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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The Chair recognizes the honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Vince Steen.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 6-14(2): Reduced Speed Limit on Highway No. 3 - Stagg River to Yellowknife

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that as of Wednesday, March 1, 2000, the maximum speed limit for trucks on the unreconstructed portion of Highway No. 3 between the Stagg River and Yellowknife will be reduced from its present 90 kilometres per hour to 70 kilometres per hour.

I believe that, in view of the condition of this section of highway and the increased volume of traffic travelling on it, a lower speed limit for trucks will reduce the wear and tear on the road and give motorists a greater sense of confidence that they can travel the highway safely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen.

Minister's Statement 7-14(2): Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services was appointed last summer by the previous Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Floyd Roland. Its mandate was to examine the health and social services system through a public consultation process and make recommendations to improve the system.

During their public consultations, the forum heard from over 800 groups, agencies and individuals. Forum members listened to Northwest Territories residents express concerns and possible ways to address these concerns. Then the forum members had the challenging task of summarizing what they heard into a report.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the forum's report has a very good title - Let's Get On With It!. The consultations and final report provide this government with yet another opportunity to evaluate our priorities and current actions. We know that the health and social services system in the Northwest Territories is facing increased challenges in delivering quality and timely care to the people of the Northwest Territories.

The challenges come from a growing and aging population, our vast geography, and higher-than-national rates in some key health concern areas, as highlighted in our Health Status Report. These issues place increasing demands on the system. Workable solutions are needed if we are to continue to meet the needs of our people.

As the forum consultations demonstrate, our strategic plan is focused in the right direction. We are working towards a people-focused system that places the needs of the family first and seeks to find community-based solutions to our health and social issues.

Mr. Speaker, we have been working on strategies and initiatives to improve our system. They include:

- implementing a recruitment and retention strategy to bring stability to our northern workforce and increase its capacity;
- implementing a health promotion strategy, placing more focus on preventing health and social conditions;
- developing a mental health and wellness strategy to address issues like family violence, substance abuse and addictions and to determine the network of services that should be in place; and
- implementing changes to improve institutional and community-based programs for people requiring continuing care.

As their first priority, the forum has suggested we develop criteria for establishing or continuing with health and social services boards. Concerns regarding the administration and the number of these boards have been raised in the past by MLAs, professional associations and members of the public. The number and variety of board structures can be costly and make it difficult to coordinate effective delivery across the system. Mr. Speaker, I have already directed my department to begin work in this area, and I hope to have options to review this spring.

There are many other examples of our progress. The forum's report has added momentum to the work underway. Later today, I will be tabling the final report of the Minister's forum. I have already instructed my department to begin examining the recommendations contained in the report. I will be inviting stakeholders to comment on the implications these recommendations have for our system. Based on this review, I will table a formal response to the forum's report this spring.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of the forum members, including:

- Duncan McNeill, Hay River;
- Glenna Hansen, Inuvik;

- Don Blaquiere, Fort Simpson;
- Gina Dolphus, Fort Smith;
- Hazel Nerysoo, Fort McPherson;
- Dee McCallum, RN, Yellowknife;
- Blair Dunbar, Social Worker, Yellowknife; and
- Ross Wheeler, Yellowknife.

These individuals have demonstrated their passion and commitment to making a difference in the lives of Northerners, and for this we are grateful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 8-14(2): 1998-99 Business Development Fund and Recipients' Report

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Business Development Fund is one of many incentive programs offered by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Later today, I will be tabling the fund's Recipients' Report for 1998-99, as well as the Annual Report.

Members will note that both of these reports cover the time period prior to division. The Recipients' Report identifies the contributions made through the fund while the Annual Report provides analysis of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the Business Development Fund provides assistance to northern businesses to help cover start-up costs, to secure additional investment and to develop business skills, new markets and products. The fund paid out \$3.6 million to 274 approved businesses during 1998-99. Funding was provided for a variety of business ventures. For example, a \$6,000 contribution to Noda Enterprises Ltd. in Kakisa for marketing and advertising services in support of the community's general store and a \$45,000 contribution to Deh Cho Air Ltd., in Fort Liard for the purchase of an aircraft.

Through the community initiatives program of the Business Development Fund, financial assistance is provided to community-based organizations for economic development projects that benefit entire communities. This program is designed to work in partnership with other community development programs. During 1998-99, \$5.7 million was distributed among 259 community initiatives. Contributions ranged from \$1,000 to Deninu K'ue Development Corporation in Fort Resolution for participation in an economic development conference to \$110,000 to the Community Gardening Society in Inuvik to help cover costs involved in converting the arena into an operating greenhouse.

The majority of funding provided through the Business Development Fund went to aboriginal-owned business and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the spirit and enthusiasm of the business

community in the Northwest Territories and extend our commitment for on-going service and assistance. The efforts of the business community continue to play a vital role in the growth of our northern economy. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Recognition of Fort McPherson Student Candace Smith

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of this House to a young individual, Ms. Candace Smith of Fort McPherson. This young lady is very deserving of recognition for her initiative to look for ways to improve herself.

Candace, on her own initiative, applied for a program, EF Foundations High School Years Abroad, and was accepted to attend school down under in New Zealand. Candace has taken this initiative on her own, realizing it is not only going to be a new adventure but a challenge.

It takes people such as Candace and other young individuals to show if you have a dream, then reach for it and move on. She will be attending high school along with 350 other kids and living with a newlywed couple on their dairy farm in New Zealand.

Candace has received great support from the communities in the Mackenzie Delta. She has been supported by organizations such as Brighter Futures, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Inuvik Lion's Club. This type of support and confidence in our young people is very encouraging.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that these types of support mechanisms help not only the individuals, but build up the confidence of the people in the communities, so they can believe that where there is a will, there is a way to take on these initiatives.

Candace's parents, Dean and Annie Smith of Fort McPherson, deserve recognition. They have obviously given Candace the love and support she needed to take on such a venture.

It is this type of parental and community support that is needed to raise children to have a good feeling about themselves, children who are ready to take on the role of representing not only themselves, but also their community.

Candace is a great role model to all young people. It is a wonderful experience to say that it takes a whole community to raise a child. With that, Mr. Speaker, I wish Candace all the best. To Dean and Annie Smith, I would like to acknowledge their efforts in raising Candace. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on the Need for a Comprehensive Northwest Territories Energy Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to briefly address the issue of the long

outstanding need for a comprehensive energy strategy for the Northwest Territories. This is an issue I raised repeatedly during the life of the 13th Assembly, and I want to raise it again today. It is a critical issue. There have been some efforts made, but in my opinion nothing substantive has been done.

On Tuesday I posed a written question asking for the costs for the provision of fuel and energy throughout the Northwest Territories for all government services. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, when those numbers are in, all associated and related costs will show that we spend well over \$100 million a year in this particular area.

We have to look at how we use energy, how we get it there, and are we doing it the right way? We have to look at the role of NTPC, our major asset, but also one of the biggest liabilities that we have in terms of the debt that we now run. The rising fuel prices make it incumbent upon us to look at this.

We also have to look at the environmental issues, the Kyoto Agreement. We all have to look at the issue of regulatory reform with the Public Utilities Board as to how we monitor and police the services we provide. Some communities are taking very aggressive, positive steps. Fort Simpson is looking at ways of lowering their energy costs. They believe the steps they have taken can save them 20 percent on the cost of the services.

Mr. Speaker, this also ties in to the resource development that we have, because it is related to energy, oil and gas development. I believe there are significant savings to be realized here. The steps taken in the past with the Energy Alliance, while a baby step forward, have to go beyond ten kilowatts, from changing your light bulbs, which is important, to looking at the broader fundamental structural issues related to the provision of energy.

I would hope this government will pursue this vigorously. I will be raising this issue with the committees and through the business planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Congratulations to Arctic Winter Games Participants

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to congratulate all of the boys and girls and men and women who will be representing the Northwest Territories at the Arctic Winter Games this March in Whitehorse. I think we can see that Team NWT has a lot of experience and is made up of communities across the North – 15 different communities are represented, Mr. Speaker, for a total of 339 delegates.

This includes athletes, officials, chaperones, and coaches. I think we have 24 different sporting events ranging from things like hockey and volleyball to Arctic sports and Dene games. I would like to congratulate all of the athletes who were successful, as I know this is a very important and valuable experience. I look back at the two Arctic Winter Games I was fortunate enough to participate in and I realize

that these are some of my fondest memories growing up in the North. I made a lot of friends that I still know today.

I think you will also find your experience will help you learn valuable life lessons. Lessons like teamwork, how to win graciously, and, at times, how to lose with dignity and sportsmanship. I think these are very important lessons that will serve you well. Good luck, and everyone in the room here today hopes you will bring us back some new, shiny hardware. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Canadian Junior National Cross-Country Ski Championships

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the risk of turning this into a sportscast, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize that this week in Thunder Bay, Ontario, about 260 top junior athletes from across Canada are participating in the Canadian Junior National Cross Country Ski Championships at the Lappe Nordic Ski Club.

The ski team representing the Northwest Territories is composed of Sarah Daitch from Fort Smith and Yellowknifers Starr Stinson and Mike Argue, Seth Lippert, Ella Stinson, and Sheena Trembly. I am pleased to note that Mike, Seth and Sheena are constituents of Great Slave.

The results, after two days of competition, are Mike Argue with a gold medal in the pursuit race and a silver medal in the 15K classic race. Sarah Daitch of Fort Smith has earned a silver medal in the women's 10K classic race. In the overall standings, Mr. Argue is just one point out of first place in the junior men's division.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1970's the majority of the skiers on the Canadian National Team, led by Sharon and Shirley Firth of Inuvik, were from the Northwest Territories. Our colleague for Inuvik Twin Lakes, who represented Canada in international competitions from 1968 to 1972, was also a part of this tradition.

Cross country skiing promotes healthy lifestyles and is enjoyed by many for both pleasure and competition. I am pleased the Northwest Territories is represented by such a strong team. I know the Members here, and in particular the Member for Thebacha, want to join me in wishing our Northwest Territories team well in the remaining races. Mr. Speaker, we should also acknowledge the efforts of the coaches, the officials and the other volunteers who made these results possible for their contribution to a healthy lifestyle for everyone in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement on Japanese Aurora Tourism Industry

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity today to celebrate something very positive going on in the city of Yellowknife, that being the increasing number of Japanese tourists who travel a very long distance to make

Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories one of their tour destinations in Canada. This month alone, Mr. Speaker, upwards of 2500 Japanese visitors are expected to visit our city. There are up to 300 of them in the city on any given day, looking up at our sky at night, visiting our shops and eating country food at our local restaurants.

Just last night I was at the Explorer Hotel at 9:00 p.m. and watched two school buses full of the tourists in their familiar red gear heading out into the night to see the northern lights. The sight of them warms my heart. I have also had the occasion last week to talk to the local restaurant operators, who are very happy to have these visitors fill their premises every night in what is otherwise a very slow tourist season.

Last year there were approximately 7000 Japanese visitors, but we are expected to surpass that by a large margin this year, as we have already exceeded that number with two more months left to go in the season.

Mr. Speaker, what we should recognize is that this is not simply an overnight success that happened by accident. A number of local operators have been working very hard for over a decade to perfect this very specialized product. The visiting tourists are catered to take advantage of everything our city and the North have to offer, above and beyond the northern lights, including dog sled rides, snowmobile tours, caribou viewing, snow shoeing and ice-fishing demonstrations.

It should also be recognized that this has been achieved without a lot of assistance from the government, and perhaps even in spite of it. All of the local operators and service businesses should be commended for making this possible.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, not everything about this is positive. If the number of visitors continues to grow at this rate, we will not have enough accommodation space in the city to accommodate them all. And the solution to this is not as simple as building an extra hotel to accommodate them. The demand for accommodation in the city during the summer is not nearly as high as that in the winter. In fact, the number of visitors to the North has experienced a steady decline over the last number of years.

The tourism industry needs the government's action to help develop our summer tourist product.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, your time has expired.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You may continue, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. The tourism industry needs the government's action to help develop our summer tourist product to match our winter product. We need a comprehensive action plan in partnership with all stakeholders.

I appreciate that this government, along with all the Members on this side of the House, will continue to work hard for the next little while to set our priorities on how to get

the governance right and how to achieve a healthy economy and healthy people.

As a Member for Yellowknife, I intend to work hard to push for a coordinated and common sense tourism strategy that will benefit the economy of our city and our Territory so that this success story can be shared across many sectors in our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Medical Services Available in the North Slave Area

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give my Member's statement in my own language.

(Translation starts) Mr. Speaker, today I would like to highlight a concern that constituents throughout the North Slave have brought to my attention. People are very concerned with the medical services available to them at home. While I am sure everyone in this room recognizes the great work done by the Stanton Regional Hospital here in Yellowknife, I am sure many people can also recognize the need for better medical services in their home communities.

In particular, seniors whose health is declining do not wish to leave their families and friends. It is hard for their extended family to make the journey to Yellowknife or Edmonton, especially in the case of a long-term illness. It simply is unaffordable and unrealistic. Therefore, patients miss the care and support that their families and friends can provide.

In the recently released report in the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services, the panel stated that to help return communities to good health, we need to help them increase control over their lives. Earlier this week, I shared my constituents' overwhelming desire for help with addictions. We want better services in this area and in a number of areas related to health care.

Today, I would like to share with you the big picture of what we hope to achieve in the North Slave. We want to create a more responsive health care system. We want to create a multi-purpose building in Rae which could provide:

- Services for mentally challenged people;
- Services for people addicted to substances; and
- Services for health care.

Ideally, a permanent doctor would be hired and around the clock medical services could be available. This is a big goal and will require time and energy to bring about. It is a worthy goal and one that I am personally committed to working on.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I am looking forward to working with this government to find ways to make health care more relevant to the people it serves. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement on Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 Festivities

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last weekend the opening ceremonies of the Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 took place in Tuktoyaktuk. Many people took part including elders, RCMP, Armed Forces, Canadian Rangers, Arctic College students, instructors, and volunteers.

Two elders in their 80's, Laura Raymond and Edgar Kotokak, were designated as official water carriers as well as the mayor of Dawson City, His Worship Glen Everett, Member of Parliament, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, I.R.C. Chief Nellie Cournoyea, the mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, His Worship Ernest Pokiak, and myself, representing the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Jim Antoine. Water was carried from the Arctic Ocean water source to the Canada Trail Monument, a distance of more than one kilometre. Mr. Speaker, one wonders what was going through the minds of these elders as they carried these water jars in weather of minus 56 with the wind chill factor.

I take this opportunity to recognize and thank those volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make this event the success it was. There are too many to mention them all by name, Mr. Speaker, but there were rangers of Tuktoyaktuk like David Nasagaluk, Jesse Panaktalok, Luga Nasagaluk and the people who chiseled the hole through five feet of ice to reach Arctic Ocean water. As well, Jean Gruben took part in the blessing of the water at the Canada Trail Monument site.

I would like to recognize the Tuktoyaktuk Drummers and the fiddlers and guitar players who played for the square dance into the early morning hours. The master of ceremonies for this event, Steve Cockney, who helped organize this, definitely deserves mentioning. People who contributed to the feast and helped serve the elders also deserve mentioning like Jean Gruben, Tina Steen, Lloyd Gruben, Nellie Cournoyea, Ethel Blondin-Andrew and many more.

Mr. Speaker, this was a very happy event even though it was cold and I would like to thank all those who helped and took part. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. We wish them well and look forward to a report on the conclusion of their run. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Working Together Summer Student Employment Program

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago I listened with interest as Mr. Bell questioned the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment about whether the Working Together Program would continue in the next fiscal year.

This program has been a tremendous success, creating hundreds of jobs for young people over the years. Not just creating jobs for students, but also for those who are making the difficult transition from school to employment.

Mr. Speaker, as we have heard over and over, youth have a much higher rate of unemployment than others in the North. Working Together has helped by making it easier for employers to hire inexperienced people, allowing young people to escape the vicious circle that results from not having enough experience to get a job, and no way to get a job without having some experience.

Minister Ootes advised the House that funding for this important and effective program will end on March 31, 2000, scant weeks before students arrive home, hoping to make some money to help them return to school next fall, or recent graduates looking for their first job.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister will remember how important he thought this program was when it was discussed in this House last year. Looking at Hansard for May 10th, 1999, Mr. Ootes, as the Member for Yellowknife Centre, said, and I quote:

"We have been talking about ensuring employment for students for a number of years now. It seems strange to me that we have a special program called Working Together, and only if the budget is passed, do we have that summer student employment program."

He went on to say, and I quote:

"It seems to me that this kind of program should have been planned out well ahead of time. We were well aware that we were going to have an interim budget and I would have thought it would have been in that interim budget."

Mr. Speaker, on reviewing Hansard for February 22, 2000 Mr. Ootes told us that this program will only continue if it is included in the budget. We know, from Mr. Handley's statement, that the budget will not be introduced in the House until June.

Mr. Speaker, that is far too late to help summer students this year. A program this important must be supported. I hope Mr. Ootes will remember the position he took on this program when he was on this side of the House. We must quickly assure young people and employers that the Working Together Program will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement on Moving Ahead With Resource Development

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our fiscal situation impacts how we look at our economic potential. Mr. Speaker, the role of government in this area plays a large role of how the economic potential will be developed.

I know many organizations outside of this government would rather have us play a lesser role. They want to see us move forward, and not tie it up with red tape. There is a need to be proactive in this area, Mr. Speaker. We have to take positive action that results in accomplishments.

It has been said time and time again how government has so much red tape. Have we done anything to clear it up? We have billions of dollars ready to be spent in the Northwest Territories if we can become proactive and move forward on the potential we have sitting in the ground. How are we going to do that?

It takes dollars to be involved. The longer we hold back and not develop on these processes, we will find ourselves in a more difficult position when it comes to developing our own potential.

We know there is talk of an intergovernmental forum, which I think is the right avenue to take. But we need to get on with the process. We need to get to the table and talk out the discussions. I note what Premier Kakfwi has stated on a number of occasions, in the previous Assembly as well as early on in this one; maybe it is time to lock ourselves behind closed doors for two or three days and hammer out a deal.

We know the aboriginal groups are being proactive. They have come out and made motions in the area of sustainable development. We are starting down that process. We need to get a move on it so we can truly find new dollars to put towards effective programs in the Northwest Territories, not just try to move around our ever-shrinking dollar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Community Access Program

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was going to make a statement on another matter, but my colleagues seem to be reading my notes and making those statements beforehand.

Today, I am very happy the community of Lutsel K'e, along with Rae Lakes and Wha Ti, will be included in funding for Internet access. This is possible through the community access program funded by the federal government. Perhaps this government can get involved with the nurturing of this and similar programs that have been introduced by other agencies.

It is programs like this that will bring small, isolated communities such as Lutsel K'e into the communication age. The sooner this is done, the better equipped we will be to be true partners in the Canadian and global economies. Today's global economy is so important. People can learn about each other and their land, culture and environment. The Internet is becoming a primary tool for this.

They can use this information and technology for everything from tourism development to attracting investment for areas of our economy. It will also educate our people about other cultures, and at the same time gain an appreciation for our own cultures, that are in dire need of revival.

I look forward to visiting the communities of Lutsel K'e and Fort Resolution with Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, to get an appreciation of this and other programs, along with the challenges facing these communities. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Congratulations to Arctic Winter Games Participants

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the conversation back into the sports arena for a minute, on the topic of the Arctic Winter Games. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the athletes from Hay River who have been successful in obtaining a spot on Team NWT for the Arctic Winter Games.

I would also like to thank all of the coaches from Hay River who have put in a lot of time with the athletes to get the teams ready. And I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have participated in organizing the regional and territorial trials, which enabled us to have the best of our athletes represent us at the Arctic Winter Games.

I would like to commend the staff at Sport North. Having been involved in the Arctic Winter Games for a number of years as a coach and participant, I have worked closely with the staff at Sport North. They perform all of the organizing for the sports. This year, they seem to have done an exceptional job. I do not know if it is because of the split with Nunavut that they have fewer athletes, but they are doing a wonderful job. I have enjoyed working with them this year.

I feel privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the Arctic Winter Games again this year. I am going to be coaching the Hay River Junior Girls Curling Team. I am privileged to have that opportunity. I would like to issue a challenge to Members on both sides of the House; it is incumbent upon us to have good representation at the Arctic Winter Games. We sit in the House and talk about how good this is for our kids and how important it is to have them involved in the games. I think it is also important for us to be very visible to our athletes at the games, to show we support them and encourage their participation in the sport. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address questions raised by Mr. Roland in the House concerning the business planning and main estimates process. First, I would like to clarify my previous statement regarding the call letters for the 2000 to 2003 business plan. Deputy ministers were briefed on the schedule and process on February 18, 2000. The actual call letters will be sent to all departments on February 24, 2000.

In response to Mr. Roland's question concerning the final direction for the main estimate process, call letters will be sent by mid-March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Premier, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi.

Return to Question 22-14(2): Fuel Spill on Highway No. 3

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a response to a question asked by Ms. Sandy Lee on February 23, 2000, regarding a fuel spill on Highway No. 3.

You asked for the status of the cleanup and the extent of environmental damage related to the RTL tanker truck accident on Highway No. 3 on February 20, 2000. Some of the details in media reports concerning the volume of the spill and the status of cleanup have not been entirely accurate.

Although the quantity of diesel spilled has not been determined, RTL estimates half of the 43,000 litre load was lost. The resulting contamination has been limited to the immediate area of the spill. A small nearby slough is not expected to be impacted. The immediate cleanup activities should be completed by RTL over the next two days. There is a possibility that contamination may have seeped into the ground and, therefore, the company will have to readdress this issue during spring run-off. RWED will continue to monitor the immediate cleanup activities and follow up with site inspections in the spring and summer to determine if further cleanup is required by the company. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

At this time, I would like to recognize the 11 Russian aboriginal leaders in the gallery today, who are here as part of their tour of Canada, sponsored by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Canada office, to learn from the Canadian aboriginal experience.

During their three weeks in Canada, they have attended a ten-day seminar in Ottawa, met with national aboriginal leaders, federal parliamentarians and senators, visited the Blood Tribe in southern Alberta, the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in of Inuvik and Aklavik, the Metis Nation, and officials of DIAND and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs here in Yellowknife, and are now here to visit our gallery. This is the final step of their three-week journey across Canada. I would like to ask you to welcome them to our gallery. Enjoy your visit.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the president of the Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories, Mr. George Morin.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Arthur

Inch, a long time resident of the Northwest Territories, and the father of our committee clerk, Mr. Dave Inch.

-- Applause

Welcome, Mr. Inch. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an ex-resident of Hay River, and a friend of mine, Pat Thomas.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome, Ms. Thomas. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize the president of the Metis Nation, Mr. George Morin. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment regarding my Member's statement about this young individual who took it upon herself to see what other educational institutions are out there, where she feels she can probably get a better education and some cultural experience by going overseas.

I am speaking of the program that Ms. Candace Smith was able to enter, which is the E.F.S.F. High School Year Abroad Program, which is a program that is delivered worldwide. In this program, students have opportunities to go to school in the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, France, the United States, and New Zealand, which Ms. Smith chose.

One of the problems I have seen working with the family was that there are no territorial programs in place to assist people who find themselves accepted into these national programs. I would like to ask the Minister if the department has looked at the Education Act to find a way in which they can consolidate not only federal programs but initiatives such as this, where students from the Northwest Territories go overseas? Has the department looked at the possibility of providing financial assistance on behalf of this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I think Mr. Krutko has a point that it is commendable that students look for opportunities in other jurisdictions that perhaps offer very beneficial programs. In this case, it has shown a great deal of initiative by the individual.

The ability of the territorial government to assist in this has been limited by the regulations we have in place, where we provide funding to the nearest destination.

I am not sure if all of the possibilities have been explored, in terms of providing funding for people to go to other jurisdictions outside

of the country. I will certainly check that for the Member and get back to him on that.

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

Supplementary to Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding other groups and agencies, such as the Brighter Futures Program, and funding from the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and charitable organizations such as the Lions Club...I feel it is initiatives like these where we can see some positive outcomes. The experience alone as a government is worth it to see what other institutions are doing around the world in improving the education of the people in the North.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could also look at the possibility of working with organizations to find some charitable society or institution where we can work in partnership to assist people in these types of programs?

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

Further Return to Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think it is important we identify all of the possibilities where funding can potentially come from for students to study in other jurisdictions. This may have already been done, Mr. Speaker. It is a case for me to sit down with the department to see what has been done. If nothing has been done, I will commit to looking into the possibility of finding possible sources for funding. There are other programs in the federal government that are operated in the Territories. We are trying to coordinate that whole area and get more information on it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the question of coordination, there are times that we find there is a lot of federal programs developed around educational opportunities. This government has to have a mechanism in place so we can consolidate what we are doing in the North so we can assist people who access these federal programs, so we can offset some of the associated costs. I would like to ask the Minister if he would look at a mechanism so that when federal programs are developed in the areas of education, we have the ability in the North to be able to consolidate what we give to our education system so they work hand in hand, not only nationally but territorially, so we can take full advantage of the opportunities these programs provide. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would take a bit of time to talk in terms of consolidation. What we can certainly do is start to identify the types of programs that are accessible to students. Then, we can possibly provide a mechanism to make students aware of them, if we are requested to provide information on other sources of funding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 24-14(2): Assistance For Educational Opportunities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the idea of streamlining the programs and services, eliminating the red tape..., I think that is what students want. They want more ability to access these programs. I would like to ask the Minister about the possibility of looking at the Education Act to ensure we can streamline our programs so they are more operational? So students do not have the problems they find themselves in when trying to access federal programs and territorial programs at the same time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly take Mr. Krutko's concerns and suggestions under advisement. Thank you.

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

Question 25-14(2): Arsenic Storage Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, who is the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Many of my constituents, and indeed all Northerners, are very concerned about the arsenic that is stockpiled right beneath our feet. I wonder if the Premier can tell us which level of government is currently spearheading the cleanup effort? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi.

Return to Question 25-14(2): Arsenic Storage Cleanup

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cleanup of the Giant Mine site was started a few weeks ago. It is spearheaded by DIAND. It is done with the assistance of a number of organizations.

The surface cleanup is the part of the cleanup that has been initiated at this point. We are still waiting for some indication from the federal government as to what they may be prepared to do regarding the cleanup of the arsenic. How that will be addressed is unclear at this time, as we are waiting for word from the federal government on that part of the cleanup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 25-14(2): Arsenic Storage Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Premier can tell us whether DIAND has given us any indication at this early stage of the timeline for the cleanup process? And also the cost of the process and whether or not that will cost the taxpayers of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 25-14(2): Arsenic Storage Cleanup

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The surface cleanup is being covered by DIAND at this time. It is estimated to cost roughly a half million dollars. To deal with the arsenic cleanup underground, the cost is estimated in the neighbourhood of \$60 million. That is the responsibility of the federal government.

There was some indication the Minister of Environment, David Anderson, may be taking the initiative to address contaminated sites across this country. We have not heard any word, so we are awaiting some indication from the federal government as to the scope of responsibility they will be accepting and to the extent to which they will put resources to address the issue. Thank you.

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

Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. As I noted in my Member's statement, Working Together is a very important youth employment program. As the Member for Yellowknife Centre noted on May 10th, 1999:

"the amount the program requires, \$1 million, is very small, and surely the department can juggle funds within to ensure it continues."

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister ensure that happens this year?

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

Return to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to some of the background on this. This particular program dates back to 1997. It was part of the Government of the Northwest Territories Northern Employment Strategy. It was a two-year program, and was continued for an additional year due to its success. The money for that came from the Financial Management Board, and was above the departmental budget. The program offers subsidies for employers to hire and train young students. Some 1500 students have been helped.

I certainly share the concerns Mr. Dent and other Members have expressed. I am very well aware that young people will be returning home for the summer, looking for work.

I would like to see the program continued but, as I said earlier, funding for this program had come from outside of the department. It had been provided by the Financial Management Board.

I have just come into this department and must state that while we have the opportunity for the interim appropriation, at this point I have not been able to address this issue from a financial point of view. Considering the money came from outside of the department before, I would have to take into consideration where to find the funding. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to hear the Minister agrees this is an extremely important program. I would ask the Minister, rather than waiting for an interim supplementary bill, will he commit to, now that he is in the position to make the difference, juggle funds from within and ensure the program continues? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the funding for this came from the Financial Management Board, not from within the department. I would have to take that into consideration before I could make any commitment as to addressing the funding issue. Until I have an opportunity to address it and to see where funding can be found, I cannot answer that question. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed to hear the Minister cannot commit to that, but will the Minister ensure funds to continue the Working Together Program are put in the interim supplementary bill as part of the department's appropriations, as he said the previous government should when he was an Ordinary Member?

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

Further Return to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting repetitive here, but as I said, the money actually was found and provided by the Financial Management Board, not from within the department, and therefore, consideration has to be made and discussions have to take place to see where the money could be found if it was to be considered. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are all well aware of the process, Mr. Speaker. What I am hoping to find is a commitment from this Minister that he will do his utmost to ensure that this program can be announced as proceeding when we come back in this House in March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 26-14(2): Working Together Program Continuation

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do my utmost to work on this particular issue. As I said, I am well aware of the importance of this issue, with the students coming back to the Northwest Territories. Employment is needed. I think it is very important.

I should also make mention of the fact that the government's Summer Student Employment Program, where the government itself hires students, is meeting in early March. We hope to have a database of students set up by early April so we can position students within the government for casual placements where possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment regarding student employment within the government of the Northwest Territories.

The Minister said yesterday or the day before this is a centralized service out of the Executive for all of the Northwest Territories. Does that mean that every summer, those students who want a job, be it in Fort Smith or Sachs Harbour or Colville Lake, has to send their resume to someone here in Yellowknife, who will then make a decision or coordinate this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure of the answer, but I will undertake to ensure this can be applied through their communities or central regions, and then it comes into the database in Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to ask the Minister to clarify that. What is he saying, that they

can apply, and then look for jobs in the government? They can apply in the regions and the region can make decisions to hire? Or do they have to apply in their region or community and the resume then goes to Yellowknife for final determination? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I do not have the complete answer to this question. What I will commit to do is ensure that students can at least submit their applications on a regional basis so there is more access for students.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know more clearly, since meetings have already been held and April is upon us, are students going to have to apply to some centralized body, some small window where there is a civil servant in Yellowknife that is going to decide who gets jobs in the communities? Are they going to have to do that? Are we going to have that centralized control back in Yellowknife? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the Summer Student Employment Program is going to continue this year as it has in the past when Mr. Miltenberger was part of the Executive. There is going to be no change from when he was a Minister of this government. It is centralized. All the students that apply will be submitting their resumes to a central location, which will be here in Yellowknife. The resumes and the names of the students will be made available to departments, boards and agencies that require them, and they will be able to hire these students. It is going to be coordinated from Yellowknife. It is no different from the way it was done in the past, except that this year we hope that we can upgrade the potential to have internet access to the database for people. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will address my supplementary then, to the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi. I am still not clear. I do not recollect the decisions for hiring summer students are not made in the regions by the superintendents, by the departments that need the people, but rather by some person sitting in the Executive office in Yellowknife as opposed to a coordinating function that disseminates the resumes?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 27-14(2): Student Employment Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Students that are eligible send their resumes into the Government of the Northwest Territories, and these are put together here in Yellowknife. Their resumes are made available to all the regions, communities, boards, and agencies that are within the government, and these people do the hiring. Their resumes are just made available through this central database. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Range Lake, Miss Lee.

Question 28-14(2): Pension and Severance Concerns of Giant Mine Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. It is in regards to the situation of the laid off Giant Mine workers. Mr. Speaker, there are a huge number of laid off Giant Mine workers that live in my riding. Throughout my campaign, I have had many occasions to talk to them about their predicament. It seems they had to suffer through a major problem with their severance pay, and now the latest thing is that their pension will be cut by 25 percent. My question to the Premier is to ask him what this government has done, thus far, in terms of addressing these problems with the pension and severance for these workers?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier.

Return to Question 28-14(2): Pension and Severance Concerns of Giant Mine Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned about the situation for the workers of Giant Mine and the difficulties they are having with their pensions. We have raised that with the Member of Parliament, Ethel Blondin Andrew, and she has informed us recently that she is checking out possible ways in which the federal government may consider addressing this difficulty. At this time, we know that she has raised it with the Secretary of State for Financial Institutions. There is no indication, at this time, whether the federal government will be able to do anything to help, but this is the extent of the work that has been done on this particular issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 28-14(2): Pension and Severance Concerns of Giant Mine Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Premier's answer with respect to the pension side of this predicament of the workers, but there is also the question of severance pay, which was a lot less than most workers had expected. I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that with respect to the severance package, it was a deal made between two private companies. But what I would like the Minister to know is that it is not just about two companies dealing with this. It involves the working of all governments. My question to the

Minister is, will the Premier make a commitment to really put pressure on the federal government to address the concerns of these workers? I really think that the government has to pressure this. This is not just about the deals between two companies. It is about the rights of workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier.

Further Return to Question 28-14(2): Pension and Severance Concerns of Giant Mine Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the federal government shares the concerns raised by the Member, and we believe the federal government is taking the matter seriously to the extent that the Member of Parliament has raised it with the federal ministers, with a resolve to try to address and alleviate the difficulties that this issue raises with the Giant Mine employees. That is the extent to which we can comment on it. We know the federal government is taking it seriously and they are looking for ways to help, if they can. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 28-14(2): Pension and Severance Concerns of Giant Mine Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make this question very short. Will the Premier make the commitment to make these items, this pension and severance for the workers, a priority of his workload? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier.

Further Return to Question 28-14(2): Pension and Severance Concerns of Giant Mine Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to following up with the Member of Parliament to see that we keep whatever pressure we can on getting the federal government to provide some positive response at the earliest possible date. Thank you.

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

Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, there is a real demand in a lot of our communities for housing. I think one way we can look at trying to find ways of alleviating some of the pressures in our communities is by developing elders' facilities within these communities, so at least one sector of our community could be dealt with. Due to the impact of the shortages of houses, this would be beneficial, since a lot of the elders want to stay in our smaller communities. They want to be close to families and friends during the later years of their lives.

With that, Mr. Speaker, the community of Tsiigehtchic has been asking this government for years for such a facility to be built in their community. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Housing, is this department going to be able to assist the community of Tsiigehtchic by developing such a facility to offset

the impacts of housing shortages in the community of Tsiigehtchic?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Roger Allen.

Return to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. We are trying to address all the requests coming from several communities, along with Tsiigehtchic. We recognize there is a need to address senior housing in this community. We are going to try to travel into each community to talk to various members of the communities in appreciation of the elders' request. Hopefully, at that point, we will answer the Member's question. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the community of Tsiigehtchic has been trying to find a way to have this facility built for years now, and this is nothing new to this department. Again, I would like to ask the Minister, is his department willing to take into consideration that the housing shortages of Tsiigehtchic can be easily remedied by simply developing a public facility in the community of Tsiigehtchic so that those elders can be housed in one facility and they will be able to have those other units opened up to the general public? Will the Minister consider looking at this seriously?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, as I learned more about how the corporation works and how the programs are administered, we will examine the present program delivery methods and see if we can improve in various ways. One of the things we do is we are trying to determine, at this point, how we can best and more sufficiently, deliver some of the programs that the Member has asked. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister made reference, in his comments, that he is willing to go into the communities and deal with this problem. How soon can the Minister commit to go into the community of Tsiigehtchic and sit down on this matter and try to find a resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Minister for Housing, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently setting up a bunch of travel dates, travel itineraries into various regions and settlements. Just to make you aware that we will be travelling to the South Slave March 12, 2000 and March 13, 2000 to talk to the local housing associations. We will also talk to the North Slave the week following. The earliest I can indicate to the Member is early to mid-April. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister also look at, he made reference that they are looking at the overall strategy of the department, but for the longest time, the Western Territory was really limited on the number of seniors' facilities built in the Western Territory because of being one Territory with Nunavut and ourselves where a lot of the facilities were built in the east. And because of that, the west has lost out in regards to building these facilities. I think it is now time that this government seriously looked at implementing the seniors housing residences in our communities to offset the impact, especially for the younger population that we have. Will the Minister commit to also looking at that?

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

Further Return to Question 29-14(2): Elders' Facilities in Tsiigehtchic

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are presently working on several housing need surveys to determine which communities are in need. I believe Tsiigehtchic was one of the four identified. We feel that we should revise and review the current status of each community and we will undertake to try to satisfy the Member's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Oral questions. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 30-14(2): Consultation on Speed Limit Change

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Speaker, the announcement that was made today regarding a change in the speed limit on a portion of Highway No. 3 for trucks being reduced from 90 kilometers per hour to 70 kilometers per hour. My question is, was the trucking industry consulted on this change to see indeed if this is something that they also feel would assist in improving safety conditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 30-14(2): Consultation on Speed Limit Change

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know, at this moment, what the opinion of the trucking industry is on this. This move by the department is in relation to having a safe highway. As all the Members of the House know, over the past little while, there have been many concerns

expressed by the public as to the ability to properly and safely navigate that stretch of highway. We are taking whatever steps we feel are necessary to ensure safety. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 30-14(2): Consultation on Speed Limit Change

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge that this is a positive step and certainly one that is within the realm of the department to take. I guess I would further ask for the assurance of the Minister that mixing up these speed limits for different kinds of traffic on the same highway is something that may result in a further level of danger. Is this something that the Minister could advise on, and that is the difference between speed limits for trucks and speed limits for other traffic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 30-14(2): Consultation on Speed Limit Change

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that in some of the jurisdictions, there are different speed limits for different types of traffic including truck traffic versus normal small vehicle traffic, light vehicle traffic. As an example, for instance, even the industry themselves, Robinson Trucking, I believe, I have been advised do, in fact, request that their drivers abide by a speed limit that they themselves set, which is about 70 kilometers an hour, I understand. So the department does take into the consideration the fact that there would be two different speed limits for different types of traffic. However, we are assuming that if the highway condition doesn't allow light traffic to proceed at 90 kilometers an hour, drivers will drive at a rate that the condition of the highway permits, not at what the speed limit is posted. Thank you.

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

Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard on a number of occasions in this House now about the need for new revenues. My question is to the Minister responsible for Finance. Can the Minister inform us to what areas the department has been looking at to try and bring in new revenues? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The areas that we have been looking at for potentially increasing new revenues include, of course, our formula financing grant, any other federal transfers, and we have a number of them, taxes, and other non-tax revenues like fees and licenses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister further elaborate in the area when he speaks of taxes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to speculate on specifics on what kind of taxes they might be, but we have a number of taxes in the Northwest Territories that range from tobacco to fuel to alcohol and so on. We also have other potential areas in terms of corporate taxes, but Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into what the potential may be in any of those areas. That would be speculation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

MR. ROLAND: Can the Minister inform us as to when the committees will be able to review this, whether it be the interim appropriation or will it be in the main business plan? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned before, the review of all these options takes some time. I do not believe that we can, in fact, we will not be able to have this in time for the interim appropriations. The results will be available as we do our business plans. Some of the options may also mean changes in legislation and so on, so I could not even commit that we would be able to make all the changes for the next fiscal year, maybe a year down the road yet before we could implement some of the possibilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the area of increased finances, the first response to my question did talk about the area of formula financing. Can the Minister inform us if the federal government or has there been discussions with the federal government in this area? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance.

Further Return to Question 31-14(2): GNWT Revenue Generation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have only been here a month or five weeks or whatever it is. I have not had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Finance. I think it is very important, before we jump into these things, that we be organized and know what it is and how we are proposing to do it. No, I have not had any discussions with the Minister of Finance on the formula.

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

Question 32-14(2): Budget for Youth Programs

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Youth. I would just like to say that I would like to applaud the government for having a youth portfolio. I think that this is something that is very important, and it is nice to see the government go in this direction. Can the Minister tell me what the budget for the portfolio of youth is? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 32-14(2): Budget for Youth Programs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very difficult question but a very simple answer. To put it bluntly, we have zero dollars at this moment. Thank you.

-- Laughter

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

Supplementary to Question 32-14(2): Budget for Youth Programs

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is disappointing. I know that there are various programs scattered across government that involves youth. I am wondering if the Minister would have some approach for consolidating some of these programs under the portfolio? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 32-14(2): Budget for Youth Programs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there is a preamble to my answer here in the fact that all the Ministers sitting at this table here have been so busy with their portfolios that we have not had a chance to meet amongst one another to determine what are the funds that are available from each respective department. I have tried to undertake the ambition here to put together a plan here where we can draw funds from each department to address several of the youth initiatives that I have been questioned about. So I am at that point there, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 32-14(2): Budget for Youth Programs

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for looking into this, and I am wondering if he can give me his commitment that he will make this a top priority and work to make sure that youth is a priority and a priority quickly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 32-14(2): Budget for Youth Programs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will endeavor to undertake all the possibilities here to address the concerns of our youth portfolio. It is very important, as we heard this afternoon, that Members had spoken out in support of sports, recreation, and now the youth issues. I want to endeavor to appease the Member's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 33-14(2): Health Centre in the North Slave

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask this question in my language. (Translation starts) I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. I realize that the public forum on health has just been discussed, and it seems that she wants everyone to agree with her on the way that it is being established, but we want to establish a medical service in our area. We want to help our people with alcohol, substance abuse, where we can house all that in one building. Is it possible that the Minister can help our region in building a complex in that area? (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 33-14(2): Health Centre in the North Slave

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will speak slowly for the benefit of translation that may occur for the benefit of Mr. Lafferty's constituents. Mr. Speaker, in his Member's statement today, Mr. Lafferty expressed a vision for his region in terms of a facility in which many different program relating to the health and social services of the Dogrib people could be addressed. Certainly, that is a very commendable goal.

He referred to access to health and social services, access to physician services, addictions treatment, and various other things that could be delivered at that level. The Dogrib Community Services Board is a unique model of governance in this area. Certainly, the Dogrib people are taking a very proactive approach to these issues.

Mr. Speaker, the availability of capital dollars for infrastructure such as a building are very scarce. We have, over the past four years at least, a decline in the amount of capital dollars available for projects in general. Having said that, I want to encourage the Member for North Slave to continue to work with us as we look at options for sources of funding that may be available for such a project. At this time, I would not be able to say there would be

capital dollars available for such a facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes, Mr. Roland.

Question 34-14(2): Non-Renewable Resource Policy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

I would like to know if the department has a broad policy in the area of non-renewable resources, and who would be in charge of that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 34-14(2): Non-Renewable Resource Policy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few items I would like to table today.

Tabled Document 11-14(2): Business Development Fund Annual Report 1998-99

I wish to table the Business Development Fund Annual Report April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

Tabled Document 12-14(2): Business Development Fund Recipients 1998-99

I would also like to table the Business Development Fund Recipients, April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

Tabled Document 13-14(2): Northwest Territories Development Corporation Annual Report 1996-97, 1997-98

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table the following document entitled the Northwest Territories Development Corporation Annual Report 1996-1997, and 1997-1998. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Tabled Document 14-14(2): Final Report of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Our Community, Our Decisions - Let's get on with it!, Final Report of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services, January, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Honourable Jake Ootes.

Tabled Document 15-14(2): Aurora College Annual Report 1998-99

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Aurora College Annual Report, 1998-99. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The Chair recognizes the Honourable Jake Ootes.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: An Act to Amend the Education Act

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister Handley.

Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1999-2000

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1999-2000, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister Handley.

Bill 3: An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister Ootes.

Bill 4: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 4 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister Steen.

Bill 5: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favor? All those opposed? Bill 5 has had first reading. Second reading of bills. Before I go to the next item, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a former Member of the Legislative Assembly in the gallery, Mr. Peter Fraser.

-- Applause

Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. On the agenda is Minister's Statement 1-14(2): Sessional Statement, with Mr. Delorey in the Chair.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Paul Delorey): The committee will come to order. Good afternoon. We are dealing with Minister's statement 1-14(2), Sessional Statement, which was tabled in the House February 22, 2000. With that, we will take a short break and reconvene in 15 minutes.

-- Break

MR. CHAIRMAN: The committee will come back to order. The floor is open for general comments. The Chair recognizes the Member for Mackenzie-Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Premier's statement that we must reduce alcohol and drug consumption in order to reduce violence, family abuse, and the effects of public health through smoking and the consumption of alcohol. I agree that the cost to this government for reducing tobacco consumption will reduce the stress on the health care system. This government spends some \$31 million on the health care system. There are areas where we can reduce it.

We can force people through legislation to live healthy lives. However, I feel that this government can give the communities and organizations, band councils, the community justice committees, the legal authority through

legislation to make sure the laws we develop are not just on the books for being on the books, but are there to enforce the legislation

One of the biggest concerns we see through plebiscites where we have communities that become dry communities, and then find out even the RCMP are not enforcing the restrictions because they are so vague. No one wants to spend the time and effort to enforce that legislation.

So this government does have a role to play to ensure the communities have the legislative means to enforce legislation in the communities.

The other area I have many concerns with is one I have raised time and time again; the issue of the Ti'oondih Healing Society. That organization was established through the Gwich'in land claim process. One of the priorities of that organization was to find a mechanism in which to deal with the problems the Premier mentioned. They wanted to find a mechanism to have healthy people. So when their land claim agreement was implemented, they had people who were healthy and were not stuck in the social envelope. People who were not dependent on government, but were independent people who have a positive input into that organization.

I have stood time and time again on this issue in this House. At the end of the day, it seemed like it fell on deaf ears. One thing I would like to state that we do not really realize or look at is who is the agency organization that delivers the alcohol to the people in the communities?

The Government of the Northwest Territories is probably one of the biggest bootleggers in the Northwest Territories. The Northwest Territories Liquor Commission owns our liquor outlets, and they are the organization responsible for delivering alcohol to the communities. That commission alone in 1988-1989 returned \$16 million in revenues back into this government's coffers. Yet, the amount of money we spend ensuring that money went into treatment facilities, to make sure people had access to deal with the problems of alcohol abuse was cut down next to nil.

We should practice what we preach. If we are going to tell people to quit drinking, to quit smoking and quit this and that, then maybe, the government should seriously consider getting out of the business of providing alcohol to the people in the communities.

The other area that we have to seriously look at when talking of providing for healthy people is the taxes from tobacco. This government receives some \$10 million a year from selling cigarettes through tobacco taxes. We benefit from the sale of tobacco through taxes. Yet very little money is spent in putting it back to the area of tobacco abuse prevention, trying to get people to quit smoking and making them aware of health concerns that are associated with smoking, such as lung cancer.

I think there are some major steps this government can take in showing the people that it is not only a people problem, but this government will seriously get out of the business of supplying alcohol to our communities.

At the present time, there is a subsidy for hauling alcohol to locations such as Inuvik or Yellowknife. I think we should do is do away with these subsidies and put the money into health care and making sure that we put it into treatment programs.

I think it would be more beneficial to start subsidizing food products such as eggs, milk and other healthy foods, to ensure people in the communities have access to these healthy foods, instead of having the government subsidize freight for liquor.

I think there are things we can do as a government. We have to accomplish them by working along with the people in our communities. I for one have been working with the community of Fort McPherson to find a way to deal with the alcohol consumption in that community. One of our biggest problems in the small communities is alcohol abuse. Yet the people in communities that try to find mechanisms for dealing with this problem are always stuck in the red tape of laws and regulations that we put in place.

Fort McPherson has gone forth with a plebiscite three times. They have failed three times, because of the principle the percentage needed for the plebiscite to pass is 60 percent. Yet most people are elected in our municipalities with less than 20 percent turn out.

I think these are the type of tools people want to ensure they have a mechanism to pass plebiscites, to give them the tools to find a method where people can find control mechanisms to control the flow of alcohol. If we can do that, we can deal with a major problem in our communities.

But we need the legislation and we need the enforcement mechanisms to ensure that, through laws and the RCMP, we are able to enforce whatever is passed in plebiscites.

In the other area of finding ways to promote healthy people and healthy communities, I mentioned the TI'oondih Healing Society. One thing we have to realize is because of the number of cuts this government has made, there is a lack of treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse.

Right now we are scraping away at one organization to deliver treatment programs. We are sending people to southern Canada. At one time, we used to have some kind of drug treatment program in every region. We use to have Delta House in Inuvik. We had the Hay River program. We had the TI'oondih program. We have programs here in Yellowknife.

On one hand, we can dictate to people quit this bad habit and everything will be okay. But you are dealing with problems that have existed long before this government was even in place. Many of the problems you have with suicide, alcohol abuse, physical abuse, mental abuse has been passed on from generation to generation. People in Fort McPherson blame the alcohol problems on the gold rush in Dawson City. Because at that time that was the first real contact they had with alcohol, in regards to that time period in the 1800's.

So I think for us to do justice to what we say, we should always back it up with dollars and resources to make sure that we have the institutions but that we also have the ability to be what we are elected for.

We have the ability to put forth programs and services on behalf of the residents. I do not think we should be in the business of trying to do business where we are not needed. We should get out of the supplying of alcohol to outlets in the Northwest Territories. We should privatize that. It has been

done it in other jurisdictions in southern Canada, Alberta and other places such as that. And also I think we should seriously look at giving the communities the abilities to take care of its problems, but also, to have the resources to do it.

Like the TI'oondih program, that is a \$2.5 million investment that could keep the Gwich'in Tribal Council has made to ensure that they can carry that out. That is an investment that they wanted to work with this government to carry out, but because of the reluctance on the part of this government, it has not gone anywhere. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. General comments. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comment will not be too long. It will be very brief. I just want to give the Premier feedback on the statement he had made. I would like to indicate to the Premier that I have had responses from some of my constituents who expressed to me that they generally liked what they have heard from this statement.

One of the more specific things that was expressed to me is the general impression of this statement and the emphasis on the importance of the individuals to make the choices. I think many people would agree that a lot of the problems we face, especially in the area of social problems in this Territory, like every other place in Canada, the government cannot do it alone.

If I may say, I do have a bone to pick with the Premier in his reference to the new Members. Because I do believe that the new Members that are here bring more than enthusiasm. I would hate to think that we are just young people with only enthusiasm and no experience and knowledge which he attributed to all the other older Members.

I would like to say that what this statement really said to me is that it is a commitment of the Premier to say that we really are working here, all of us, to build strong individuals, families and communities. And that is what it boils down to.

That is what the government is for. The government cannot do everything for everybody. We cannot fix all the problems. We need to rely on the strength and courage of individuals.

Also, I have to commend the Premier on the list of priorities that he set out. I do not want to read them, as it is already on record, but I do not believe that it received the kind of attention that it deserves in the media and from the public.

The other thing that I took out of the statement is that it is really calling for a partnership between the government and the people, and partnership between federal, territorial public and aboriginal governments.

I think that if we learned anything from what we have gone through since we have been elected to this House and the meetings we have held in public and in private, it is that there is no issue and no problem that we face right now that we can resolve alone in this House. It calls for partnerships at all levels.

I was particularly interested in what the Premier said about the progress that the aboriginal peoples and aboriginal leaders have made in this Territory and in this Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I am not that old, but in 22 years of living here in Yellowknife, and about 11 years of being involved in and out of

government and in and out of this Assembly, I could say that I have personally witnessed the empowerment of aboriginal people in this land and in this Assembly. I was here when the aboriginal leaders were a minority. Their issues were largely ignored. We have witnessed the empowerment of not only the leaders, but a great advancement of the aboriginal issues in this House and across the Territories.

I think it is very important that we celebrate this. That we take a breather and say "look at how far we have come." Our Territory is now made up of half aboriginal and half non-aboriginal people. I think the power of the aboriginal issues and aboriginal people are so obvious now. Because we are calling for an intergovernmental affairs forum, we are asking the aboriginal leaders to help us. Not to just consult, not just give us advice, but we are talking about them taking a direct role in controlling where we are going to go as a Territory, and how we are going to make decisions on a number of issues that we have to deal with, namely the devolution, fiscal situations, social problems, and everything else that the Premier mentioned in the statement.

I would like to highlight three things from the statement. I think I have already stated that I agree with most of the statements that were made.

Under human perspective, the Premier stated that he would like to see a society where children and youth can and are prepared to take advantage of education and training opportunities to grow and prosper.

I would just like to say two things under this heading. One is that I think that the recent settlement of the teacher's strike is one way to advance this. I think the settlement package addresses the high pupil-to-teacher ratio which has been caused partially by an increase in special needs students. This is an issue that was addressed to me time and time again when I was on my campaign trail, going door to door. There are many teachers in my riding and parents with young children. The number one issue they talked to me about is the crowded school situation resulting from the inclusion policy of special need students in their school system.

This is a priority to me Mr. Chairman, I think that this is one area that we have to address if we are going to create a society where the youth and children are going to be able to take advantage of all that is available.

I could also add a personal note to this. I think that when we are being very grim and negative about our social situation, I can say for the record that I think the system we have in the Northwest Territories is something that we have to be very proud of. I came here 22 years ago, when I was 14 years old. I spoke no English. I am a child of a single mother. I came here and I received every kind of help I needed. I had a tutor with me who taught me how to read the cereal box to everything else I needed to eventually do.

I was able to finish my junior high, then senior high. I wanted to be a lawyer and somebody mentioned that I should go and study political science. I was able to do that. Then I wanted to be a lawyer and I was funded to go to law school.

I realize that I had to work hard for that. I always had jobs from the government so that I could pay my way, because my mom was not able to pay a cent of my education or any

of my living expenses. I think that when we are looking at what is wrong, it is very important to look at what is right. I understand also, Mr. Chairman, that not everyone in this society can take advantage of what is out there. I understand that not everybody can get everything that I have been able to get. I do not know why that is so, but I know that some people need more help than others.

I think we have to remember that we cannot do everything for everyone. We have to make choices so we help those who need it the most. That is all I am going to say on the human perspective.

The next item I want to mention is the economic perspective, where it was talking about infrastructure. There are two things I would like to say on this. I want to note for the record that over the last ten or 12 years we have had virtually no capital spending in this Territory. We are so burdened with paying for our social spending that we have not been able to spend any money at all on other things. I noticed no money at all on building roads, buildings, or anything that the government has to do to maintain its infrastructure.

I made a statement and I asked questions about the condition of Highway No. 3. I plan on doing that continually, along with other Yellowknife Members, until this matter is resolved.

I was a little alarmed that Highway No. 3 was not mentioned under economic perspective, infrastructure. The road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk was mentioned, and the Mackenzie Valley, but not Highway No. 3. I am going to read that as saying that it is money for new road projects and that is why it was mentioned there. I appreciate that Highway No. 3 is an existing road and we are talking about reconstruction and not new construction.

Another item I want to mention is division and the cuts in public spending. In this statement when the Premier mentioned the things that we could leave behind. One of the things that was said was that division and cuts in public spending are behind us. I will just wrap it up by saying that I hope there will be no serious job cuts without a rational plan at least.

I want to conclude by saying that I appreciated the Sessional Statement, and I believe that it gave a vision of the Premier and of what he wants to do for the next four years. It was well received by my constituents and I think that it is important that everyone in this House work hard to make this a reality. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Just for information of the Members, when your time is up, if you use your first ten minutes, you do have a chance to come back and speak again. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just a point of order. The process we used yesterday...I wonder if we are going to use the same process. When a Member makes a statement that we get a reply from the Premier, since it is his statement. I would like to get a feel for exactly where we would be with the possibility of privatizing liquor stores and what not.

Would he consider it with the amount of money that we would get back in revenues? I would like to know if the Premier is going to respond, or are we going to do everybody at one time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I did not read in your address that there was a question in there. I will seek direction from the House on how we want to proceed. Do we want to proceed with the Premier responding to each Member, or do we

want to wait and give the Premier the chance to respond at the end? To each Member? For the record, Mr. Krutko, I do not think that there was a point of order there. However, we will give the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi, a chance to respond.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments and suggestions the Members are making. We know there are some real major issues looming on the horizon.

One that is mentioned a number of times is the increasing difficulty in coping with the social issues at the community level. We also know that looming on the horizon is the very strong reality that aboriginal people will be establishing aboriginal governments, or public governments, aboriginal-public government models, and that these will need to be set up and given some prospect for governing a relatively healthy population. A strong, well-educated mobile population with a good economic base. We need to prepare to meet those things the best we can.

Generally, we are talking about preparing for self-government or items like the pipeline, highway and for ensuring that we do everything we can now so that northern and aboriginal peoples will have a strong economic future and will be well positioned to take charge of governments, of economic development opportunities, to initiate economic development wherever we can. Also, to have governments they can feel a part of, manage and govern themselves with.

Specific suggestions as to what we can do with the sale of alcohol and the government's involvement in those areas...we have already privatized to a certain extent. If there are more suggestions to be made, we would welcome them. They need to be considered in the context of government making itself more efficient and accountable, but also providing opportunities for communities to have some say in the way government carries out functions.

I cannot respond more specifically to the Member on his suggestions about liquor outlets and revenue raised through the sale of alcohol at this time, but it will be brought to the attention of the Finance Minister. We will discuss this in due course.

I think I have to remind Members, particularly during question period, we have been here about a month. It would hardly be respectful for us to suggest, even for a moment, that we have a whole new plan and initiative clearly and well thought out, that we can start suggesting that we are in charge and have a very clear vision and direction at this time.

Many of the responses that will be given to Members during this Session will be the responses that perhaps previous Ministers and governments have been giving, simply because we are reorganizing, or as the Minister responsible for Education said yesterday, we have given Ministers virtually no time to pay attention to their individual portfolios and to be briefed on the many issues and responsibilities, legislation, policies and programs they are responsible for.

We have made it a point to work with the Ministers in looking at the general picture. We made it almost impossible for them to take time, except for the evenings and weekends, to look at the briefing books, to read what specific responsibilities they have. I felt comfortable in that as a

Premier because the departments were run according to the policies and directions set by the previous government, until new direction and policies are developed. We have focused primarily on trying to develop a team, a collective approach to understanding what our job is, what our responsibilities are, trying to reach out and develop with the MLAs, and now with the aboriginal and community leaders.

What is our vision, goals and objectives? What are some of the specific things we can do to move towards that together? I appreciate the comments the Members are making. That was the intent of the statement I made, to get as much feedback and input as possible so we can continue to refine our work. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Lee, did you want a further response to your comments? General comments. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was also appreciative of the statement by Mr. Kakfwi as the Premier. I think we all agree these are the golden objectives we would all like to achieve. I would say there is a lot of work that needs to be done towards that end. I think some of the questions and statements made in the last couple of days are reflective of some of the problems that we see in the communities and regional centres.

I was speaking on the language issue yesterday. The aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories, like every part of North and South America, have gone through a tremendous change in the last 100 years. For a lot of people, the last 50 years. We went through an industrial age, a communication age, and now we are hitting a digital age.

They have cut government programs, trying to cut our languages, our cultures, our way of life. They have even tried to take the lands away, and why not? Those kinds of strains have had a negative impact on the communities. We are learning and working through this. As my colleague, Ms. Lee indicated, not all news is bad. Not all of the issues are bad. There is a lot of good news out there and I will be glad to recognize a lot of them. I recognize quite a bit in our discussions, our plan workshops... I have mentioned a few.

Looking at the future, I think it looks good. I think this government has to start seriously looking at devolving some of the responsibilities, especially in the social envelope, towards the regional and community governments.

The statistics we have clearly indicate we are not doing the job we could be doing. We could do a better job. We have been saying that for 20 years or so. I think we can start transferring some programs in the areas of education, health and social programs to regional governments.

If you look in the North Slave, the Dogrib region, they have responsibilities for those envelopes and they are producing better results. I think there are people in my area, Akaitcho Treaty 8, who want to look at something like that. But there are roadblocks up there. As Mr. Krutko said, we have to start dropping those roadblocks and move forward.

I think they have a better idea of how they want to do it and we have to give them that responsibility with the necessary resources. I think they will do a better job, which will leave more time for capital expenditures. Right now, we are in a catch-22 situation. We spent all of our time and energies on social programs when history and other indicators have proven that if

you have a strong, economic community, you have better, healthier people. If we cannot create that because we are so busy with the social programs, then maybe we should give the social programs to those that are directly affected.

I would like to pick up on a question my honourable colleague had asked. I think the Minister for Youth...that is a great idea. Healthy communities start with the youth. Right now, the youth are in great trouble. In my communities, there are no facilities or resources available for youth. They have no place to go. The peak hours for crime are between 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., and there is nowhere for youth in our communities to do anything in that time.

Mind you, there are many communities in the North that have the same problem. There is no money available for them. I just received a call from one of my constituents wanting money for a group of youths who are travelling to Hay River during carnival to perform a Metis dance, but will not have any money to get to Hay River. That is a two-hour drive.

I will gladly work with the Minister responsible for Youth in developing some policies to see where we could help the youth. I think we have to have strong education. Right now, our graduation rate in the small communities is less than 20 percent. That is unacceptable. Everything we have looked at in the last few days says the social envelope takes up most of our budget, yet I do not see too much being done at the community level to fix those problems.

I think there has to be more money put into programs for youth. Sports and recreation is another area. Communities may have a \$3 million arena, but no money to run it. People in the communities do not have money to pay for their children's hockey equipment, or even to use the facilities. There has to be more money invested in youth, sports and recreation, cultural development, language development, and learning to use modern day equipment and tools, like the Internet.

I was just reading a speech given by a CBC executive. In less than ten years, people will be able to directly communicate with their television, asking the television to see what kind of program they want to watch. If you are doing research on a particular topic, you shut off your television and go to work. Twelve hours later, you come back, turn on the television, and it will tell you how many programs relate to your research. You have to be able to educate the people in the communities and make them comfortable using technology. Right now, people are not comfortable using technology because they are scared of it.

Kids leave Lutsel K'e with a grade 10 education. When they arrive in a place like Fort Smith, Hay River, or Yellowknife, their grade 10 education is equivalent to a grade 8 education. Even then, they are graduated for statistical reasons.

Right off the bat, they are behind the eight ball. You have to be able to improve that. There is a lack of control in hiring and retaining professionals in the communities. Local boards are spending an obscene amount of money in marketing and advertising, where those dollars could be going to programs and services where it is badly needed.

I will give you an example. One teacher in Lutsel K'e, I will not mention names, but apparently he wrote a nasty letter to the paper, putting everyone in the community down. Kids were crying when they arrived home. When they had a parent-teacher interview, somehow somebody got into his desk. He was drawing very pornographic material of kids. This guy had a history of mental problems. He was hired out of Toronto while he was unemployed. There were no checks and balances. He fell through the cracks and was somehow put in charge of young, vulnerable kids.

In our recent history, we can look at some of the stories from the High Arctic, the Western and Eastern Arctic, dealing with child sexual abuse and the sexual abuse of women. We have to be very cognizant of who we hire from the outside. We cannot do that unless we have control of the hiring process.

We could look to the future and say that land claims are going to be settled and what not, so we will wait. Currently, I believe we are getting monies on behalf of all people of the Northwest Territories. We have to start applying those monies where they are needed, which is at the community level. I have always said that government has to not only work harder, but it has to work smarter.

The process of dividing funds by population is not the best solution. If there is a strong problem in one area, you should deal with that problem before it gets any bigger. You do not just say here is \$3,000 based on the population of your community. \$3,000 does not even buy a laptop computer.

I will restate my commitment to work with the Minister responsible for Youth because that is the future, and it is a problem area in my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The Chair recognizes the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like the message from the Member for Tu Nedhe. We all acknowledge the history of aboriginal people has been very negative, and has had a negative impact on aboriginal people across this country for the last few hundred years.

Despite everything, aboriginal people have survived. I believe aboriginal people will not only survive, but have tremendous potential to recover, to grow and prosper and be a strong people again. I believe we can be stronger than we are today. We have to have a plan and a commitment to work together to improve our lives.

While Mr. Nitah was talking, I remembered one of the first times I made print in the national paper. It was in 1975, when Commissioner Hawson was still a one-man government in the Northwest Territories. I was working with George Erasmus in the Dene Nation office. Mr. Erasmus was not available when a reporter from the Financial Post came to interview someone. I was the only one around that day. I posed for a picture, standing as tall, straight and arrogant as I could.

There was a picture of me and a quote that said "what we want is to have a lot of political control". I remember people saying it was incredible audacity for somebody that nobody knew, I was just a field worker at the time, to say something like that...but that was the kind of thing we were talking about in 1975. It was two years later the chiefs decided to put candidates forward to be elected to

this Legislature. That motion is still a standing motion of the Dene chiefs, to put people in here to be Members of the Legislature.

What we have never finished is articulating the strategy of how our MLAs, chiefs and Ministers are supposed to work together once we were all in place. There is a lot of political control in place. We just have not yet decided how it should be used.

One of the biggest difficulties we have is staying positive. We know the problems. For years, people kept saying it was the federal government's fault, or it is the government's fault.

We need to get beyond that and talk about what we can do about it. What can we do? We have a Member of Parliament in Ottawa. We have a Cabinet and a Legislature that is prepared to work closely and strongly with the chiefs, Metis leaders, Inuvialuit leaders and northern peoples. It takes more than just us to do that. We are waiting, and asking the aboriginal leaders to come forward and talk with us about the things we can do together, both the immediate things as well as the long-term things. I think together we will accomplish many things.

Ms. Lee spoke of the tremendous changes she has seen in the last decade or so. There has been a lot of change since 1975. There still is so much more to be done.

Mr. Nitah talked about youth. I think the Member for Tu Nedhe articulated rather well the importance of youth. Many Members will know, especially the ones from smaller communities, about 50 percent of the voting public is under 25. A substantial portion of the people who elect us are considered youth.

We are compelled, if not by a sincere desire to do something about the youth, but to politically ascertain what it is that this part of our constituency wants us to do. What can we do to acknowledge and support them? Even more importantly, what can we do to utilize them, to use them to help us build a stronger, better future for everybody?

This ties into the elders. How the government treats the elders is related to how the youth see and relate to the elders. There is a direct relationship between the responsibility we have to the youth and the elders.

The Minister for Seniors and the Minister for Youth have been designated lead Ministers, so when the youth wish to address a question to this government, their Minister is Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen will take the issue to the appropriate Minister. It may be the Minister responsible for Justice or the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Allen will work in partnership with those Ministers that have responsibility for youth and elders. Mr. Steen will also work in the same way. We will designate an official in the social envelope that will be their principal official to work with these two respective Ministers. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. General comments. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing the value and positive tone the Premier set in making his statement. I too have gathered a response that is favourable and supportive. I would like to

reflect on something I think really stood out in the message, more than many of the other messages that have been delivered in this young Assembly and in previous Assemblies; the emphasis the Premier placed on Northerners' responsibility as individuals and families to make lifestyle choices that will make a difference in the quality of our society.

I have heard Mr. Kakfwi tell a story three times now, and I hope he tells it many more times. It is the story of the young lady in Tulita who had the courage to stand up in a public meeting and say that if all the well intentioned motives of politicians for self-government and constitutional development cannot help her people reduce the incidents of gambling, smoking, drinking or abuse, then it was not really doing much good.

I take that as a signal, Mr. Chairman, that really brings home what we do as leaders, and what our colleagues at other levels of government do as leaders to make a difference for someone in their community and the Northwest Territories. As small as it might be, that is something I try to ask myself everyday; what can I do or what have I done today that has made a difference to somebody?

Gaining better control of lifestyles and the things that hurt us are indeed things we should all be striving to deliver a stronger message to our people. We need to have them realize there is a responsibility there, and that there can and will be rewards for that. One of the most daunting things for me, coming in as a new Member, is to help turn the tide on the harmful things that are going on and are so well entrenched in our society.

My colleague for the Mackenzie Delta talked about the impact of the Klondike Gold Rush a hundred years ago, and that this is something that his people are feeling the effects of. We are dealing with things that are generational and go back centuries. Tobacco and alcohol have been around for a long time and we are not going to turn that tide instantly. It is frustrating for me, Mr. Chairman, that we hear requests from every community for more treatment centres and more funding to address these problems. We are treating the symptoms, not peeling off the layers and really addressing the foundations, which are choices individuals, communities and families make.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kakfwi addressed a number of things in his Sessional Statement. One area that was not fully touched on was the area of justice. I think one of the things that has continued to be destructive in our society is a clash of values between the European justice system. When an offence is committed, there must be a penalty. There has been some very interesting, encouraging work in aboriginal communities that demonstrates this is not a value the aboriginal culture share. There can be other ways of addressing this. One term is restorative justice. One aspect is when an offence is committed, the guilty person does not make restitution to the Crown in a courtroom, but rather addresses directly the victim, and tries to come to some terms where they can understand and continue to live with each other and for the criminal to turn their life around.

Mr. Chairman, the address made reference to an aspect to division and downsizing and I believe it said that it was behind us. I think one chapter is behind us, a very big one, the creation of Nunavut. But as we continue to evolve our systems of self-government, there will be other kinds of division and downsizing that this government will be dealing with. This will be to negotiate those areas the various regions of the Northwest Territories want to assume on their own.

Our workforce has been hurt by the process of division. A lot of that hurt could not be avoided. This was a very large, and in some areas a very clumsy, way of creating a new part of the country. I do not know if it has ever been done all that nicely or cleanly before. So we are going through that now ourselves.

I believe we have a continuing challenge to streamline our resources, to carefully look at where we have strengths and where we have some positions that have been vacated and need to be bolstered. I think we can do better with the cooperation of our workforce to fill in the gaps and have a streamlined, smaller government.

My constituents tell me we have a lot of boards, a lot of process, a lot of duplication in our government and in our companion governments as authority has been delegated. It has also been said that of the 42,000 people in the Northwest Territories, 42,000 of them have a veto. It is a wonderful thing for the individual to have so much influence in what goes on in the Territory. But I believe there is a fine line where leadership takes a second shift to the ability of people to make an individual difference.

They are looking for leadership and decision now. We talked about this as a result of some of the work we were able to do in Fort Providence. We have created an expectation that we have more work to do. Caucus has yet to come together to refine that job and give the government more specific direction. We will be doing that soon.

Ours is a unique government in Canada because we are still dealing with concepts on how we are going to evolve our democracy to share power and influence.

One of the most important things that this Assembly will deal with are aspects of the sunset clause, areas of sharing governance, of constitutional development and of laying the ground work for the future and continuing evolution of this government.

Caucus has more to do and we will continue that work over the course of the next few weeks and months. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Just a note to the Assembly, there is a presentation in the Great Hall on diamonds. This is not to slow down the process, but just a reminder. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is not much more for me to add. I think I have just about said everything that needs to be said on this. The Member's comment about division is correct. The previous Legislatures have found that, in spite of our own separate agendas for east and west, for Nunavut and this part of the Territory, the issue of division consumed us for many years.

In the previous Legislature, it was a constant item on the agenda that took up a lot of our time. Now that it is behind us, it is a huge issue that is no longer on our agenda. That was simply the intent of the remark. Now we can focus on governing ourselves here in the Western Territory and making plans amongst ourselves. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. General comments. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a motion to report progress. The motion is in order and is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. We will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 1-14(2), and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. We have a motion on the floor. We need a seconder. The Chair recognizes Mr. Steen as seconder. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

Good report. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. Orders of the day for Friday, February 25th, 2000:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Return to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

- Motion 8-14(2): Date for Tabling of Public Accounts

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1999-2000
- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

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

- Minister's Statement 1-14(2): Sessional Statement

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we rise, I want to remind the Members there is a reception taking place in the Great Hall at five o'clock. All Members are invited to this presentation. This House stands adjourned until February 25, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

