the development of a public accountability website intended to improve how the GNWT provides information on its activities to Members and to the public. The site has its origin in a request from Members for an easier way to access more up-to-date information about how the GNWT is spending its money in support of the goals of this Assembly. Today we are responding to that request.

The new site is intended to provide a single window through which NWT residents can learn about our commitments and how we are acting to fulfil them in every department of government. Rather than having to search individual departmental websites for basic information on how the GNWT is pursuing the plans, Northerners will now be able to visit one site to learn about what their government is doing for them.

The site provides links to our budget and the business plans for every department so Northerners can know what the GNWT has committed itself to do. News and announcements about how we are pursuing these commitments will

be regularly posted to the site and status reports on more than 100 projects linked to our strategic plans will be available.

The core feature of the public accountability website is a searchable database of projects undertaken by the GNWT in support of its strategic plan. Each entry in the database includes a brief description of a project currently underway, an update on its status and an indication of the budget allocated to the project in both 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Users can search the database using a number of criteria including the goals of the Legislative Assembly, strategic initiatives and actions by department. Using this database, users will be able to get a comprehensive view of how each department is working towards the vision of the 16th Assembly and how that work is being coordinated across government. Information in the database will be updated quarterly to provide residents of the Northwest Territories with ongoing reports on GNWT activities.

The site also includes a searchable database of capital projects. Users will be able to sort the capital projects by department and by community to get a better picture of how and where the GNWT is carrying out its capital infrastructure program.

In keeping with our new approach to infrastructure, however, the database does not provide specific budget figures for individual capital projects.

Mr. Speaker, the public accountability website is another step in our continuing efforts to find ways to better communicate with the people of the Northwest Territories about what the GNWT does. The focus of this site is on presenting information about our strategic initiatives and our infrastructure plan. We will continue to develop this site as a tool for providing up-to-date progress and spending reports in the coming months including ways to report on our results and on our core business.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to informing Northerners about its decisions and activities and making sure that they have an opportunity to have input into our plans. The new public accountability website is one of the ways that we hope to deliver on that commitment. I invite MLAs and members of the public to visit the site at workingtogether.gov.nt.ca to find out more about how the GNWT is working to

advance the vision and goals of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 39-16(4):
FULFILLING OUR PLAN

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has highlighted our efforts as government to provide residents of the NWT with an interactive on-line accounting of the strategic initiatives introduced to advance the priorities and goals of the 16th Assembly in a deliberate and organized fashion.

Later this afternoon I will table a companion document to this project. Titled Northerners Working Together: Fulfilling our Plan, this document provides an overview of the vision set out by our Assembly, and the specific actions, projects and investments that this government is undertaking to support it.

Mr. Speaker, as we embark on the final two years of our term, these two resources provide an accounting and guide to the work that has been set out, actioned and completed so far in our strategic plan.

Things like:

- taking action on energy costs and improving transportation access to help reduce the cost of living;
- actively looking for alternatives to expensive imported diesel and investing in roads, bridges and airports to help lower the cost of goods in our communities;
- investing in education and skill development, supporting economic diversification and promoting investment in the NWT as a way to maximize economic opportunities for our people;
- increasing our emphasis on children and youth, encouraging healthy choices, supporting volunteers and improving the safety and security of our communities; and
- taking steps to protect our natural environment, defining our interests in land and water, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and adapting to climate change to better manage this land.

In the midst of all this work, Mr. Speaker, we have also moved to secure a footing from which we can realistically address our future. We have:

- completed the difficult task of putting our fiscal house in order;

- implemented the steps necessary to ensure our programs and services are effective, efficient and sustainable;
- maintained a tight control on our costs;
- improved budget process to make it more controlled, planned and accountable;
- weathered the brunt of a global recession;
- renewed our commitment to the unique consensus-based system with which we govern; and
- established and nurtured strong relationships with the federal government and our own northern and aboriginal governments.

We have accomplished much to get to where we are today and I encourage Members to look back at the first part of our journey to get a full appreciation and understanding of how far we have come.

However, now is not the time to slow down. Now is the time to keep moving forward and to build on what we have begun.

Based on the sturdy foundation we have built, I look forward in the next two years to making real and significant progress on some of the biggest issues and opportunities that exist here in the North:

- the Mackenzie Gas Project;
- devolution and resource revenue sharing;
- the development of our incredible hydroelectric potential;
- transportation infrastructure like the Mackenzie Valley Highway;
- the NWT regulatory regime;
- the rising impacts of climate change; and
- a common vision for the political development of the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Assembly, with the vision that it holds, the work that it has done and the commitment, courage and foresight of its Members, is positioned to move forward and improve the lives of our residents, build a vibrant, sustainable Northwest Territories and contribute to a stronger Canada. 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 40-16(4):
RELEASE OF "CREATING A BRIGHTER
FUTURE: A REVIEW OF ELECTRICITY RATES,
REGULATION AND SUBSIDY PROGRAMS IN
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES"

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the report of the Electricity Review Panel titled "Creating a Brighter Future: A Review

of Electricity Rates, Regulation and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories,” commonly referred to as the Electricity Review.

Mr. Speaker, nearly one year ago, on December 4, 2008, I released a public discussion paper on behalf of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee that established the context for the Electricity Review and posed a number of questions for public discussion. The first question posed was: What should be our vision for the future of electricity in the Northwest Territories?

To lead the public discussion, the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee appointed a team of three distinguished members: Mark Cleveland, Gerry Forrest and Doug Matthews. The team was asked to approach their task with the following three objectives in mind:

- reduce costs where possible;
- distribute the costs equitably; and
- ensure affordability.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Review Panel has undertaken an extensive public discussion process and, by all reports, this process has been appreciated by our residents and communities. The team held public discussion meetings in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Behchoko, Hay River, Fort Smith and Fort Resolution. The team also worked with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to hold a two-day workshop for our smaller communities to ensure their input was considered. In total, the panel heard from over 350 residents.

In July 2009 a report on the public discussions was released, entitled “Electricity Review: A Discussion with Northerners about Electricity”. The public discussions as well as a number of written submissions to the review team are reflected in this report.

With the release of *Creating a Brighter Future*, the review team has presented the Government of the Northwest Territories with a series of comprehensive recommendations. Mr. Speaker, the recommendations contained in the report are solely those of the review team. The report that will be tabled today is the report that was submitted by the review team in its entirety.

Mr. Speaker, the next step will be to develop a Government of the Northwest Territories response to the review team’s report. We have had extensive discussions with all Members of this Legislative Assembly over the past two weeks and the Regular Members, through the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, have agreed to work closely with the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee in the development of a GNWT response. We have all agreed that this response must be comprehensive and will need to reflect the results

of the review of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation as well as the review of the ATCO proposal, which we have discussed a number of times in this Assembly.

Developing a comprehensive response will be a complex task and will take some time. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have the potential to undertake some fundamental change to our electricity system, change that has been called for by our residents, our communities and by Members of this Legislative Assembly. It is important that we take the time to get it right.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, working closely with the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, will develop a comprehensive response to the Electricity Review, incorporating the Northwest Territories Power Corporation review and the ATCO proposal by March 2010. We believe we have a real opportunity here to establish a long-term vision for the future our electricity system, a vision that will ensure the sustainability of all of our communities and a vision that future generations will be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members’ statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Members’ Statements

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES FOR CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about working from public departments to municipal governments. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do agree that community governments have been empowered to make decisions at the community level in regards to municipal service and infrastructure, but most community governments do not have the engineering or technical capacity to take on large-scale projects such as project management, looking at the scope of work that has to be done and ensuring that we’re complying with building codes and also ensuring that we have the capacity to deliver.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, government departments still take on the responsibility of providing technical services to community governments, regardless if it’s Municipal and Community Affairs through the capital project technical people, land-use planners. Again, Mr. Speaker, I think it’s critical that we, as government, support communities, such as Aklavik, which I talked about the project earlier this week; shoreline erosion.

This government has developed projects in the past. We do have reports on these specific projects and the communities may not have access to that. Again, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of requirements in regards to accessing federal funds in regards to Building Canada, regarding infrastructure funding. Again it's who is going to assist the community to ensure that whatever application they put forward meets the required scope of work that's going to be needed. More importantly, does it comply with the applications that are going to be required by the federal government when they review those applications and ensuring that we're going to be able to take advantage of those resources and dollars that the federal government is offering, and that we do work with communities through public institutions such as the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Department of Public Works and Services, Department of Transportation and other infrastructure departments in this government.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs questions on exactly what is this department doing to assist communities dealing with capital projects such as the shoreline erosion project in Aklavik. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PRIORITIES FOR THE BALANCE OF THE
16TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am reviewing the priorities I see for this Assembly's mandates. While time is always short, our end of term, now only 22 months away, looms ever closer.

First, it is clear that we need to take a stand on climate change by setting science-based targets for greenhouse gas reductions and a comprehensive plan to get there. Our energy priorities, biomass and water strategies, the gaps that remain unknown, all will be replaced and revealed in context through a well-integrated plan.

This is challenging and it will change how we do business, but the benefits are many. We have to start now. I will be calling on Ministers for commitments to get this underway. We need progressive action to give people the ability to help themselves. We already know the skills that are needed and are expected to be needed in the near future. Let's make training to ensure those skills, Aurora College that provide them, and support for people to take advantage of educational opportunities, are a priority.

Where are our management for sustainable communities courses, our renewable energy technician programs, our able-bodied tenants

contributing to public housing, Mr. Speaker? We still need greater emphasis on prevention over dealing with the consequences of problems. Early childhood education, staying on top of the leading science for child development during the first years of life and following up with informed programming must be an active focus to ensure the substantial long-term benefits that can result. Benefits can include major progress on addictions, physical and mental health education and social well-being. A review of the Child and Family Services Act and development of an anti-poverty strategy will also yield many returns for our people.

Shifting our focus for mega development to vital mini economies will bring local sustainable and job-intensive development of communities in ways that attack the cost of living, build appropriate skills and form a healthy engagement with our land from which our needs are derived. Non-renewable resource development at larger scales are given and will happen at their own pace through larger corporations known to be good at looking after their own interests. Ongoing oversight with mitigation of impacts on healthy, happy communities and a sustainable environment will ensure northern benefits.

People want every major decision to be viewed through a lens that looks not just at dollars but at how we benefit quality of life and the environment. Mr. Speaker, let's get it done. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT GREENHOUSE GAS STRATEGY
EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since day one of the 16th Legislative Assembly there has been a significant amount of discussion on climate change and making responsible environmental decisions. As outlined in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy, the GNWT committed to lead by example by adopting a target reduced greenhouse gas emissions from its own operations to 10 percent below the 2001 levels by 2011.

This was, and is, a reasonable first step. Leading by example is rarely wrong. I have to say that we have done a lot of good in-house. We have adopted biomass in many of our buildings and have worked with staff to find energy efficiency within our day-to-day operations. I would not be surprised to hear that we have already met our target reduction of 10 percent.

In the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy, the Minister's message clearly articulated the reality that climate change impacts are felt earlier in the North than in the rest of the world and that other

Canadians and countries are looking to the NWT to see how we control our greenhouse gas emissions and begin to adapt the impacts of climate change. I can't argue with this statement. I do, however, feel that adopting targets for GNWT operations alone fails to address the larger issue, the reality of climate change on the entire Northwest Territories.

Climate change affects all of the residents of the Northwest Territories and the world. As a government, we must be setting targets that assist other sectors within the NWT to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. Leading by example is a start; however, it can't end there. Where the Canadian target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6 percent from the 1990 levels by 2010-2011, the GNWT does not have any emission reduction targets for the NWT as a whole. It is time for the NWT to take the next logical step and set strong science-based targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The GNWT also needs to adopt policies and programs that will support a comprehensive strategy to meet those emission reduction targets, things such as, but not limited to, energy efficiency standards for homes and appliances, and enhancing retrofit programs designed to significantly help low-income homeowners and encourage all other homeowners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

By working together with residents and businesses of the Northwest Territories, we can set real and responsible targets; targets which will demonstrate that we truly are aware and care, and that we are willing to, and able to, control greenhouse gas emissions within our great Territory and begin to adapt to the impacts of climate change throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have some questions for the Minister responsible for ENR on this topic. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NAHENDEH AURORA COLLEGE
NURSING STUDENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize the accomplishment of four young women from my constituency who are now enrolled in the nursing program at Aurora College here in Yellowknife.

Three of them completed high school at the Thomas Simpson School in Fort Simpson. They are: Ms. Mallory Hardisty from Jean Marie River, Ms. Amanda Bradbury from Fort Simpson, Ms. Tiiu Cli from Wrigley and Ms. Leanne Niziol, formerly of Wrigley.

I am very proud to see our young people pursuing college and university education and I hope that they enjoy the challenges that this education will bring. I also encourage our youth to see this as an example of pursuing a goal.

These students are fortunate to study in the NWT and in a very good program. The Aurora College Nursing Program was awarded the Premier's Team Award for Excellence in 2008. This nursing program educates nurses about working with not only individuals, but families and communities. Along with the science and medicine courses they take, the students are taught about the advantage of promoting good health habits and about the ethic of caring. They also get clinical experience in the Stanton Hospital and other Yellowknife facilities.

These students will have many challenges in the next few years. I wish each and every one of them success in their studies and in their chosen careers. I want them to know that your families, friends and our communities are behind you 100 percent. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RELEASE OF THE ELECTRICITY
REVIEW PANEL FINAL REPORT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Minister Bob McLeod for his Minister's statement today on Creating a Brighter Future: A Review of Electricity Rates, Regulation and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories. I really appreciate the government's proactiveness in putting this out and tabling this today so that the public can have a chance to read it.

As well, to the Minister's statement here today which tries to bring clarity, I guess, to the process that lies ahead of us, the Minister referred to working together with Priorities and Planning Committee, and most definitely over the last two weeks we have worked on this considerably. We received the recommendations. We took them, at first, just at face value. We had further questions and the Minister was good enough to bring the Review Panel back in and have a full-day working meeting. We've been meeting with the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Speaker, when the committee was struck to review these things, as the Minister indicates, it was to look at reducing costs where possible, distribute the costs equitably and ensure affordability.

Mr. Speaker, there is just one thing in the Minister's statement that I want to speak to just so that people are absolutely clear about it today too. The report that is being tabled today in its entirety are the recommendations of the review team. They are not

the position of this government. That response to those recommendations will be a collaborative effort between the Cabinet, the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee and the Regular Members, and we are happy to work closely with the Minister on that.

Mr. Speaker, just in quoting this, we have all agreed that this response must be comprehensive and will need to reflect the results of the review of the NWT Power Corporation as well as the review of the ATCO proposal. Then it says, which we have discussed a number of times in this Assembly. I just want to be clear that in our discussions in the last two weeks, we have only been discussing the review of the electricity piece of that three-part equation. I know it's confusing to people at times, because we were doing three reviews at the same time. But, Mr. Speaker, to be clear, I just want the public to know that the Members of this Assembly have not discussed nor seen the results of the NTPC review or the review of the ATCO proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PLANS FOR COMING MONTHS

MR. BEAULIEU: [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to use my Member's statement to let Tu Nedhe constituents know what my plans are for the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, we have just passed the midway point of the 16th Assembly and as elected Members to this House, I have seen this Assembly go through some challenging times and yet remain focused on the interests and people of the Northwest Territories, as I am for the people of Tu Nedhe. Mr. Speaker, this is a testament to the commitment and dedication of each Member in this Assembly. Because of this, and on behalf of my constituents, I look forward to continued positive, productive working relationships with every Member of the 16th Assembly for the remaining two years.

Today is our last day of sitting, so I would like to let my constituents know some of my plans in the coming weeks. Mr. Speaker, next week, on Tuesday, November 10th, I will be in Fort Resolution with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment as part of a literacy tour. A few weeks later, I will be in Lutselk'e from November 23rd to 25th to meet with constituents. In December I will be in Fort Resolution from the 14th to the 16th to meet with constituents again.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work for the people of Tu Nedhe to ensure that their issues are brought to the attention of this government and to ensure

that all that can be done for the people of Tu Nedhe is done.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to also acknowledge the staff here at the Legislative Assembly, people who make our jobs easier in what we do and to support our efforts in assisting our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I, and all the people of Tu Nedhe, wish you a happy and safe next few months and I hope to be in many of the Tu Nedhe homes in the next little while. I would like to encourage everyone to take extra time travelling on the highways when they are going out on the land and wish for a good, safe holiday season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RCMP EFFORTS TO CURB THE SUPPLY OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to highlight some of the successes the RCMP are having in their efforts to curb the supply of illegal drugs coming north into our communities. It should be no surprise to anyone that all Northerners have come to see the members of our RCMP as significant pillars of our communities.

Now, outside of the world-class symbol of service policing and community involvement that we all know very well, much of their work is largely done behind the scenes and gone unnoticed like a well-oiled machine.

This, in my view, is a clear testament to the high degree of quality of service so many of these members do in their day-to-day work without the average person's life being interrupted. Because we live in a world that has little interruptions, we tend to forget how quickly how much of this work is done to keep things the way they are.

So from time to time we should remind each other about the critical and dangerous work we rely on to keep our homes and communities safe. So today I want to acknowledge the work that our RCMP members in the drug gang section actually do.

As many of us know, our "G" Division RCMP has a five-member drug section and canine unit who are responsible for implementing the Drug Strategy. The NWT Drug Strategy has been very successful so far in stopping the distribution of drugs into Yellowknife and other NWT communities.

This strategy has vastly improved the coordination of community and territorial resources. The strategy is also underpinned with a focus which includes responding to organized crime and gang activities. As well, the RCMP have worked hard to develop the number of informants that work with them as

their eyes and ears on the ground. With that said, they continue targeting the recruitment activities of gangs and they are improving the access to intelligence information.

What is often little known is RCMP members collaborate with health and social services partners and government and NGOs across the NWT. Each year, they lead the DARE training for 300 children between the ages of eight and 10 years old. The RCMP have increased the number of vehicles stopped, programs which have proven to be very successful in revealing drug and alcohol violations. However, the NWT number of drug trafficking continues to increase, but equally, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP continually work hard successfully to meet those challenges.

In the first half of 2009, there were 147 incidents of drug trafficking, which resulted in 38 charges being laid. In the same period, there were 168 possession charges, with 46 charges being laid.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. For example, just four weeks ago, two men from Calgary were arrested within a short period of time of showing up here in Yellowknife on charges of trafficking crack cocaine. In the end, this continues to be a great reminder that we have the best people working hard to keep these activities off our streets.

In closing, I am profoundly grateful that we have these men and women who want to do this tough job of law enforcement and the work they do is a job very well done. I am sure Members will agree with me that these people deserve our respect and support as they carry on their assignments to reduce the amounts of illegal drugs and alcohol showing up in our communities. Mr. Speaker, I admire the work they do and as a Canadian, I am very proud of our RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
APPLICATION OF HOUSING CORPORATION
POLICIES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the temperature in the Nunakput community of Paulatuk is minus 25 degrees. With that wind chill, it will feel like minus 35. I am giving this Assembly the weather conditions in the community, because some time today or tomorrow they will have a family being evicted and they will have nowhere to go, Mr. Speaker.

Every community in Nunakput is having major problems with the way housing is being evaluated

and administered. I wonder if this government and the NWT Housing Corporation recognizes the impact they are making in my region.

In a small, remote community such as Paulatuk, the people have nowhere to go. There are no shelters, like Yellowknife, or service programs. You either stay with family or friends who are already overcrowded in the situation, or they stay in substandard buildings such as a shack, Mr. Speaker, and that is wrong. Also, I wonder if these evictions are being directed by the central offices and the local housing offices are being forced to do their dirty work for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Why is this government evicting people in the winter with only a few months before Christmas, being evicted from a house at minus 30 weather? That is wrong, evicting a family who has nowhere to go. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. Just saying it is not the NWT Housing Corporation's problem and those are the rules to be followed is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

People deserve more. They deserve the respect and our compassion. They stated, previously, overcrowding in housing units is a symptom of a much larger sympathetic problem and causes many community problems. Too many times I see 10 or 12 people staying in a small unit. I visit them in these units. They grow increasingly frustrated and concerned and wonder when will this government commit seriously to addressing these deficiencies.

This government must see firsthand the policies of the NWT Housing Corporation headquarters are affecting small, remote communities, Mr. Speaker. They must get in touch with the concerns of the communities. Until that happens, the policies will never truly recognize the housing challenges in small, remote communities, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions for the Minister of Housing at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF 911
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ink has barely dried on the capital budget for 2010-2011. It was just yesterday we passed Bill 6, but I am thinking ahead to the next capital budget and where we should place our emphasis and dollars in the 2011-12 infrastructure budget.

It has been mentioned several times by Members during this sitting and it has been mentioned in previous sessions as well, but it bears repeating. This government, this Assembly, must make it a priority to establish cell phone service in all of our NWT communities.

---Applause

Mr. Menicoche has spoken of the Deh Cho Trail as a possible legacy for this government. Ensuring cell service to the 25 communities who do not currently have it would certainly be a legacy as well.

It will cost approximately \$6 million to put cell towers in the 25 communities that need them, but I believe there are many options out there to fund this project. The GNWT can take on the whole cost on its own or the government can share the cost with another organization. The government can put out a request for proposals for the project and see what creative proposals come back.

I recommend that the Cabinet take a look at the process used by the Yukon government. The government can tap into Infrastructure Canada funding to reduce the overall costs. The government can facilitate the project for municipalities or First Nations communities or governments. There is a federal program called First Nations Infrastructure Fund which could fit this project.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT has been fortunate with our applications for Building Canada Fund projects and the federal funding received from those projects. It has allowed this government to accomplish much in partnership with our communities. Rural and remote communities are a focus of this government. We need to narrow that focus and commit to the provision of cell service in the 25 smaller communities who currently lack it. If we start our planning now, we can easily accomplish the job before the 2011 election.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying which goes, where there is a will, there is a way. I ask, what is the will of this government? I will have questions for the Minister of Finance later on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING ELDERS IN COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last couple of days I have been working with the Sahtu elders at a conference here. Mr. Speaker, just sitting with the elders for the last couple of days really opened my eyes in terms of the type of support our elders are asking us people here in the Assembly, our communities, in the Government of Canada.

The elders feel that they have lost their status and their role in the community governments and structures and the teachers of our way of life. They saw that a new way of life has moved them away from this family structure that is so critical to the aboriginal way of life and how we survive as aboriginal people and how we are going to go forward.

The elders talked about no longer have they enjoyed the status of respect of elders in the community and that other professions have taken over their role. They feel that they have been pushed aside. Now they are more bothersome to the people in terms of how they are being looked at in terms of advice, leading the people in certain laws that they need to practice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask on behalf of the people that I worked with in the last couple of days and the elders are asking, what can this government do to support them in the communities in terms of programs and services? How can we have our elders play a different role in this government in terms of what type of laws that should be brought forward, what type of laws need to be reintroduced back into our school? Even the school system should be at least 50 percent of our elders being there as teachers and professors. How come they are not in the school in that magnitude, Mr. Speaker? Can this government look at an elders' advocate? It certainly is something that Mrs. Groenewegen talked about some time ago in terms of a council ran by the elders helping us with our issues that we have to face today.

The elders are very critical today in terms of the survival of the nation of people on this land here and they need to play a critical role in the way we are going forward. Even Mr. Premier talked about rebuilding relationships. The elders hope they are part of that relationship building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEH CHO LEGISLATIVE PAGES

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take the opportunity today to thank all the Pages that have been working with us this week. I was very happy to have two Pages from Fort Providence. Bradley Thom and Joseph Antoine have been working here very hard for us and seeing the sights of Yellowknife. They are both from the Deh Gah School in Fort Providence, my home town. They are both 13 years old, Mr. Speaker, and they keep very busy while in the community.

Bradley has just returned from a cultural camp. He has done a bit of hunting and learning some aboriginal and cultural skills. He certainly indicates he likes having to spend time in the bush. His career goal is to work towards becoming a marine biologist, Mr. Speaker. He has indicated that he has been here a couple of times before. He has enjoyed it. He has come to find out a little more about the Legislative Assembly. His family had some history

in the political field. His grandfather was a chief of Fort Providence and also the mayor. His aunt, Tina Gargan, was also a mayor very recently in Fort Providence.

Joseph is also from the same school. He just returned from Fort Smith, where his mother was attending Aurora College. He was very interested and had never been to the Legislative Assembly. He wanted to check it out, he said, Mr. Speaker. He is a very avid hockey player. He plays hockey in Fort Providence, but the ice is not ready yet so he has been travelling all the way to Hay River to get some ice time and play hockey in that community, Mr. Speaker. His goal is to be an NHL hockey player. He is working very hard at it.

They both indicated that they want to witness the torch relay today and hoping we are not going to work too late.

---Laughter

They are driving home tomorrow, so I want to wish them all safe travel, and everyone else who is travelling tomorrow and today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today we commemorated the return of the 100 millionth container for recycling since we started the program four years ago and we have in the gallery some of the folks that have made that possible. We have Luke Groscoe, the owner of the Behchoko bottle depot; Archie Black, Behchoko bottle depot supervisor; and Nini Black; Adam and Donna Pich, owners of the Yellowknife bottle depot. Thank you for all your good work and welcome to the Assembly.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to recognize some of the Pages in the House: Angel Kowana from Aklavik, Jessie Pascal, and her sister who is the chaperone here today is Janeta Pascal. Again, I'd like to wish you all the best on your trip home and I hope this was a learning experience. Hopefully, we'll see you back here again someday. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize two long-term Yellowknife South constituents, Adam and Donna Pich. Business must really be picking up because they had to go back right away.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Welcome to everyone in the gallery today. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings.

Item 7, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 7-16(4): REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE NWT 2010 VANCOUVER OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES AS INUIT GAME DEMONSTRATORS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge Mathew Anikina, Debbie Gordon-Ruben, Marion Green, Vanessa Anikina, Kristin Green, Lena Kotokak and Dwayne Illasiak for being selected to represent the Northwest Territories at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and the Paralympic Games as Inuit demonstrators.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 174-16(4): TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are around my Member's statement in regard to working in conjunction with Government of the Northwest Territories departments and municipal governments to ensure that we are able to take advantage of federal program dollars, but, more importantly, to assist communities where they don't have capacity by way of having the technical capacity of engineering technicians to basically deal with people that have planning backgrounds, regardless if it's looking at the scope of work that has to be done, developing the proposals and whatnot.

So I'd like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs exactly how can communities access these program dollars and get assistance from the GNWT, especially when you talk about positions such as the capital technician positions in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, to work with communities to assist them

whenever we develop these types of proposals to take advantage of federal funding. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is always willing to work with the communities and at the community's request, we'll go into the community and work with them in identifying some of their projects, and some of the financing options, and some of the technical options that are available to them. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what is the process for a community to access these individuals, the people in the department, so that they can come into the communities, help them develop these proposals, take a look at the problem, regardless if it's shoreline erosion or structural challenges that we're facing, regardless if it's permafrost or dealing with those systems in our communities. I'd like to ask the Minister what's the process a community has to access these individuals in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the community would make a request to the department and just ask them to come in and work with them. Once they're there, they'll assist them in working on a proposal for the community and possibility a scope of work if it's within their technical expertise. They'd be willing to assist them in financing options and just getting their proposal put together so it's ready to go if any funding pots become available. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, one thing that we found with a lot of the federal funding is they're time sensitive in which you, basically, have to have what they call shovel ready projects, and again, because of the short time frame that we're looking at, that we have to be able to streamline the process so that we're able to take advantage of these timelines. So I'd just like to ask the Minister again, exactly who is the contact person that these communities should call? Should they call the regional superintendent or call the Minister's office, call the deputy Minister's office? Who is the person that's at the front line that they should first make contact with?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the people would contact the regional superintendents of MACA in the five regions that are out there. They, in turn, will discuss with their staff and see who would be going into the community to assist the community with their proposal. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, again, I've phrased this issue in this House in regard to the Aklavik situation in regard to the shoreline erosion that has basically come to the surface because of the

inspection that was done by the community which realized that this project has to get some attention.

So I'd just like to ask the Minister here today if he can have someone go into Aklavik and assist them in regard to trying to pull this thing together. They've got numbers out there, they've provided some information to the different Ministers, myself, but, again, it's not good enough. We have to do more to ensure that those reports are pretty detailed and they are able to pass the checkmark of meeting the federal government standards. So I'd just like to ask the Minister, can he give me assurances that we will have people in the community to assist on this particular project?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that I will pass that information on to the department and see if we could have somebody go into the community of Aklavik and work with them on their issue of the shoreline erosion. There is some historical data that they could probably use and help them put a proposal together so they have a proposal that's ready to go, should some more funding become available.

There are always different pots of money out there that we're always attempting to access with the federal government, so if we have the proposal ready to go, that's the first step and then should funding become available, we have something to submit immediately. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 175-16(4): EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my statement from yesterday and my priority mentioned today of early childhood education to the Minister of ECE.

Pediatricians in B.C. are ready to adopt the recommendation that children under the age of two not watch any television at all. This is already recommended by the pediatricians in the United States. Apparently problems that are linked to television viewing by the very young include obesity and an increase in violent activity, but, most importantly, two hours of screen time daily will cut brain development by an estimated 15 percent.

Now this is a remarkable report, quite recent, and it points out the need for strong communication with parents to inform them of the health risks and concerns. Is the Minister aware of this concern and is he notifying the public about this opportunity to support their children? Thank you

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of this particular issue that's before us within another jurisdiction, but surely we can have our department look into that information in the B.C. jurisdiction. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that openness on the part of the Minister. I did find out about this from a concerned resident and I'd be happy to forward that information to his system with that.

Can the Minister outline for me how the department does keep parents directly informed of good child care and rearing practices in general? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Through education awareness within the schools or the child care development programs, the facilities, we do have various qualified caregivers. Not only that, we do have coordinators at the community level and even at the regional level that can surely share that type of information. Whether it be pertaining to children under the age of two or over the age of two, there are all kinds of programming that is out there.

So that information is shared broadly throughout the Northwest Territories. So we continue to depend on our workers at that level, at the community and regional level. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: That's sufficient for now. I'll look forward to further work on this. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 176-16(4):
GNWT GREENHOUSE GAS STRATEGY
EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources and are in follow-up to my Member's statement from earlier today.

In December, the Minister responsible for ENR and the Premier will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference. This is a significant conference, with potential to keep the 2012 Kyoto protocols, which are to prevent climate change and global warming, on line and possibly develop new more reasonable climate protocols. In light of this, will the GNWT lead by example and establish more aggressive targets for greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would argue that as a government and as a Legislature we are leading by example with the \$60 million Alternative Energy Program

that we've committed to, with the work with biomass and hydro and wind. And we, as well, through our Joint Climate Change Committee, already agreed and will be bringing back the current Greenhouse Gas Strategy for review in anticipation of looking at the next iteration of that document with an eye towards internal targets, as well as we're going to double-check the legal authority we do have for any kind of decisions that could possibly be made outside of the community boundaries. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. In my statement I did mention that in many ways we are leading by example. Currently the GNWT has placed a 10 percent reduction on greenhouse gas emissions for internal operations, yet the GNWT does not have emission reduction targets for the NWT as a whole. There is some reference to controlling emissions, but without significant measurable reduction targets, there is no incentive for non-government interest to meet any targets. Would the Minister commit to updating the existing Greenhouse Gas Strategy and establish strong science-based targets for the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In my previous answer I indicated that the Joint Climate Change Committee had identified that as a priority and we're going to be bringing back the current Greenhouse Gas Strategy and taking a look at it and start putting the process and pieces in place to look at developing what is going to be the next edition of the updated Greenhouse Gas Strategy. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Once again I'd like to thank the Minister for that. I look forward to seeing that document when it comes forward.

As we move forward...

AN HON. MEMBER: Going forward.

MR. ABERNETHY: I have talked to some constituents and other interested parties who have suggested that the GNWT's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its own operations by 10 percent below the 2001 levels by 2011 lacks some ambition. That we've pretty much actually attained these reductions and suggests that the lack of ambition reductions -- which, you know, ambitious reductions I mean challenging reductions -- limit the long-term value of the Greenhouse Strategy itself. Would the Minister commit to review the internal reductions targets that we currently have and establish more ambitious internal targets which demonstrate a significant commitment to reducing emissions within the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, everything we do that takes us from where we are to greater reductions is a step forward. It may not be as great as some people would like, but we have

made significant strides. I'll point again to the \$60 million we're committing to alternative energy. We did a presentation where the Public Works folks laid out a long list of government facilities across the land that are going to be converted to biomass, with the thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gas reductions. We've committed, as well, and I have done it now with the last two questions, that we're going to be looking at revising and updating the Greenhouse Gas Strategy that's currently in place, recognizing that a lot has happened since 2006. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary. Thank you. Honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 177-16(4):
PROPOSED BRIDGE BETWEEN HAY RIVER
AND K'ATLODEECHE FIRST NATION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For as long as I've been in Hay River, and I'm sure for many years before I got there, there have been very strong ties between what was called the Hay River Reserve, the K'atlodeeche First Nation and the town of Hay River. These two communities are located on the east and west sides of the Hay River. Mr. Speaker, there has never been a permanent link between these two communities and when there is no ice road in the wintertime, it requires the residents to travel many miles, clock many miles to travel back and forth between these communities. People from across, as we fondly refer to it, attend school, they attend church, they have family, we have families that live on both sides of the river and yet there has never been a permanent link to make the distance between these two communities more affordable and, I guess, easier to get between.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation, to his knowledge, has there ever been a study or a costing done of what it would take to put a permanent bridge between the communities of the K'atlodeeche First Nation and the town of Hay River? Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I believe, and I'd have to check with my colleague from MACA, but I believe the municipality did a costing and an assessment of putting a bridge between the two communities. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: And the costing was done.

---Interjection

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Yeah, a bridge would be helpful. I'm not too sure, thinking back to whether or not there was always political agreement about whether such a bridge would impact the residents of the Hay River Reserve in a way that they wanted at the time. So I'd like to ask, when was the last time that question was posed to the people of Hay River and the K'atlodeeche First Nation? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The Member is talking about a community in my riding, so I guess I'd have to say it's been posed a number of times directly to me as the MLA for that community. I don't believe the Department of Transportation has ever done an assessment of what it costs to build a bridge between the two communities. It's viewed as a municipal piece of infrastructure at this point. I'd have to confirm that, of course, but I have not seen any information aside from the discussion we had some time ago when I was first elected as an MLA to the Deh Cho, that I've seen some documents I believe were put together by the municipality who paid for...the Town of Hay River, I should say, that paid for the research. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So what would it take to get such a bridge back onto the agenda? I guess if you're saying it's not a piece of GNWT infrastructure, obviously it's not something that the taxpayers of the two communities could take on. What options are there open to investigate further the idea of building this link between these two communities with traditional and very longstanding ties to each other? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: My own opinion on this, of course, is that it would take a coordinated approach between the two communities. I know, and have heard from the K'atlodeeche people, and there's been a number of requests at public meetings to try to see if there is any merit in having a piece of infrastructure built between the two communities. We have not seen any coordinated effort between the two communities to come forth jointly, and I think we'd have to involve other departments to see if we can find the resources to assist or submit some type of proposal that would identify the cost and type of infrastructure that would be required. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It takes resources to build the ice bridge every year and to maintain that bridge. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation who pays for the building of that ice bridge and the maintaining of it over the winter months. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I believe the cost is borne by the two communities, cost-shared. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 178-16(4):
STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING CORE
HOUSING NEEDS IN COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have questions for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. In the past, Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation had programs such as the Senior Citizens Home Repair Program, Seniors and Disabled Preventative Maintenance Program and so on. Those programs have been eliminated and replaced with other programs; mind you, but there doesn't seem to be a clear indication that the NWT Housing Corporation identifies different groups like seniors and families and so on. Seniors are usually on fixed incomes. So I want to ask the Minister if the Housing Corporation has a strategy for addressing the needs of senior homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Housing does do what it can to assist the seniors. There is the Senior Preventative Maintenance Program out there. The seniors would apply and once they are into the system, they are given the system every year. This includes the servicing of their furnace and that. We are always trying to address the needs of our seniors. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Staying with the core needs of the various communities, I had discovered in the past that some of the core needs in some communities were as high as 80 percent in the Sahtu and as low as 6 percent in other parts of the Northwest Territories, which is well below the national average. I want to ask the Minister if the Housing Corporation has plans to address the communities with the highest core need and maybe move some funds to the communities where the highest core needs percentage is in these communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We are just in the process of doing our housing needs survey and this goes a long way in determining the core needs of the communities, and if there are adjustments that need to be made so infrastructure or units are put in those communities with the highest core needs, then those adjustments will be made then and hopefully that will adjust some of the core needs of the communities most in need. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Does the Minister and the Housing Corporation have a plan to help families that are clearly in core need but appear to be outside of the four programs, that don't seem to be

captured within the four programs that are currently offered by the Housing Corporation but are clearly in core need? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Housing Corporation is committed to try and help as many people in core need as possible. There is always the criteria that they have to meet to get into some of the programs, but we are always looking to address the issue of working with those that are the highest need. Thank you.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister speaks of the needs survey being completed soon. Once the needs survey is completed, is there a plan to expand the programs so the majority of the constituents across the Territories can be captured within one program or another that the Housing Corporation will be offering, as opposed to staying within the current programs and hopefully the people who are core need fit into those programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Housing Corporation is always trying to fit people into the programs. They've expanded the scope of the programs sometimes to try to fit as many people in as possible and we are always looking to find ways that we can address those that are most in need. We have to understand, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of the people that are in need, they have to meet the criteria of the housing programs to be eligible to participate in some of the programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 179-16(4):
IMPLEMENTATION OF 911
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am going to dial into the 911 issue and I certainly hope the Minister of MACA is willing to pick up the call and the urgency of this concern.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has talked about not being able to help facilitate this problem even though it helps 77 percent of the population of the Northwest Territories. So I'll take a different approach.

The NWTAC, that's Association of Communities, 27 of the 33 communities have supported the 911 initiative over the last three years. I am just curious as to what is holding the Minister back with that type of support in our North. That's 27 out of the 33 communities support this initiative. What's holding the Minister back from moving forward on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will let him answer.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, in our attempt to treat everybody across the Northwest Territories fairly, I think sometimes we are being portrayed as treating some unfairly and I don't think that's fair, Mr. Speaker. They have had a resolution passed by the NWTAC, as far as 911 goes. Seven of the 33 communities had originally wanted to get into the program, had the capacity to get into the 911 service. But, Mr. Speaker, since then, there has been a couple of communities that have decided that it's not in their best interest right now to take part in the implementation of 911.

We do fund the communities through the capital formula funding and the gas tax money, which this particular program would fit. So if it's a priority for the community, then they have the means to implement 911 if they choose to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: May I thank the Minister for moving right into my next question ever so perfectly. He talks about priority. Mr. Speaker, the priority is that when this initiative first was born, MACA was one of the leaders in this initiative. When he talks about some people backed away, Mr. Speaker, that's because people are tired of waiting for the initiative to come together. It's really only focussed on the fact that it's a funding issue with a couple of these communities that have backed away and that is 27 out of 33 communities that support this. Speaking of numbers, seven of the 33 communities represent 77 percent of the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will be the first to acknowledge that every community or every region has specific needs and I think it's incumbent among all of us to make sure we try to answer those specific needs of each region or community. That includes Yellowknife sometimes. I know it's a hard issue to deal with, but, Mr. Speaker, what would hold the Minister back from doing a current assessment of the partners out there who want this, to find out how much money they have prepared? Because I can speak to you right now for the City of Yellowknife, they have money set aside right now for this initiative. So what would hold the Minister back from doing a current assessment of the preparedness that several communities are ready to go with this? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: There is nothing holding us back, Mr. Speaker, from doing a current assessment. We can speak to the communities to see how many of them are interested and how

many are ready to implement 911 and remind them again that we provide them with a lot of money through the capital formula funding and gas tax to implement 911 if they wish to do so. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I will take that last as a commitment that they will reassess and do a current assessment. Mr. Speaker, speaking specific to the City of Yellowknife, they have moved some of the capacity money in preparation waiting for the leadership of MACA to help glue this initiative together. Is the Minister well aware of the fact that CRTC requirements, if I understand them correctly, say if we go to an enhanced 911 service, it causes our mobility companies to provide cell phone service in every one of our small communities and that would actually be the carrot that many Members really want about getting cell phone services in those communities. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of that initiative, that if we push this 911 forward we will get that? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the CRTC ruling says that they would have to...it doesn't obligate the phone companies from implementing cell phone service in every community. That was not the ruling of CRTC. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I will respectfully disagree. What is exactly the ruling on getting enhanced 911 services that cause or force the mobility companies to put cell phone services in our communities? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would have to dig up the actual ruling, but my understanding is they would have to put in the ability to locate the cell phones. They would have to put that inability in or it is available. It doesn't obligate them to install cell phone service throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 180-16(4):
EVICTION OF SACHS HARBOUR FAMILY
FROM PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement was on a family in the community of Paulatuk being evicted from the housing unit. Is the Minister willing to review this particular case in Paulatuk to advise us on how he will work with other NWT agencies and client services to stop this eviction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister of Housing, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The termination and eviction process is a fairly long one. It is not one that they just decided to do on the spur of the moment. They usually give the tenants an opportunity to come up with a repayment plan. Sometimes it is all the local housing authorities are looking for, is just a commitment from the tenants to come up with a repayment plan. Eviction is basically the last notice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: I would just like to remind the Minister that the Housing Association is run out of Inuvik. They fly people into the community once or twice a month to take all the proper forms they have to fill out to get their rental assessment. But, Mr. Speaker, the biggest problem is not having somebody there to contact the people and do these assessments with the client. Why is the NWT Housing Association having to evict people in the middle of winter and not able to work with the family? This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, Housing doesn't choose the time of year when people are evicted. It is not something that Housing enjoys doing, but there is a process that has to be followed. Part of the process involves paying your rent or making arrangements to pay your rent, coming up with a payment plan. Usually they are pretty accepting of any tenant that wants to come forward and work out a payment plan and then they will have the opportunity to stay in their unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, if the family does come forward, will the Minister and his department accept his plan of going forward to stay in the housing unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to this point where there is an eviction notice, usually it goes through a rental officer. There is a local board and these tenants could speak to the local board about trying to work out a plan. When it comes to the rental officers, usually it is the last part of the process. When it is an eviction, that is when it is usually a court ordered eviction. But before it gets to that point, there is always an opportunity for them to speak to the board and try to get the board to reverse the process if they come up with a repayment plan. But what they would need first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, is a commitment from the tenant that they are willing to take part in this repayment plan. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Can the Minister identify the huge costs of eviction of a family, which would involve emergency travel to another community like Yellowknife -- and emergency housing is already crowded -- shelter and perhaps temporary arrangements for children, compare the cost of providing positive supports for a family? So that,

perhaps, the result is an issue for the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, this is not a process that any LHO likes to be a part of. It is often the last straw when it comes to this particular process. I know from history, Mr. Speaker, that they are always willing to work with the tenants of the housing authority. At the same time, we need a commitment from the tenant that if there is a ruling, that they will abide by that ruling and work out a repayment plan, then Housing is usually pretty accepting of that.

It is a huge cost, obviously, if they have to put them up in a shelter or move them to shelter, but there is also a very huge cost in the amount of arrears that are with the Housing Corporation every year. We are up to \$10 million now in public housing arrears. We are also up to \$10 million now in mortgage arrears. Mr. Speaker, this is not a process that any housing authority enjoys, but it is one where steps have to be taken to come up with plans and work with the tenants. All we are asking for is a commitment from the tenants to take part in this process. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 181-16(4):
PROVISION OF CELL PHONE SERVICE
TO ALL COMMUNITIES IN THE NWT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke today about priorities for the next capital infrastructure budget and the 2011-2012 budget. I know it is a long ways away, but I think it is time we start considering priorities of the government. I suggested that providing cell service in the 25 communities that don't currently have it should be one of the priorities of this government. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister where the provision of cell phone service to all communities in the NWT sits in terms of this government's priorities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Members have copies of the five-year capital plan and going forward. Cell phone service is not on the list that I am aware of. What was once a luxury is now considered an essential service, but it's not there.

I will also point out that we have also been told at different tables, look after your costs, control your growth, don't grow government and don't go too much into debt in this Legislature. Now we are told 911, cell phone service, we want more houses, roads and bridges and all good things, recognizing that there is a limited amount of resources and a far

greater list of needs than we will ever be able to afford. The debate is what is it going to replace. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Minister for his answer. I can't argue that we have set a capital plan out. However, I can argue that these plans are not set in stone. I don't think they should be considered firm and concrete from day one when we first establish these plans. In a four-year period of our election, we have to be able to respond to the various concerns of our constituents, and not just my constituents but across the Territory. I would like to suggest that, certainly, priorities can change. I think they do change. I have seen that already in two years.

I would like to know from the Minister whether or not...I mentioned a number of possible funding scenarios in my statement. There are any number of different ways that we can fund this particular project and one or more of them may not cost us the full cost, maybe not even 25 percent of the cost. Has the government, has the Minister or his Department of Finance ever looked at how provision of cell phone service in these 25 communities might be funded? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Work was done looking at that. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Minister. How? What sort of options did you come forward with? Could you please explain to me what considerations were taken, what options were considered and what the decision was? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are two fundamental approaches. There's one where cell phone provision is seen as a business opportunity where the private sector will go in because there's money to be made. The other approach, similar to the Yukon one, is where the government agrees they're going to come up with a significant amount of money, because they want to have cell phone service across their whole jurisdiction similar to the Yukon which, I might point out, has far less geographic challenges than the Northwest Territories does in terms of distances to cover. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that the Yukon is not the NWT. We certainly have different geography, but the information I've been given from a technical perspective is that really all we need is a cell phone tower in every community. So that's 25 towers. We certainly don't need to have towers in between every one of our communities.

My last question for the Minister -- hopefully, he can give me an answer that I will like, I guess -- but

what will it take for this government, this Cabinet, to make cell phone service provision in providing cell phone service in all of our communities a priority? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little over two years and I'm still trying to give the Member an answer that she likes, depending on the circumstance. The Member is very well aware we have a capital planning process. It's intensely participated in. There's huge interest given now coming forward that after the two years of stimulus money, that the capital plan is not going to be as big as it has been over the last two years. So the challenge for us as a Legislature is to look at the priorities on that list and if we want to replace something, what is that? If we are going to collectively decide we want to spend more money than we have already and run a greater debt than we are currently contemplating, those are the kinds of discussions we have to have and it's about making choices. It's not just, I would suggest, the government, this Cabinet that's going to make that decision in isolation. The Member well knows that if Cabinet comes forward and tries to insert something into the capital plan, should they ever be so foolhardy, we'd be dealt with in short shrift by this Legislature. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 182-16(4):
INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM SUPPORTS
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It has to do with the Income Support Program and the client with a disability, people who apply under this program. My understanding is there was an issue that was dealt with in Deline and as a result of that, there are other issues that have come forward in terms of the disability aspect of this program. Right now, Mr. Speaker, I understand there's a family that has some issues that deal with a disability and this family with small children is living in a warehouse behind some sister's place and is living elsewhere in Deline.

In terms of this issue, I want to ask the Minister, is his department willing to work with the Department of Health, work with the Housing Corporation in terms of how to deal with this family with small children that are living in a warehouse in Deline?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, definitely, I'm willing to work with the

NWT Housing Minister and also the Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities, if that needs to be the case. With our programming, we do provide subsidies to people with disabilities above and beyond the regular programming that we offer to NWT residents. So we continue to make improvements in those areas and continue to provide subsidies. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, certainly the government does provide support to persons with disabilities; however, somewhere there appears to be a disconnect between the local housing authority and the Income Support Program, because the local housing authority was going to evict this person with disabilities. It wasn't until the department stepped in and made the arrangements so that person can stay in their unit. However, there is a family right now with children who are not in a public unit, because of some of the housing policies, that this family here is living in a warehouse, have no running water, especially with H1N1 out there, that this is a serious problem.

I ask the Minister again, in terms of strengthening the communication between Housing and the department of income support in terms of these types of situations that we not see any more in our communities. Can the Minister commit to me in terms of providing to me and the people of Deline a strong communication process in terms of not seeing this happen again?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly we do what we can to prevent these things from happening. Surely, if we need to improve in our communication dialogue, we're more than willing to do that between the departments. So those are the areas of improvement that we can certainly discuss at the departmental level. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit to me also to work with the Department of Health and Social Services with people with disabilities in terms of them clearly understanding their responsibility when they have a housing unit, that there is support there for people with disabilities in terms of having their living conditions in the communities?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, most definitely. The Minister of Health and Social Services is also the Minister of Persons with Disabilities and she's also taking all kinds of notes sitting beside me, so, definitely, we'll continue to work in those areas. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would ask the Minister if he would work closely with the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation in terms of this issue, in terms of the issue with this family here with small children that are living in the

warehouses or somewhere else in Deline, that this family here gets the shelter that they need to have.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: First of all we need to find out what's really happening, why they are in the situation they are and how we can assist them. We do have programs that can certainly assist them and, yes, I'm more than willing to work with both departments, the NWT Housing Corporation and the Minister of Health and also Persons with Disabilities. If we need to improve in those areas, I am more than willing to look at it. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 183-16(4):
LAND TAX DISCREPANCIES

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs on the issue that I raised in the spring session. It was about land taxes, the local band, the municipality as well as federal lands. There's been an issue and it still hasn't been resolved. I'd like to ask the Minister, has the department taken the lead in this process lately and what is the current status? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were some concerns raised by the Member and I think we also heard that concern when we did our tour. I can assure the Member that we are following up on it. I'll get the progress and the status of it and then I'll relay that on to the Member. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHE: I just want to reiterate that it's still a priority of the residents of Fort Simpson. There's a new mayor and council and they would like to press that issue forward. I think part of the strategy of what we heard in Fort Simpson, Mr. Speaker, was there's got to be federal involvement. Has his department contacted any federal departments with regard to this issue? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to follow up on that and see if there was some contact made. I'm assuming there was, because I know it was an issue and this was quite a while ago that the issue was raised. So I'll commit to the Member that I will follow up on that and get the information to him and the new council in Fort Simpson as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 184-16(4):
INCOME SUPPORT SERVICES
IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it's in regards to the lack of income support services in communities, especially communities such as Tsiigehtchic where you don't have an income support worker in the community and you have to depend on people to come in from either Fort McPherson or Inuvik. They usually come in once a month and in most cases it's at the end of the month, and it's causing some problems not only for the local housing authority but for the residents of Tsiigehtchic. What we're finding is they're one month behind and they run into arrears. The Housing Corporation isn't being paid on time. More importantly, if you're not in the community for that one-day visit, you miss out, so you basically have to wait until the next month to be provided with that service of income support.

The other issue is there's no consistency with regards to the people who come into the community. Every time an income support worker comes to the community it's a different person, so you have to explain yourself all over again on exactly how many people who live with you, how much money you make, how many kids you have and how many cats you feed. I think it's that type of information that people are getting tired of. So I'd just like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, what is this government doing to ensure that communities have people based in their communities providing these type of services rather than having to depend on outsiders to come in and provide a service for them? Perhaps through a service agreement with the band operations or privatize it so somebody locally can provide that service, rather than having this system which basically is having an effect on the service in the communities. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. To deal with the clientele of income support service, we do have client service officers in the communities; maybe not all communities, but those communities without client service officers we do have on-duty individuals that travel from the region. As the Member indicated, there are client service officers that travel to the communities and those individuals should be familiar with the files. There might be a case where...because usually it's a regular client, clientele, and those are the services that we provide to the communities. Every time we do an assessment in the income support service area, there's always improvement in the working relations with the communities, and we'll continue

to do that. But certainly we have client service officers that are responsible for all the clientele that we have. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, that's why I opened up with the lack of income support services, because there is no service. How can you have service when you have somebody come to a community for four hours a month? That's not service. I think it's important that this government puts the money into providing that service. There was over a million dollars given to the Department of Education when they transferred that responsibility from the Housing Corporation, and the whole idea was because we have local housing authority officers in the community. We won't allow them to do the job of accessing people. Why couldn't you work with the local housing authority and give them that responsibility to provide the housing component of income support to do the assessment at the local community level and do a pilot project in communities that don't have income support workers, such as the community of Tsiigehtchic?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, we do provide services to the communities. If we have an income support worker, client service officer in a community, they provide the service. If they're not there, that means we don't provide services. So we do provide services in all communities, Mr. Speaker. Client services officers are established in the communities. If they're not established in the community, they travel to the communities. There is a regular scheduled visit by income security officers, client service officers. So certainly those are the areas that we continue to improve on.

There's also a review on the way, Mr. Speaker, that we will get some response by the end of this month or early next month, and that goes to show how our program is doing overall. So definitely we'll be looking forward to that and we'll be discussing further on that. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, this time I'll be pleading with the Minister, can he seriously consider doing pilot projects in communities to improve the services to the residents of those communities who are only receiving four hours a month of services, and offer those dollars, instead of having people fly in and fly out, show up, say hello, good bye, fill out a piece of paper and leave, have those dollars stay in the community, provide an opportunity for people by way of employment, but, more importantly, have the service delivered by the community by way of community empowerment? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I think that is one of our goals, whether it be a pilot project or we've increased some client service officers in the small communities just over the last couple of years. So we continue to improve our programs.

Based on a pilot project, most likely we can look at that and see where we can go with it. If it's required, then it has to go through the business planning process again. But definitely those are the areas that we can certainly look at in the Member's riding and in other ridings as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I'd like to ask the Minister, I know my colleague from Nunakput is very frustrated in regards to people getting evicted. Now, a lot of evictions have to do with arrears, yes, but a lot of those arrears are occurring because people are not getting the attention they should be by way of these service client providers, because the consistency with their visits or with the consistency of time they spend in the community is not there. It's an inconsistent process. So what is this government going to do to improve the services to our communities and give us more hours or more days a month than what's presently being provided?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the eviction process deals with a lot of issues. With arrears there's a lot of attachment to it and, sure, it's not the only one area but that's the area that we are focussing on with the two departments, our department and also the NWT Housing Corporation, how we can improve in those communication dialogues we have, whether it be the LHO or client service officers at the community level. Yes, we hear there's a lack of communication happening from one community to another community. Those are areas that we continuously improve in those areas. So, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to monitor the program and, like I said, there's a review that's coming at the end of this month or early next month and that will go to show how our program overall is doing. And if we need to make some changes, we'll be discussing that with the standing committee. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 185-16(4):
IMPLEMENTATION OF 911
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to refer to an e-mail tabled yesterday from Mr. Lovatt, who bravely provides a painful description of how he and his mother suffered a loss of his younger brother and struggled to call emergency services without knowing the proper numbers. My question is for the Minister of MACA. What does this Minister have to say in response to this young man's call for the GNWT to play an important role in establishing 911 service here? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I received the same e-mail and I'm sorry for their loss. We've all lost, at one time or another, and a lot of them were accidents. Whether 911 would have helped is a different question.

Mr. Speaker, I've said on numerous occasions that 911 is a service that some communities have identified as one that they want, and they do have the means within the monies that we've forwarded to them to implement 911 services. Mr. Speaker, there are some communities that have decided that it's not a priority at this particular moment and they are looking to enhance their ability to respond to emergencies before even considering 911, because what's the point of having it if you can't respond to it properly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: Indeed, I have heard those comments from the Minister. Of course, we have our neighbouring capital city of Whitehorse, which the territorial government set up 911 service just for the city of Whitehorse. I had a meeting with NorthwesTel here this week. I found out the cost of establishing a service in Yellowknife and indeed in all communities, but starting with Yellowknife and our larger communities, 70-some percent of our population is indeed affordable, with participation of this government and municipal governments, and then could be maintained thereafter by municipal governments. So does this Minister not consider that this call and this opportunity is something that this government should play a role in directly?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Everything is affordable with some input from the government and, again, it would be quite, is my understanding, an expensive undertaking for the company to provide service throughout the Northwest Territories and how long it would actually take. So, Mr. Speaker, I continue to go back to the fact that -- and I know Members are tired of hearing it -- if it's a priority for the communities, then they do have the funds to help bring this priority about. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Indeed, I have heard these comments many times before from this Minister. We are trying to penetrate those comments and get him to consider new comments. The infrastructure deficit is something we have heard many, many times from this Cabinet. We seem willing to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into highways, building highways and maintaining them. Does the Minister not see the need to balance that with some much more modest contributions to some of the other needs that our citizens are pointing out are a priority, including Yellowknife, as the Whitehorse citizens did? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. You are kind of leaning towards asking the Minister for his

opinion on this, but I will allow the Minister to respond if he would like. Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have as part of the New Deal given money to every community in the Northwest Territories to deal with their infrastructure priorities, and if 911 is an infrastructure priority to the city of Yellowknife or the other six communities that want 911 implemented as a phased-in approach, they have that ability to bring that about. We've heard from two communities. I haven't heard from the rest yet. I am hoping to get their input. I heard from two communities that have said that it's not a priority with them right now. It may be in the future and when it is in the future, they also understand they are given the money to help bring this about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a final supplementary. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I tried to find out what other provinces in Canada, what practices are followed there. I looked at all 10 provinces. I am able to confirm that one, two, three, four, five of them, the 911 service is provided by the provincial governments. Three I was not able to determine and two they leave to municipalities. So obviously the majority of jurisdictions are provincial 911 services. So again, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering why this Minister won't consider what most of the country is doing and certainly our neighbours to the west. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would have to confirm those numbers, because my information might be a little different than the Member's. Again, Mr. Speaker, this government made a conscientious decision to devolve a lot of responsibilities to the communities as something the communities wanted. So if they decided the implementation of 911 is a priority of theirs, then they would have the financial ability to do so. If we start funding infrastructure projects, then we've defeated the whole purpose of capital formula funding and then we may as well go back to the old corporate formula funding where we decide what's best for the communities and I don't think communities would want that. I would like to hear from all 33 communities to see if they would want to go back to the old corporate plan and then have to wait years for their particular piece of infrastructure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 9, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 11-16(4): INCOME SUPPORT SERVICES IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. In the calendar year 2009, how often have income support workers travelled to Tsiigehtchic to provide income support services?
2. How many clients did they see on these visits?
3. How much time, in hours, did they spend in the community on each visit?

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

WRITTEN QUESTION 12-16(4): GNWT SCIENCE AGENDA

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

1. As originators of traditional knowledge, only indigenous peoples, the original stewards of our land, can regulate, make priorities and set standards for traditional knowledge. How will the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure that indigenous peoples are part of research processes?
2. The government plans to make large investments within the science agenda framework over the coming years. Have any organizations such as universities or institutes made financial commitments to do research in the NWT?
3. Can the Minister provide a list of research projects already committed to over the next two years, their locations and brief explanations of their purposes?

WRITTEN QUESTION 13-16(4): SAHTU STUDENTS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. What are the true academic levels of students graduating from high school in Sahtu communities, based on Alberta education standards?
2. What is being done to monitor Sahtu students' levels of academic achievement, particularly in grades 9 through 12, so that there are no unfortunate surprises when a high school graduate attempts to access post-secondary education?

3. What is being done to communicate students' levels of academic achievement to students, parents, teachers and the Sahtu Board of Education?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 10, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Question

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 1-16(4): HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Krutko on October 16, 2009, regarding health and social services in Tsiigehtchic.

In 2008-2009, there were 11 trips made by physicians to Tsiigehtchic, totalling 120 hours of clinic time provided to the 193 residents of Tsiigehtchic. For nine of those visits, two physicians were present.

The nurse-in-charge (NIC) visited every Thursday, for 7.5 hours. During the spring thaw and winter freeze-up, the NIC resided in Tsiigehtchic. For 2008-2009, the NIC remained in the community from April 8 until June 3, 2008, and from October 17 until December 5, 2008.

There were 17 visits during 2008-2009 by social workers, totalling 260 hours spent with clients in Tsiigehtchic, with a further 73.5 hours spent with Tsiigehtchic clients outside of the community.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a listing of the dates of all the visits made by the physicians and social workers.

The Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority use locum and casual staff to fill any vacant positions. Currently, 15 percent of positions are unfilled. The funding allocated for these positions is used to hire locum and casual staff to ensure that the services are provided. The extra cost incurred in having temporary staff travel north and into the communities exceeds the budget set aside for the compensation and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Replies to Opening Address

MR. HAWKINS' REPLY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this occasion to do a special acknowledgement. Mr. Speaker, I have a special constituent of mine who is approaching his 95th birthday this Saturday, November 7th. The person can be easily described as a northern

renaissance man of his time. He has been a fur trader, a trapper, a general contractor, a pilot and, recently, an author. The person I am referring to is our well-respected Mike Krutko, father of our Member, David Krutko.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, Mike Krutko may appear as a senior in his well-weathered aged body, but I can certainly tell you very few people have ever reached his milestone with such energy and fire for life. Mr. Speaker, he is both interesting and charming and full of energy.

In closing, I certainly look forward to being here in this Assembly in five years to announce his 100th birthday, because I know he will easily make that milestone. But until then, Mr. Speaker, may I wish Mr. Krutko a great birthday. He certainly deserves it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 51-16(4): NORTHERNERS WORKING TOGETHER

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document titled Northerners Working Together: Fulfilling our Plan. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 52-16(4): CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE: A REVIEW OF ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS, RATES AND SUBSIDY PROGRAMS IN THE NWT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document titled Creating a Brighter Future: A Review of Electricity Regulation, Rates and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 53-16(4):
NWT HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

TABLED DOCUMENT 54-16(4):
PHYSICIAN AND SOCIAL WORKERS
VISITS TO TSIIGEHTCHIC 2008-2009

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services System Annual Report, 2007-2008. The second one is further to my Return to Written Question 1-16(4), which is a document entitled Physician and Social Worker Visits to Tsiigehtchic, 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 55-16(4):
ARCTIC RED RIVER OUTFITTERS LTD.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have a document that I want to table. It is the company service of the Arctic Red Outfitters Ltd.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 8-16(4):
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NWT SENIORS'
PARTICIPATION AT CANADA 55-PLUS GAMES
MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 9, 2009, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories contribute \$50,000 to support Northwest Territories seniors' participation in the Canada 55-plus Games in August 2010; and further, that the government consider providing funding through the Northwest Territories Sport and Recreation Council to ensure the ongoing participation of the Northwest Territories seniors at future Canada 55-plus Games.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Motions

MOTION 7-16(4):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO JANUARY 27, 2010,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, November 5, 2009, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, January 27, 2010;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to January 27, 2010, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

MOTION 8-16(4):
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NWT SENIORS'
PARTICIPATION AT CANADA 55-PLUS GAMES,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Northwest Territories seniors have participated in the Canada 55-plus Games since 1998;

AND WHEREAS more than 100 Northwest Territories seniors from a variety of NWT communities have expressed an interest in participating in the Canada 55-plus Games in Brockville, Ontario, in August 2010;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has previously contributed towards the costs of the Northwest Territories seniors' participation in these events;

AND WHEREAS assisting seniors in keeping active and engaged in healthy activities is entirely consistent with the 16th Assembly's stated goal of healthy, educated people through a focus on

prevention and promotion of healthy choices and lifestyles;

AND WHEREAS Northwest Territories seniors are not asking the government to cover all of the seniors' costs and are simply seeking a small contribution toward these costs;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories contribute \$50,000 to support Northwest Territories seniors' participation in the Canada 55-plus Games in August 2010;

AND FURTHER, that the government consider providing funding through the Northwest Territories Sport and Recreation Council to ensure ongoing participation of the Northwest Territories seniors at future Canada 55-plus Games.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 8:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES)
NO. 3, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2009-2010, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 8 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 9:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES)
NO. 2, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2009-2010, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9 has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

Second Reading of Bills

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Summary Conviction Procedures Act to provide that a justice may enter a conviction and impose the specified penalty where a person who has been summonsed to appear before the justice by way of ticket fails to either pay the specified penalty or to appear as summonsed.

The maximum fine for failing to appear before a justice as required is increased, and formalities relating to information are clarified. Minor amendments are also made to ensure consistency of terminology. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 7 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 8:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES)
NO. 3, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2009-2010, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 8 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 9:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES)
 NO. 2, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2009-2010, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9 has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 22, third reading of bills. Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 8:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES)
 NO. 3, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2009-2010, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 8 has had third reading.

---Carried

Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 9:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES)
 NO. 2, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2009-2010, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2009-2010, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Anthony W.J. Whitford, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills.

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford): Monsieur le

président, monsieur le premier ministre, messieurs et mesdames les députés, mesdames et messieurs, et amis, good friends.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, this is a bit of an anniversary. It's 21 years almost to the day that I made my first speech in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as a Member for Yellowknife South.

---Applause

I was thinking about that today and beaming that I had a chance to represent this noble institution many years ago and subsequent years thereafter. It was a great honour to reflect back.

As most of you know, I enjoy visiting the people in our communities. I will use every opportunity to visit your constituents and your constituencies, and to accept as many invitations as possible that may be extended by the honourable Members of this House as they come forward.

When the ice roads in your regions are open later this year, I hope to make a few more road trips to visit as many schools in our remote communities as possible.

As the festive season of Christmas and New Year celebrations fast approaches, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very fond Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year in 2010.

In the meantime, I wish each of the Members of this House safe travels and a busy, productive time as you continue to work for the people of the Northwest Territories.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Now, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following Bills:

- Bill 6, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2010-2011
- Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2009-2010
- Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2009-2010

Thank you, merci beaucoup, quanami, and mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Colleagues, before we leave here today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of all the Members, the Pages who served us so well during the sitting of this Assembly.

---Applause

I would also like to extend the appreciation of the House to the schools, the chaperones, the parents and the staff that make this program so successful.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Office of the Clerk for the support they provide to all Members on an ongoing basis. It is especially appreciated...

---Applause

...during session when Members rely heavily on staff during a particularly busy time.

I know that we leave here with full schedules. Members will continue to meet in committees and Ministers will continue to lead their departments. We will also spend valuable time with our constituents helping us put our work here into perspective. These are the people who we all serve.

I would also like to urge Members to take the time to mark Remembrance Day, wherever you may be on November 11th. On Remembrance Day, Canadians are asked to pause and remember the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives fighting for freedom and democracy during the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, the Afghan conflict and during peacekeeping missions.

As we will not meet again in this Chamber until January, I also take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to reconvening this House on January 27th and, as always, I wish you safe travels as we disperse today.

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, January 27th, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. 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

- Motion 6-16(4), Hiring Preference for Persons with Disabilities

18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

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

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 Wednesday, January 27th, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

