



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

**Day 14**

**14<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

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## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, October 31, 2000**

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**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**



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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, October 31, 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):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Good afternoon, everyone. Before we begin today, I would like to welcome back Members from their summer vacation. I hope you have all had a good rest and that you are now prepared for a full three weeks of co-operative work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome to this Legislative Assembly our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Ms. Nicole Latour-Theede, and to extend to her best wishes as she begins this new role.

-- Applause

I would also like to welcome the pages from Sir John Franklin School. Some of them are familiar to us because they were with us during the June Session.

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of the Supplementary Appropriations Act No. 1, 2000-01 during the third Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Yours truly,

Glenna F. Hansen  
Commissioner

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 20-14(3): Collective Bargaining Update**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am pleased to announce that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers reached a tentative collective agreement early Friday morning after 15 days of negotiations. Although this tentative agreement has yet to be ratified by the members of the Union of Northern Workers, the president of the union has indicated she will be recommending its acceptance.

The agreement enhances current wages and benefits and emphasizes the value the government places on our employees. The new agreement will provide increases of 3.8

percent effective April 1, 2000, and 2.5 percent effective April 1, 2001, to both rates of pay and the northern allowance component.

Other changes include a new parental leave provision available to both mothers and fathers, an improved dental plan and enhanced salary protection for employees who were affected by the 1998 change in pay plans.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the collective agreement is a good one. It provides reasonable increases to employees' wages and addresses many issues raised by the union. I am told that ratification by the employees could take four to six weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Minister's Statement 21-14(3): Online Learning Successful and Popular**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and welcome back. Mr. Speaker, high school students across the Northwest Territories had an opportunity this fall to access what is rapidly becoming one of the most popular methods of learning available. It is online learning. I am happy to report that high school students here have greeted the opportunity to learn on the Internet with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, the online method of delivering high school courses was made possible last spring, when the Department of Education, Culture and Employment signed a memorandum of understanding with the Calgary Board of Education for the delivery of courses developed in accordance with the Alberta curriculum.

Students use a web-based computer program called WebCT, which stands for Web Curriculum Tools, to access courses through the Digital Communications Network. WebCT is the most popular method for delivering online courses in North America. Students who wish to enrol in the credit classes available through WebCT must first complete an introductory course entitled Information Highway 1090.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that more than 100 students from all across the Territory took the first step toward online learning for credit by completing the introduction to online learning course beginning in September.

The completion rate for Northwest Territories students was well above historical averages for traditional print-based distance education courses. Thirty-four of the students who completed the preparatory course are now enrolled in courses for credit.

Students can choose to take one of five credit classes, or two three-credit classes from the 30 courses available online through WebCT. An additional 53 students are currently enrolled in the Information Highway 1090 class.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that WebCT technology has huge potential to increase the success rate of Northwest Territories students, because it allows them to learn online at their own pace and provides a greater number of courses of study from which to choose.

WebCT has also created a professional development opportunity for Northwest Territories teachers, because each school must have trained teacher facilitators in place to support students who are enrolled in credit courses.

Last summer, 15 Northwest Territories teachers took the facilitator training. Later this month, another 25 teachers will take the course as well. In addition to the successful delivery of curriculum courses developed in Alberta, I am pleased to report that Northern Studies 10, a curriculum developed in the Northwest Territories, will be available online in Northwest Territories schools in the WebCT format beginning next semester. This is the first of many courses we expect to have designed for online learning by Northwest Territories teachers.

Mr. Speaker, technology is changing the way we communicate. The delivery of a wide range of seniors' secondary courses to even the smallest schools through the Digital Communications Network means that students, regardless of where they go to school, will be ready to use new and changing technologies to their advantage once they graduate.

This, Mr. Speaker, puts us one step closer to our goal of healthy, educated, self-reliant Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement on Family Violence Awareness Week

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today concerns Family Violence Awareness Week. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 1994, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion which stated that this Legislature has adopted the principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people, and endorsed the goal of eliminating family violence by the year 2000. It is now the year 2000, and October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup> has been declared Family Violence Awareness Week.

Mr. Speaker, have we achieved the goals set out in the declaration of family violence over six years ago? Unfortunately, the answer is no. In fact, Mr. Speaker, statistics from 1999 in the Northwest Territories paint a disturbing picture.

Four hundred and thirty six spousal assaults by a male spouse were reported to the RCMP. Two hundred and twenty one sexual assaults were reported to the police, and statistics show that generally only ten percent of sexual assault crimes are

reported. There were 95 reported cases of sexual abuse of children and youth under the age of 18.

Mr. Speaker, although some progress has been made, we obviously have a long way to go. The question is, what can we do?

This Legislative Assembly must renew its commitment towards the elimination of family violence. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Premier's move yesterday to reinforce that Minister Groenewegen has the mandate to lead this government in action. I believe our government must develop a concrete strategy for dealing with this problem.

We must find a way to increase funding, because that is necessary to help train counsellors, improve rehabilitation programs and to add to the amount of shelter space that is available. In fact, during one month alone last year, Mr. Speaker, 46 women and their children were turned away from Alison McAteer House in Yellowknife because the shelter was full.

This is not acceptable. Women and children in crisis need to know that a safe place will be available. Family violence is unacceptable and we must work hard to break the silence and never let it remain hidden. As a society we pay a huge price for family violence. We must break the tragic cycle so that our children will grow up in a peaceful society that allows them to reach their full potential.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we must all speak out and be dedicated in our efforts to raise awareness across the North of this terrible problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### Member's Statement on Events and Achievements in Hay River

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost four months since our last Session, although it does not seem like that long. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that it has been a very busy time for every one of you as it has been for me. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that it feels good to be back with you and all the Members on both sides of the House in this wonderful Chamber. Mr. Speaker, I thought that today I would use this opportunity to acknowledge a few events that have taken place in Hay River over the summer.

The Hay River Fire Department celebrated 50 years of service to the community and, Mr. Speaker, the residents, business people and administrators of our town are very proud of this group of volunteers. The Pentecostal Assembly celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to Hay River. Mr. Speaker, not only did they look after the spiritual needs of the residents, they were also very instrumental in providing the infrastructure and professionals to administer health and social needs of the community. Special recognition was given to Reverend Ken Gates as the man who made this all happen. Reverend Glen Wallington was named citizen of the year. Mr. Speaker, this man has been a tireless worker and fund-raiser for our youth

and is primarily responsible for the establishment of the youth centre in Hay River.

I would like to acknowledge the opening of the West Channel Bridge. Mr. Speaker, I will speak in more detail on this very important piece of infrastructure later in this Session.

I would like to congratulate our newly elected town council: Mayor Duncan McNeil; re-elected councillors Vern Tordoff, Robert Bouchard and Dean McMeekin; and new councillors Diane Ehman, Glen Smart, Tom Hamilton, Peter and Mike Mahar. I look forward to working with all of them.

Mr. Speaker, last night I attended a very special ceremony in the council chamber in Hay River to mark the retirement of W. R. Red McBryan after 47 years of service to Hay River as a councillor, deputy mayor and mayor. I would like to thank the Honourable Roger Allen for coming to Hay River to acknowledge Red McBryan's accomplishments.

On a sadder note, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the passing of several individuals. Firstly, Mr. Dennis Soney, a well-known resident of Hay River and a very good friend of mine. We also lost Hazel Haight, who was very well known to anyone in politics as she served as our returning officer for 25 years. Also, Mr. Speaker, the victims of the terrible tragedy in Fort Good Hope. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the families.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and welcome Nicole Latour-Theede as the first female Sergeant-at-Arms for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

#### **Member's Statement on Tribute to the Late Pete Fraser**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the life and times of a former Member of this Legislature, Mr. Pete Fraser, who passed away just recently. Mr. Fraser was the honourable Member representing the constituency of Mackenzie Great Bear. To his family, Mr. Fraser was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather and even great-grandfather. To his friends, he was a man of great character, a mentor, a source of inspiration and a respected elder. To the North, he was a trapper, a riverboat pilot and a builder of each and every community that he was a part of. In his many professional roles, he was a reliable administrator, a wise negotiator and an effective conciliator. To many in this Legislature, he was a visionary, a leader, a respected adversary and a colleague. He was a jigger, bridge player, country and western singer and a square dance caller. With everything he did, he was a joker.

As the MLA for Mackenzie Great Bear, Mr. Fraser represented the Sahtu, the same riding that I represent here today. Mr. Fraser had one great love outside of his family; that is he loved the North and the people and he loved working for the betterment of both. He did so with a dedication and commitment equalled only by his wit and ready humour. When Pete Fraser passed away on October 16<sup>th</sup>, he left behind a North that was a better place because of his life. We shall all hope to leave behind such a legacy. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. On behalf of the House, I would like to extend our condolences to the family of Mr. Fraser, a former Member and former Deputy Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement on 2000 Deh Cho Assembly**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the Legislative Assembly of the incredible success of the 2000 Deh Cho Assembly. The Deh Cho Assembly this past year was designated as a tribute to elder and Chief Paul Wright. In the spirit of Chief Wright and on the recommendation of the elders, the Deh Cho Assembly appointed Grand Chief Michael Nadli to a second three-year term, an incredible expression of the confidence and respect that exists for both elders and Grand Chief Michael Nadli.

It was an honour and a privilege to the likes of the Honourable Nick Sibbeston, Senator, who participated in and in fact won the first annual talent show with the Dene language translation of a traditional country and western song; the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Member of Parliament; the Honourable Jim Antoine, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; the Honourable Joe Handley, Minister of Finance; Chief Bill Erasmus from the Dene Nation; and Bishop Croteau were all in attendance. I thank them for attending.

Mr. Speaker, the Assembly also approved in principle a framework agreement for the Deh Cho process. The Deh Cho process will result in an unprecedented self-government process for the region. The government structure will be a public government based on Dene values and principles. This is a process which should be promoted and encouraged by this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the Deh Cho Assembly also approved in principle interim protection measures to protect the lands and resources, which is something else we should be supporting. The Deh Cho region is one of a few where there is an aggressive and comprehensive approach to working together by all people. Deh Cho is led by the teachings of the elders and there is something there for all to learn about consensus making and grassroots government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on a New Tax Regime for the NWT**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to try to make the case for our competitive tax regime in the Northwest Territories and I hope the government is listening. I think if we look at the trend all around us, we see the feds reduced the amounts of capital gains tax eligible for personal tax. Alberta is reducing small business tax rates from six percent to three percent and another government committee in that province is looking at reducing large business rates from 15.5 percent to eight percent. Premier Klein, in talking about his plans for the province for the next five years, is talking

about wanting to eliminate personal income tax by 2005. What a competitive advantage, Mr. Speaker.

Our government insists it recognizes the need to stay competitive, but does it? Are we aware of the implications to the Northwest Territories as provinces lower their tax rates? We risk losing long-time northern companies to the south, Mr. Speaker. In addition, it will become even more difficult to try to attract southern businesses North.

Mr. Speaker, our Finance Minister thinks we have a problem now with fly-in-fly-out workers. Well, they are going to continue to take northern jobs regardless of our protectionist strategies unless we lower our tax rates.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the old adage, "the best defence is a good offence." I submit to you that this government must go on the offensive and aggressively reduce the cost of living and doing business in the North. Mr. Speaker, sadly a sales tax like the hotel tax is not a solution to our competitive disadvantage. Mr. Speaker, it is the third period, we are down four nothing, our Premier has given the nod to our resident enforcer, Mr. Handley, to go out over the boards and start a fight. Mr. Speaker, we have to score some goals and win this game. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on the Role and Activities of the Chief of Staff**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the issue of the most senior civil servant in the Northwest Territories government. At the same time as she is providing those services to the government, she is running the campaign, as campaign chair, for the Liberal Party. I have raised this issue as being inappropriate, as a conflict and a huge perception of conflict. It is an issue of serving two masters. Can it be done? It undermines the fundamental premise of a non-political civil service.

Mr. Speaker, on one hand the chief of staff says she is a deputy level appointment. On the other hand, the principal secretary says she is in effect the Premier's executive assistant.

There is confusion in terms of the definition. The categorizing of that position as being the same as an executive assistant is the same as saying a minnow and a great white shark are the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken the liberty of getting a legal opinion and that legal opinion says to me that the chief of staff's employment contract does not exempt her from the operation of section 34 of the Public Service Act, because section 49(l)(k) allows only the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Minister to deal with these matters. Section 34(2) of the Public Service Act applies to the chief of staff if she is hired under an employment contract, which we are told she is, because she is then an employee within the meaning of the Public Service Act.

Mr. Speaker, section 34(2) says the following:

"Subject to this section an employee may engage in political activity but shall not (b) during working hours engage in any political activity for and on behalf of a territorial, federal political party or candidate; (f) serve as an official agent for a candidate or as an executive officer of a territorial political party or a territorial riding association; or (g) potentially use, or attempt to use his or her position to effect the political activity of any other person."

So, Mr. Speaker. I think we have a problem here. The Cabinet has made a bad decision that, the way I read this, in effect contravenes its own legislation, either knowingly or unknowingly, because of poor advice. It is not a situation that can be ignored. It is not just a question of perception at this point.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a problem. I had heard that possibly the chief of staff is going to be taking a leave of absence which would be a way to possibly mitigate this. Given this legal opinion, where Cabinet has apparently contravened its own legislation, I think it is a situation that has far greater ramifications than that. I would hope that the government will look at this. I will be sharing this legal opinion with my colleagues. It is a problem, Mr. Speaker, an unacceptable problem. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Impacts of Climate Change in the Northwest Territories**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for some years now, we have heard about climate change. There are signs all around us that it is happening. My father and elders are telling me that the species of birds coming North are changing. There is a greater variety of birds and water fowl coming North because of the weather. That is how warm it is.

In the last three years, I have noticed a big change driving the road from Rae to Yellowknife. One of the changes is the melting of the permafrost. This is causing the road to heave, which creates problems for motorists. As you know, the spring melt is now happening two weeks earlier and the waterways are two weeks later in freezing.

Scientists state that the weather has never changed this fast in human history and they, like us, do not know what the outcome will be. In May, the Government of the Northwest Territories released a greenhouse gas strategy newsletter. It was designed to provide information on climate change and its potential impacts. The newsletter also outlines work that is being done in the Northwest Territories to begin controlling the emission of greenhouse gases. These gases are one of the

leading causes of climate change. The increase of greenhouse gases with the development of mining and oil and gas in the Territories needs to be addressed.

I think we as a government need to do all we can to address this issue as we prepare for development. At the appropriate time, I will have questions relating to this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Stanton Amalgamation Proposal**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to speak about a matter that has received a great deal of attention of late in the media and at the Yellowknife constituency meeting held last Tuesday. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is now public knowledge that the decision has been made by the Stanton Board to scrap altogether the proposal to amalgamate the surgical and paediatric wards into one.

Based on the number of phone calls I have received on this issue from my constituents, which included patients, doctors and nurses, I must say, Mr. Speaker, I am relieved by this decision. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we are all acutely aware that this does not solve the crisis caused by the lack of funding in our health care system in the long run. If anything, the latest controversy should ring a very loud bell for all of us that some decisive actions are required.

The situation at Stanton is not an isolated matter, Mr. Speaker. It is a matter that calls on us to examine our priorities for health care in our new Territory and how we are going to focus our resources and energies in the days and years to come.

I am particularly alarmed by the fact that, based on what I know, the Stanton Board may not be able to deal with the deficit situation without cutting staff or services available at the hospital, and the resources available now are already stretched to their limit. This will affect everyone in the North, Mr. Speaker, not just Yellowknifers. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, our population of 40,000 is only second to Nunavut in growth rate and the fastest growing segment of the population is our seniors, who will presumably require more services in health care.

In the broader sense of our wellness needs, Mr. Speaker, we also have a growing number of FAS/FAE children, one of the highest suicide rates in Canada and the highest drunk driving rates as well. The growth in the number of people being diagnosed with diabetes in the Northwest Territories is alarming, just to provide a few examples.

At the same time, we are experiencing extreme shortages in nurses and doctors and a great deal of medevacs to the south and within the Territories. We are having to rely on expensive services from locum doctors and other traveling health care professionals. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we have nine health boards making decisions about how to provide care to 40,000 people. All of these thrown together, it becomes clear that at some point we have to take steps to rationalize the health care resources we have.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I seem to have forgotten the rules in my little recess we had during the summer. May I have unanimous consent to finish my statement, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. I just want to finish my statement by saying that, Mr. Speaker, I believe the time is now to act on this very important issue. I call on the Minister of Health and the government to come up with a plan to deal with the deficit problem of the Stanton Board that does not penalize the Stanton Regional Hospital from functioning as a territorial hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Member's Statement on Thanks to Participants and Organizers of Centenary Celebrations**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to begin the Session by addressing an issue I ended the last Session with. That is acknowledging the 100 year centenary in Fort Resolution by the Akaitcho Treaty 8 communities of Yellowknife, Lutsel'ê and Tu Nedhe. I would like to congratulate the organizing committee and the community for doing such a great job with organizing this event.

Like you, Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in this House attended this ceremony. I would like to thank you and all my colleagues, along with other dignitaries such as Mr. Robert Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs; our representative in Ottawa, Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, and all the other dignitaries - I do not have time to mention their names.

The significant thing that happened during that time was the signing of the Framework Agreement between the federal, territorial and Akaitcho governments on how to proceed in the negotiation process for the Akaitcho Territory.

I wish them all luck in concluding that very important work that they are doing and congratulate them on work they have done to date. I would also like to congratulate and thank the individuals in the community of Lutsel'ê and Yellowknife for paddling the traditional route from their respective communities to Deninu Ku, as they did 100 years ago. It was a safe and exciting trip for all, and I would like to congratulate and thank them as well.

In Lutsel'ê, they had another successful year in their spiritual gathering in Fort Reliance. I would like to congratulate them as well. I would also like to acknowledge all the young kids out there today. Have a great and a safe Halloween. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear hear!

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Member's Statement on Condolences to Community of Fort Good Hope

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to send my condolences out to the communities that have lost loved ones, especially, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to send my condolences out to the community of Fort Good Hope, to the families and community members for their loss with the incident that happened in Fort Good Hope. With that, my thoughts and prayers are with you. God be with you. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The sympathies of the House are extended to the families who lost their loved ones at Fort Good Hope. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

### Member's Statement on First Family Violence Awareness Week

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise on this first day of our Session to acknowledge the first Family Violence Awareness Week, October 30 to November 5, 2000, and speak in support of the activities and efforts of a number of organizations, including the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories, the Status of Women Council, family support centre Safe Home Network, the YWCA, the Alison McAteer House, and various government departments in raising awareness in dealing with this very significant issue in our society.

I compliment the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services for the resource package that she provided to communities in support of Family Violence Awareness Week.

The Assembly's vision document, Mr. Speaker, Towards a Better Tomorrow, states as one of our priorities safety, security and respect for all citizens with a focus on women, children, elders and persons with disabilities. In 1994, this Assembly passed a declaration on family violence which made a commitment to zero tolerance and violence against women and children, and elimination of family violence by the year 2000. Mr. Speaker, clearly, we are failing.

Among some of the statistics that have been presented, I would add that in the years April of 1999 through March of 2000, some 296 women and 334 children used family violence shelters in the Northwest Territories. We need more positive results, Mr. Speaker.

Last month, the Caucus of this Assembly received presentations from Ms. Vi Beck, the president of the Status of Women Council, and Suzette Montreuil of Alternatives North, which focused on poverty, violence against women, and human rights. Ms. Beck noted that the Northwest Territories Family Violence Program, which funds five shelters and violence programs, is extremely important but also extremely under-resourced.

The government must make a commitment, Mr. Speaker, to eliminate family violence and undertake to develop the strategies and provide resources for this. This government and we as MLAs need to demonstrate our leadership and commit to leadership in action, so the public will know that there are those

who support victims of violence and that there is help available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

### Member's Statement on Improved Outlook for Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night in the town of Inuvik, a swearing-in ceremony was held for the new mayor and council, as well as for the new district education authority board members.

Mr. Speaker, these are changing times in the community of Inuvik and the region. After years of economic decline in our communities in the region, we are starting to see a turn-around with all of the interest in natural gas. At this time, I look forward to working with the new mayor and council in trying to make sure Inuvik and the region benefit from this work that is ongoing, and to try to make our community a better place to live for all families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Return to Question 93-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Bell on June 29, 2000, regarding the success rates of mature students who return to the traditional school system to upgrade their education.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment currently does not specifically track the progress of adult students in the regular school system. Adults enrolled in territorial high schools are included in the overall high school student population numbers.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment continues to develop assessment and tracking tools that will allow the collection of this type of information in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

### ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Sam Gargan, former MLA for Deh Cho for many years and the former Speaker of this House. Also, his sister Sarah, who is now a resident of Yellowknife and works for CBC.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Welcome home, Mr. Gargan. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the new president of the NWTTA, the Northwest Territories Teachers Association, Mr. David Murphy. Welcome to the Assembly.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am at a bit of a disadvantage. I cannot see everyone, but I do know that two very highly regarded senior citizens of Yellowknife are with us today, Mr. Ed Jeske and my mother, Mrs. Esther Braden.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Welcome. It is good to see you back. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the president of the Union of Northern Workers, Ms. Georgina Rolt-Kaiser. I must say, she looks pretty good after 15 hard days of negotiations.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mr. Stuart Hogg, a constituent from Weledeh and a good friend. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Speaker, my wife, Elaine. Also, I would like to recognize the family of the new Sergeant-at-Arms, Derek, Wyatt, and Brin Theede, to my left.

-- Applause

Probably not the proper pronunciation of the names, but the recognition is there. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

I would like to welcome everyone who is here today, and thank you for taking the time to come and see the Legislative Assembly in action. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are addressed to the Premier and are in relation to my Member's statement and the role the chief of staff is currently playing, apparently filling two functions. I would like

the Premier to speak to that issue and clarify it for this House and the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

##### Return to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you. I did not get a specific question but I am prepared to speak to the issue. Mr. Speaker, first of all, the Member for Thebacha has indicated he has based his concerns on a legal opinion that he has in his possession. I would like to ask the Member if he would be kind enough to share that with us since he is making some references to it.

Secondly, there was a report in the media based on an interview he did last week that he is a voting Liberal. So whatever may fall out of this, perhaps the federal candidate will take some solace in knowing he will be supporting her in the federal campaign.

Now to the issue that the Member raised, when we were elected as Cabinet, there were some positions that needed to be filled and an organizing of the Cabinet and the staff of both the Premier's office and the Ministers' offices. There was an agreement amongst all the Ministers that we should share in the appointments of our staff, senior management, as well as personal executive assistants, right down to our secretaries. All the appointments were made with the support and approval of Cabinet, which includes the secretary to Cabinet, Liz Snider, the principal secretary who was Rick Bargery for a few months and is now Mr. John Bayly.

We also created a chief of staff position. The chief of staff position is in fact an executive assistant position that has additional responsibilities. By a political agreement amongst the Ministers, the chief of staff would be allowed to call meetings of all executive assistants, including secretaries, and to ensure that there is overall coordination of the Cabinet. As Members know, no other previous Cabinet has conducted business in this way. So for the chief of staff position, it is considered an executive assistant to the Premier. It is up to the chief of staff to indicate that there are enhanced responsibilities and, like I said, by political agreement, Ministers have agreed that their executive assistants will attend meetings called by the chief of staff. This definition was carried into I believe this House, as well as to the standing committee. So as such, she has a contract that allows her to carry on with political activities and there is no conflict. Cabinet has been advised of that. However, as of last week, last Wednesday I believe, she has been on leave, unpaid leave, until I believe the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

##### Supplementary to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize as well that he purports to be a Liberal and is going to speak on November 4<sup>th</sup> at a fundraiser down in a southern jurisdiction. I am sure our MP will be gratified by that as well.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister. I am prepared to share my legal opinion if the Cabinet is prepared to share a list of the duties of the chief of staff, which to date they have refused to provide us, saying that it is confidential. It is very difficult to assess these duties on that basis. So I am prepared, if the Premier will give us a list of the duties, I will be happy to give him a copy of this legal opinion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He can share whatever he would like with us. We would appreciate it. We are not going to be trading information back and forth.

I could tell you that in March, the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development asked for further information on the new and redesigned positions in the Ministers' offices. I had indicated to them at the time, under a letter dated March 27<sup>th</sup>, that the former position of the Premier's executive assistant had been revised and assigned additional duties. The revised position is titled "Chief of Staff" and is responsible for:

1. Providing overall operational and administrative services to Members of the Executive Council and their staff;
2. To provide executive assistance services to the Premier in his daily tasks and for his Intergovernmental Affairs portfolio; and
3. For managing and overseeing the operations of the Premier's office.

There is no job description for executive assistants. There never has been. So this is in addition to her job of providing support to me as an executive assistant.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue is going to come down to what constitutes an executive assistant. Executive assistants, for example, make in the pay range of up to \$50,000 to \$70,000, maybe \$80,000. The chief of staff, I would venture to say probably makes well over \$100,000 plus.

My question to the Premier is the chief of staff herself said she has been given...her contract provides her with exemption from the political restrictions that apply to deputy ministers. That does not say executive assistants. It says very clearly deputy ministers. Could the Premier explain that issue, please?

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

**Further Return to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Deputy ministers and senior civil servants of this government are restricted in the type of activity they may engage in that is of a political nature. Executive assistants are exempt from those restrictions and the chief of staff position is considered an executive assistant position with some additional duties assigned to her and therefore is exempt from those restrictions that are applied to deputy ministers and other civil servants. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge the fact that the chief of staff did take a leave of absence. Though Cabinet had to be pushed into it, they did do the right thing. So I am not clear, Mr. Speaker. She has a deputy minister employment contract, yet she is being called an executive assistant. I think it is semantics, Mr. Speaker, and I would like the Premier to clarify that. It is clear that no Premier or Cabinet Minister can have an employment contract that purports to displace the law. Very clearly, it says here that she is covered under Section 34 of the Public Service Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Oral Question 161-14(3): Role of Chief of Staff in Federal Election**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of my staff are wondering how a legal opinion can be valid when the provider of that opinion had no access to the contract in the first place. Having said that, the position is clear. It is considered an enhanced executive assistant position and enjoys certain rights as an employee of the government. The Member can negate whatever Cabinet decided to do.

As the Premier, and every Minister of this government feels the same way, that if we are challenged to protect and defend the rights of the employees of this government, we will. There is no trying to soft peddle that. It has been my view that every employee has the right to be defended by the Ministers and the Premier of this government. I will do that. I was prepared to do that. The chief of staff asked last week for leave and I agreed to it, so now she is on leave.

It is not because we feared the wrath and political pressure of this Member, but because the staff member in question asked for the leave and I conceded to that. It is not because of political pressure. Thank you.

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

**Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for Health regarding

recent moves to amalgamate surgical and paediatric wards at the Station Regional Hospital. Mr. Speaker, these moves have shaken the confidence of staff and the public in the quality of care given at the hospital. The concerns we have heard centre on the ability of the board and senior management to effectively involve front line nurses and doctors in decisions that affect their ability to deliver good care.

Mr. Speaker, my question is what assurances can the Minister give that health care at Stanton Regional Hospital will not be compromised? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Return to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Braden raises a valid point and certainly it is the view of the department that there is nothing that would preclude the board and the management from discussing with front line workers and key players in the delivery of the health services at Stanton what some of the options for dealing with the fiscal challenges might be. As well, consulting with whoever it may be necessary to consult with, not excluding necessarily the public, the MLAs, and the staff at the hospital itself.

If this was the understanding of the board or the management, I do apologize for that. Certainly we do see that the consultation process is very necessary in these challenging times.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer. I wonder if the Minister can give us more information on specifically what steps could be in place for the public to have more direct input into these kinds of decisions at Stanton Regional Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Further Return to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the current time, a component of Stanton board meetings is open to the public, so there is that opportunity for the public to attend and raise issues. Also, we know from experience that certainly MLAs do meet with the health boards in their regions and that is another avenue for input. The public could input to the MLAs. The MLAs could input to the board and management of Stanton. Certainly there are a number of means by which the public can communicate with the board and the management of the hospital.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, this particular plan, which has now been reversed and I am happy to hear about that, is part of an overall deficit situation that Stanton Regional Hospital is in. I am wondering if the Minister could advise the Assembly of the status of Stanton Regional Hospital's deficit reduction plan and how does it meet with approval from, or work with, the department? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Further Return to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to briefly outline what the process is. Health boards are responsible to come up with budgets which are then submitted to the Department of Health and Social Services on an annual basis. Health and Social Services then combine these requirements and goes forward with business plans and budgets accordingly. When it comes to the end of a fiscal year and it appears that there is going to be an operating deficit, there is a policy of surplus retention and deficit recovery.

When a Health and Social Services board can then work with the department and indicate that there were unavoidable, unprojected forced growth issues, then it is possible for a submission to be made to the Cabinet and FMB to accommodate those shortfalls. However, there is also a requirement for the health boards to work with us to help find and identify efficiencies that we may be able to realize cost savings from.

These options for cost savings would then be submitted again to the Financial Management Board for consideration. So it is possible for the board to discuss those kinds of options with the public and MLAs. What is not possible to do is to commit the Cabinet to a position with responses to those initiatives prior to Financial Management Board approval.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

#### **Supplementary to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you. I do appreciate the information. I am sure it is of value for the public to know that there is a process. I would like to ask at least of the status of that plan. When can we anticipate a response to this plan? Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Further Return to Question 162-14(3): Amalgamation of Stanton Wards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Stanton Board Deficit Recovery Plan is still in progress. It has not been finally determined yet. There are certain components of it that may be ready for consideration by FMB within the next few weeks. Thank you.

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

**Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services about the closure of the health centres in my riding. This summer, because of the shortage of nurses, there had to be emergency services offered. I would like to ask the Minister, what has her department done to try to alleviate this problem from happening again? Has the department taken any action to avoid this from happening again?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a general overall effort on behalf of the people of the North, the department does have several recruitment and retention initiatives underway. As far as the specifics of the closures of the facilities and the shortage of health professionals over this past summer, those staffing positions and decisions about those positions are made by the respective boards, in this case, the Inuvik Health and Social Services Board. What the department can do is work with boards when there is an acute shortage and help to alleviate that situation, but ultimately the department is there more in a support and backup role to the boards as they make those decisions and attempt to fill those positions.

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

**Supplementary to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the problems seem to be around the area of the retention and retaining of nurses. I know this department has spent quite a few dollars in that area. I would like to ask the Minister exactly how many nurses have been retained through this practice? Do we have some sort of a bank of nurses that we are able to use when we find ourselves with shortages in our communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I thought I heard a couple of questions in there. If the Minister can respond to either one of those two. Minister Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second part of Mr. Krutko's question or the second question is how can we access some nurses when we have short-term shortages when there are retention problems and we need to fill in on a temporary basis.

First of all, the nurses work for the health boards. So the nurses in question would be the employees of the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, but there are contracting

companies and agencies that nurses can be hired through on a contract basis. That is one area which alleviates the shortage.

Those are short-term solutions and it really is the goal of the department and the boards to find long-term solutions to the recruitment and retention challenges. Certainly, this is not a problem that is specific to the Northwest Territories. As we meet with health Ministers across the country, we find out that this health care professionals shortage is something which is nation-wide. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly how much money has been spent to date in this effort and how many nurses have we retained through that practice?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have numbers as to how much we have spent overall on recruitment and retention efforts. It is considerable. We have various programs. We have the nursing market supplement that we put in place a couple of years ago to specifically address the issue of retaining RNs. At that time, the amount that was budgeted to address the recruitment and retention issues was \$3 million that was committed by the government, but there is quite a wide variety. I would not have a total amount of money of what we spent. I could provide the Member with the vacancies which currently exist of health care professionals at this time.

It is difficult to quantify exactly the results of the recruitment and retention efforts because sometimes there is attrition and turnover of staff that is not specifically related to our efforts. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have that information. I believe it is important. If we are spending \$3 million, exactly what are we getting for that \$3 million in the way of actually getting bodies in those positions where we do have shortages? I would like to have that information. Hopefully it is tabled in this House so that other Members can have a copy of it as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Further Return to Question 163-14(3): Closure of Mackenzie Delta Health Centres

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do keep up-to-date records of exactly where the vacancies do exist, in what region, and what kinds of health care professional positions are vacant. I would be happy to provide that to the Member or table it in the House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

### Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Members and the Speaker to bear with me as the preamble to my question is rather lengthy and very important.

My question is for the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Vince Steen. In my opening statement, I pointed out some of the signs of climate change that were happening around us. We know that climate change is shortening our winter road season. I also stated that with all the mining, oil and gas development happening in the Territories, we need to work with industry to try to minimize our greenhouse gas emissions.

We know that a road is needed to allow the transportation of goods to the mine sites. It is my strong belief that this road could have multiple benefits if it is built through the Dogrib lands. The infrastructure for hydro power is already in place along this proposed road to resources as there are hydro dams along the Snare River. Hydro lines could be placed alongside the road to supply power to the mines and the communities. This would cut down on the volume and the cost of fuel that needs to be transported. It will also reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate the use of generators in the middle of the communities. The removal of these generators will improve the health of community residents. The leaders of the Dogrib region and the majority of residents are interested in having an all-weather road connecting them. This road would also serve as a natural transportation corridor...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Lafferty, I am afraid I am going to have to ask you to get to the question. You have already touched on two different subjects. So please ask the first question.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Can the Minister tell me when a route for the road to resources will be decided?

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

### Return to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his question. Mr. Speaker, the department is in the process of sending to Cabinet and then for tabling in this House a highway strategy within the next few days. Within there, we identify those routes that we plan to address over the next few years. Not one of the routes is specifically identified as the road to resources. That is simply because all our roads lead to resources. So it is really hard to identify any specific one as the road to resources.

However, in our strategy, we do identify improving Highway No. 4 and also we have some plans that we are working with industry at this point as to how we may be able to take over the operation and control of the Lupin winter road into the mines. This is a strategy that is still under development and still has to be approved by Cabinet, but it is one of the options that we are considering. It is part of the highway strategy.

At this point in time, we have not addressed any thought towards putting a road down the North Slave as the Member suggested. This does not limit the ability for anyone to bring forward these suggestions and have open discussions and dialogue on future routes. As the Member suggests, maybe this would be the road to resources from their perspective.

What I am saying here, Mr. Speaker, is the department is open to all suggestions as to where our final route of an all-weather road would be into the North Slave Geological Province. The only route we have addressed at this point in time is the winter road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

### Supplementary to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Studies have been done indicating that a road to resources leading out of Rae would be the most environmentally beneficial and the most cost-effective to build. Will these criteria be used in determining the road to resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Further Return to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the facts or what exactly would be used to determine the road to resources because, like I said, they are all roads to resources. What exactly would be used in determining an all-weather route down the North Slave, as the Member suggests. As I said, we are open to all suggestions. We are open to dialogue with the communities if they want to come forward with proposals.

If there is potential, we would have these included in the highway strategy eventually, but there would have to be a unified approach to this and also some form of an agreement from all the stakeholders that this is in fact the road that everyone wishes to identify as the all-weather route down the North Slave Geological Province. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

### Supplementary to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Transportation, he is ultimately responsible for deciding where the road to resources will lead. What other stakeholders he mentioned are making this decision along with him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although I have been responsible for a lot of things, my overall responsibility for deciding the future routes, as well as existing routes, transportation highway corridors, whatever, I only do that in consultation with Cabinet and with the rest of the House. I suppose in summary, Mr. Speaker, although I am responsible for all of the day-to-day operations of these facilities, the decision as to who decides what routes go where is a joint effort on all our parts. It is not really me who decides where these routes go. It is the Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the four Dogrib communities are on the route to resources, I was just wondering if the Minister would consider them stakeholders when he goes out and consults for deciding where they are going to put the road to resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return to Question 164-14(3): Plans for a Road to Resources**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the Member and the House in general that we will consult with everyone, with everyone having the opportunity to put forward their opinions, to bring forward their proposals and suggestions, and then, if in the end there is a decision that there is a need for a road to resources as the Member suggests, we would then put that into the highway strategy. Thank you.

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

**Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Finance. It relates to the hotel tax, specifically to some of the assumptions his department has used to justify the hotel tax and to make projections, such as the fact that they believe it can raise \$1.2 million in revenue a year. Mr. Speaker, they assume a 60 percent occupancy rate. My research tells me that is a typical Yellowknife rate year round but if we include all of the smaller communities and other regional centres, we are talking more like a 40 to 50 percent occupancy rate being typical.

Can the Minister tell us how he came up with a 60 percent territory-wide occupancy rate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we used two sources of information to arrive at that as being a pretty close average for across the Northwest Territories. The one set of averages was based on Stats Can information. The other one was through information collected by the economic development section of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a concern with how we track occupancy. I am aware that one of the things we see in the North is long construction projects where people are staying in hotels, specifically the construction teams, for periods of a month or longer. Does the Minister consider somebody staying in a hotel for longer than a month...would they still have to pay this tax? Would that tax be remitted for a 45-day stay? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the construction workers the Member is referring to are staying in a hotel and are paying a rate based on a daily rate, then it would not matter how long they stayed there. They would be charged and pay it in the hotel. If they were staying in a construction camp, for example, then that is a different matter. It would not be included in our calculations here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a hotel owner tells us a person has stayed for the last 45 days, they are not going to charge them a daily rate. They are going to charge them a 45-day rate. What can we do when they do not charge them the hotel tax?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the hotel tax is meant to apply in situations where people are paying a daily rate. I do not know. It is possible hotel owners would give some special monthly rate or whatever it might be that would be different, but that is a matter that would have to be reviewed in that situation. It seems to be a bit hypothetical at this point. Clearly, if they are staying in a hotel and paying a daily rate, then they would be charged and expected to pay the five percent hotel tax, if it is instituted. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister arrived at his 60 percent occupancy rate, I am wondering how he removed all of the people who are not paying a daily rate from this number. Specifically, did he take a look at occupancy and decide who is paying a daily rate and who is there for longer than a period of a month or so? I cannot see how he would have been able to remove this and arrive at a 60 percent number.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. I think there was a question there at the beginning. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 165-14(3): Hotel Tax Assumptions and Forecasts**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question seems to be based on an assumption that there are a lot of people in the hotels who are paying something other than daily rates. The figures we used are based on the statistics from the two sources I mentioned. It is based on the assumption that the majority of the people are paying the daily hotel rates. It is not based on some other assumption that half of the people there are on a monthly rate or something else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance. It is an area I have questioned the Minister I before. It has to do with the government's finances. We have had a long break since our last Session. I know the Minister was busy trying to secure money for the Government of the Northwest Territories. I would like an update from Mr. Handley as to whether he has managed to find any more revenues for this government besides the hotel tax. Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have not found any money through the hotel tax yet, to answer that part of the question.

I am pleased to be able to advise the Member though that the fiscal forecast for 2000-01 has improved since our Main Estimates were completed. The improvement is due to increases in provincial and local spending and the way our financing formula works. The provincial and local spending across Canada has an impact on it. However, Mr. Speaker, even with the revenue improvements, we are still projecting operating deficits in future years and still expect to hit our

federal borrowing limit toward the end of this government's term of office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before we broke, there was talk of trying to have a response from the federal government for new dollars by the fall. We are well into the winter season here, at least in some parts of the Territory. Can the Minister tell us whether there has been any news on the initiative to get new dollars from Ottawa aside from what is already in the formula? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have done a lot of work in the past months in negotiating with the federal government on the non-renewable resource development strategy, as well as with CHST funding and other areas. Even though we have been asking for a large amount of money for investment in the North, we have been successful in a number of areas. I am pleased to say that the federal government has provided money to us, or agreed to provide money to us in the areas such as the CHST. They have done the same across Canada.

In the area of non-renewable resource development, again we have had a lot of discussion, we have had a lot of positive signals and I am optimistic that this is going to be a successful overture to the federal government. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister mentioned earlier, we have had a fortunate year, but as far as future years look, the forecast is not a rosy picture. So bringing the picture back into the debt wall, our debt-government revenue situation, how soon would we run out of funds and hit the wall, as they say? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if everything stayed just the same as it is now and we saw no growth in our economy, no improvement in the provincial spending, no additional funding from the federal government other than what they have already agreed to, then I expect we would reach our borrowing limit some time in late 2002, early 2003, somewhere in that period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In trying to avoid that, we are continuing to pursue the revenue situation from the development that is happening in the Northwest Territories. Do you have a timeline? Do any of the responses you have received from the federal government have some hope for the near future? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 166-14(3): Update on Raising Revenue**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, yes. We have certainly received positive and optimistic signals from the federal government. The federal election has put things on hold for a period of time here, but I remain optimistic that we will see real support sometime within the coming months.

I do not expect, as we probably never really did expect, to get a cheque for the whole amount we were asking for in one big cheque, but rather we will see it coming as the various projects unfold.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add that our efforts have resulted in a lot of success in bringing about both the federal government and industry's attention on the amount of development happening in the North, particularly in the oil and gas area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pursue questioning on the status of the Stanton Health Board and the financial difficulty that the board is experiencing. My question goes to the Minister of Health. It is further to the question asked by my colleague for Great Slave. I do not believe the Minister answered the question when he asked her what is she planning to do to ensure that the services at Stanton are not compromised as a result of their debt recovery plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Groenewegen.

**Return to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the board of Stanton and the management, in consultation with staff, come up with suggestions and options for deficit recovery, as I mentioned earlier, these plans have to be approved by the department and subsequent to that by the Cabinet. The purpose of that is so that any initiatives that are desired to be taken by Stanton can be looked at in terms of the overall service and delivery of services in the Northwest Territories and our system-wide program.

So there are a number of safeguards against things being undertaken which would negatively impact the services provided to people, not the least of which is the primary caregivers and the management and boards themselves. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the bottom line in this whole issue is about the people and the service people need, health care services. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are aware that a number of Yellowknife MLAs for the last few weeks have received many calls. I have received calls from patients, doctors and nurses who are feeling a great deal of pressure at the hospital and who really feel that they cannot do with anything less.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am interested as much in the process of what steps are taken to go through this budget review process, because I do not think this is about numbers. It is about people and services. I would like to know what safeguards the Minister is talking about to ensure that the services provided at the hospital will not be reduced in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services of this government provides a budget to the Stanton Hospital based on their projected needs for financial resources. It is in the neighbourhood of \$50 million a year. When the board does run into a deficit situation, the cause of that deficit is very carefully analyzed. I think that most people would agree that the people who receive services at Stanton Regional Hospital do receive a very high level of care and service there.

We have a complement of very dedicated specialists, nurses, other health care professionals who work there. It would not be the intention of this government to see those services impacted in a negative way. We have an obligation. We have a statutory obligation to deliver good quality health care services to the people of the North and if there are efficiencies that can be realized without negatively impacting the quality of the services, those are the kinds of things we are looking at when we talk about deficit recovery plans. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say I am encouraged by what the Minister said previously and that is that she will look at the overall picture of the cost of delivering health services, which I think is necessary. I do not think Stanton hospital is just a Yellowknife hospital. It serves the North and it has services that are not available elsewhere. The

point is, Mr. Speaker, that we have had nurses here at our constituency meeting who are literally crying about the pressure they are under.

We have specialist doctors who are threatening to leave. We have people who are telling us that experienced nurses are leaving and they are being replaced by much less experienced nurses, putting more pressure on it. I wonder if the Minister could advise this House what she is looking at in terms of looking at overall health care costs of the whole Territories, so she could somehow prioritize the needs so that basic essential services for all people are provided at Stanton hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is not obviously involved in the direct day-to-day operations of Stanton Hospital. We have a board of directors that makes decisions with respect to the hospital. The names of those directors come forward from people in the community as individuals who have the respect of their fellow citizens. They form the board, which is headed by Larry Elkin, who is a person well-known to this government and very competent. Then the management of the Stanton board also is very involved in the day-to-day operations and management.

As a department, we are there to ensure that they have adequate financial resources to carry out their job. We rely on their judgement in the area of some of these things. When Ms. Lee refers to the concerns that have been raised by front line workers and patients and residents of Yellowknife, certainly we understand the concerns that came about as a result of the announced amalgamation plan and perhaps there should have been a better job done in terms of communication and consultation, but I do want to assure the Member and the constituents that she represents that the delivery of good quality health care services to the people of not only Yellowknife but this region is a very high priority of this government.

Indeed, we are faced with escalating costs. There are a number of cost drivers over which we have no control, which will continue to raise the cost of delivering those services. It is a priority of this government to meet those needs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make sure that the Minister understands and could she confirm that while we realize that there are regional boards, the Minister is in charge of the health care system and we, as the Legislature, are in charge of the system? Would she not agree that we have an obligation to make sure there are enough funds to provide basic health care services, notwithstanding the fact that we have a very competent chairperson on that board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 167-14(3): Stanton Health Board Status**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will concur with the Member that indeed we are responsible for the delivery of the services. On a day-to-day basis, we are not in charge of managing the delivery of those services. However, I like the word the Member used in her Member's statement, which was the word rationalize. We have 42,000 people in the Northwest Territories. We have an obligation as a government to ensure that they receive good quality health care services. Certainly we need to rationalize the distribution of resources and the delivery of those services. Yes, overall, we are accountable for the health care system. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the last Session, I had asked the Minister of Health about a problem we were encountering with regard to medical travel and compensation with the residents of Kakisa. At that time, I had stated that there were no health care providers in the community and we were having problems obtaining referrals for travel. To date, I have not seen any developments. I would like to ask the Minister what she has done on this issue.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Return to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do have a tab in my briefing book here under Members' issues, medical travel in Kakisa status report. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the up-to-date status of that issue is not contained in the binder. It is missing, but I will undertake to get an updated report for the Member on that subject. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rightly so that tab should be blank, because it is my understanding, I just came from the community, that there has been nothing happening on this issue. I would like to ask the Minister if the commitment she made in her answer during Session was that she would have someone go into the community and explain the process. I would like to ask the Minister if the commitment is still there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if indeed that has not already happened, yes, the commitment is still there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in her response to the question in June, the Minister referred to communities such as Kakisa as poor communities with unusual circumstances. Since she has recognized the community as such, I would like to ask the Minister if she would consider utilizing some of the facilities such as band councils to deliver and assist some of the residents with processing their claims and those documents? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the question. Could I ask the Member to repeat the question for me? Thank you. With respect to the quote from the Hansard in June, I do not recall referring to Kakisa as a poor community. Certainly, perhaps, a remote community. Perhaps a small community, but I do not have the benefit of that document in front of me. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. I am not sure if the Member referred to Hansard, but would you clarify, Mr. McLeod, the question you had asked?

**Supplementary to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did take the information from Hansard. My comment was since the Minister has recognized Kakisa and communities such as Kakisa as poor communities with unusual circumstances, I wanted to know if she would try to do something by contracting arrangements with the band councils to help the communities with the documents that are required for medical travel? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 168-14(3): Compensation for Medical Travel**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do understand the question now. I still struggle with the quote that is being read, but nevertheless, people requiring medical travel out of Kakisa, could they receive assistance

through an existing office located in Kakisa? That is something that we could definitely look at. Thank you.

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

**Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance From Western Arctic MP**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my original question was with the Minister of Finance but my colleague Mr. Roland addressed it, so I will proceed with it from a different angle. We have heard a lot of talk about how we are going to try to attract Ottawa to get some more funding to address our needs as a government. I was hoping when the question was asked that the Minister would have a whole bundle of good news for us to take back to our constituents, but obviously that is not the case.

One of the things that I have been interested in is the fact that in all of our discussions in the House here as to how we are going to try to get more money from Ottawa, the name of Ethel Blondin-Andrew, our MP, does not come up very often. I was wondering if this government uses Ethel Blondin-Andrew extensively and try to get her to raise some issues in Ottawa for us and put some pressure on the government to address our fiscal needs in the Northwest Territories. I address my question to Mr. Handley.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance From Western Arctic MP**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we certainly do use our Member of Parliament extensively in several ways. First of all, she has been very useful in ensuring that the Premier, myself and others have been able to get meetings with appropriate federal Ministers and other Members of Parliament whenever we want to meet. That has been extremely useful.

Second, we have made her very aware of all of our interests in terms of the non-renewable resource development strategy, Common Ground, the economic development plan, and so on. She has been promoting that message in Ottawa for us.

Third is she has also been extremely effective in working with the Minister of DIAND and getting that department turned around on discussions on the possibility of an economic development agreement.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we use her extensively in every way we possibly can. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance From Western Arctic MP**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that there is a federal election going on, we seem to be struggling all of the time with getting enough public awareness

or pressure from government to come up with some kind of commitment. I was wondering if the government has any kind of strategy in place as far as following the election campaign, getting the frontrunners, the leaders of each party to try to make some commitment publicly as to their stand on how they look at our fiscal situation and how much importance they put on supplying us with extra funds so that we can proceed with our economic development.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance From Western Arctic MP**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have sent the information to our Member of Parliament. I believe we have also sent it to the other political parties as well. If it has not gone out to them, it will be done shortly. We would like to see northern issues on the agenda. We would like to see it on the agenda of every party. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance From Western Arctic MP**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I take it then that this government will have Members or certain individuals going to public forums that are put on by leaders of this country, or even the party, to ask specific questions in a public forum to try to get some commitments out of them?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance from Western Arctic MP**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, we do not have any strategy or any plan to have Members of the government attend forums and raise those kinds of specific questions at those events. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance from Western Arctic MP**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would venture to say that that would probably be a very good strategy to try to get the leaders to make a commitment publicly. Would the Minister attempt to look into that possibility and maybe look at some good public forums to address the issues?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 169-14(3): Soliciting Assistance From Western Arctic MP**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's suggestion. Yes, I will look into it and assess the merits of doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Sort of like a team of provocateurs. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is for the Minister of Finance and it is along the same lines. It has to do with the payroll tax. His department publicly stated that for every \$1 million they spend in the area of tourism, it generates \$30 million in tourism spending. I have gone out and tried to confirm these numbers and I do find the \$30 million number as well, but I find it includes friends, visitors and relatives, not just tourists. Can the Minister confirm whether or not friends, visitors and relatives are included in this \$30 million number? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the figure of \$30 million is a pretty general estimate that is put together largely by the Northwest Territories Tourism Association along with some people from our staff. I expect it does include friends and relatives who might be coming up here as tourists. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The time for question period has expired. I will allow Mr. Bell to conclude his supplementary.

**Supplementary to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Along these lines, I also have another concern. The department says that a simplified cost-effective analysis shows that an investment of just over \$4 million in their budget into all aspects of tourism and related parks generated \$30 million in tourism spending or a return of \$6 on each \$1 spent. However, Mr. Speaker, it is not just the \$4 million that this government is spending. What about all the operators who are spending up to 30 percent of their budgets on advertising? How do we determine where we are getting this \$30 million from? Surely we do not think that it is all because of the \$4 million that we have spent.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to determine where all of it comes from, but I am confident that if our government spent nothing on tourism and parks that the operators would be very hard pressed. So I think the Member is right and I think the implication in the document he is referring to is that yes, our \$4 million is important to the industry, but so

is the money that the private sector, the small operators, draw from their ventures and businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I think it is important when we talk about the kind of money we can generate through a proposed tax like the hotel tax, we look at our current success rate with other taxes that we implement. Take, for instance, the payroll tax. Can the Minister tell us if he believes we are currently able to accumulate a high proportion of possible payroll tax dollars that are out there? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, yes. I am confident that we are collecting a high percentage of the payroll tax dollars that should be collected. We track it very carefully working closely with the Workers' Compensation Board. There may be a few people who slip through, but most people are pretty conscientious about paying their Workers' Compensation Board premiums, and that is what we use for our payroll tax as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Final supplementary for question period, Mr. Bell.

#### **Supplementary to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is quite confident that we collect most of the payroll tax dollars out there and we work with the WCB to do this. I am wondering...you said that these things are difficult to track, and we have heard other statements like this before from the department, I am wondering how he can be so confident. What information does he have that would lead him to believe that we are getting all the payroll tax dollars remitted? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return to Question 170-14(3): Tourism Revenues and Taxation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I did not say we were getting all the payroll tax we are entitled to. I said we are getting, by far, most of it. I am sure, as I said, there are some people who will slip through and work in the Territories, not pay their worker's compensation benefits and we do not capture those. So there are some that slip through, but we do track it. We use our Workers' Compensation Board records to do it. We also follow up very closely on third party issues that are raised with us. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that we are getting most of it, but we are not getting every last dollar. I am sure we are getting in a high 90 percent of what we are entitled to. Thank you.

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

#### **ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

##### **Written Question 11-14(3): Compliance Audits of Northwest Territories Businesses**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to sound like it is set up. Following up from what Mr. Bell was just asking about, my written question is for the Minister of Finance.

1. How many compliance audits of Northwest Territories businesses have been undertaken to see if proper amounts have been remitted pursuant to the Payroll Tax Act since its introduction?
2. If payroll tax compliance audits have been undertaken of Northwest Territories businesses, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the numbers of audits by region?
3. If such audits have been undertaken, can the Minister advise the number of times the audits found under reporting of payroll tax remittances?
4. Have any payroll audits been conducted on southern firms conducting business in the Northwest Territories?
5. How much does it cost to administer the payroll tax?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Minister Handley.

#### **ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

##### **Return to Written Question 1-14(3): Loan Guarantees, GNWT Debt and Northern Residents Deductions**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Dent on June 21, 2000 regarding loan guarantees, GNWT debt and northern residents deductions.

1. The GNWT has issued a total of \$157,898,000 in guarantees for debt to the NWT Power Corporation, NWT Energy Corporation and NWT Housing Corporation.

The GNWT has issued a total of \$22,200,000 in guarantees for debt to the secondary diamond industry.

Later today I will table a document showing the amounts of the issued guarantees in more detail.

2. Later today, I will table the chart requested by Mr. Dent showing the minimum and

- maximum amounts of short-term debt owed by the GNWT in fiscal 1999-2000.
- The estimated pre-division Northwest Territories northern residents deduction, after adjustment to allow for late filers, was \$105 million in 1997 and \$115 million in 1998. These are the latest fiscal years for which this information is available. For the benefit of Members, the northern residents deduction is a deduction from income subject to tax and is available to taxpayers in Canada who live in the NWT and other isolated parts of Canada in an amount equal to \$5,490.

The estimated NWT share of the 1997 and 1998 northern residents deduction is \$77 million and \$84 million respectively, with the remainder allocated to Nunavut.

### **Return to Written Question 3-14(3): Proposed Hotel Tax and Payroll Information**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Ms. Lee on June 28, 2000 regarding the Proposed Hotel Tax and Payroll Information.

- The annual revenue projected for the hotel tax is forecast to be \$1,300,000.
- This is based on a total of 1180 rooms in 45 establishments. Later today, I will table the community breakdown of the location of the operators and the bed spaces in more detail.
- The average price used was \$100 a room at an occupancy rate of 60 percent.
- It is expected that the ongoing administration and enforcement costs of the Hotel Room Tax Act including the salary, benefits, information collection, computer systems, office space, enforcement and incidental expenses will be \$100,000.

It is also expected that there will be additional one-time implementation and start-up costs of \$50,000.

- The total amount of payroll tax revenue raised by the GNWT in the last three fiscal years is \$12,178,000 in 1997-98, \$12,102,000 in 1998-99 and \$8,876,000 in 1999-2000. The figures for 1999-2000 are on a post-division basis.
- The budgeted cost of administering the payroll tax for 2000-2001, including the salary, benefits, information collection, computer systems, office space, enforcement and incidental expenses is \$163,000.
- All employees in the Northwest Territories pay payroll tax. The Department of Finance does not maintain a database of the total number of employees from whom the tax is collected. Although employers are obliged to report

information by employee, this data is kept for audit purposes only.

- The total number of employers registered to collect the payroll tax in the last three calendar years is 2,068 in 1997, 1,663 in 1998 and 1,474 in 1999. The figures for 1999 are on a post-division basis.

### **Return to Written Question 4-14(3): GNWT Duty Travel Expenses**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Ms. Lee on June 29, 2000 on Government of the Northwest Territories duty travel expenses:

- In fiscal year 1997-98 total duty travel expense was \$22,210,608
- In fiscal year 1998-99 total duty travel expense was \$23,595,801
- In fiscal year 1999-00 total duty travel expense was \$25,188,317

These figures are for the western Territories only and are drawn from the Government of the Northwest Territories' Financial Information System (FIS). They do not include duty travel expenses for the Education Boards, Health Boards, Hospitals, the Housing Corporation, Workers' Compensation Board and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation as these organizations have their own separate Financial Information Systems.

The Financial Information System does not distinguish between northern and southern travel.

Recent enhancements to our Financial Information System have made it possible, for fiscal year 1999-2000, to determine that of approximately \$3 million spent on hotels by Government of the Northwest Territories' employees, approximately \$2.1 million or roughly 67 percent was spent within the Northwest Territories.

### **Return to Written Question 5-14(3): Support for Northern Manufacturers in Inter-Jurisdictional Ventures**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Krutko on July 5, 2000 regarding the support for northern manufacturers in inter-jurisdictional ventures.

- The current project to construct a seniors multiplex in Stebbins, Alaska is a pilot project combining training and construction. The training was subcontracted to Aurora College and the construction was subcontracted to Dowland Construction Limited. Dowland Construction is a northern firm and a licensed Alaskan contractor.
- The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's main purpose of securing additional projects outside of our normal programs is to provide opportunities for northern suppliers and manufacturers to expand their markets. The Housing Corporation always uses a competitive bid process and only seeks bids

from northern suppliers and manufacturers. The tender and contracting regulations are always followed. The Interim Manufacturing Directive is also applied.

3. A list of projects will be tabled later, however, the information you have requested regarding individual businesses cannot be unilaterally released as requested. The provisions of the Access to information and Protection of Privacy Act apply.
4. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has provided the following answer to your questions regarding the Business Incentive Policy and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The application of the Business Incentive Policy by the Government of the Northwest Territories and its agencies does not infringe on any obligation under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The Business Incentive Policy is a government procurement policy and is therefore governed by chapter 10 of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Government Procurement. Under Article 1001: Scope and Coverage, it states that this chapter applies to measures adopted or maintained by a Party relating to procurement: (iii) for state and provincial government entities, the applicable threshold, as set out in Annex 1001.1a-3 in accordance with Article 1024 (Further Negotiations).

Annex 1000.1a-3 State and Provincial Government Entities states: coverage under this Annex will be the subject of consultations with state and provincial governments in accordance with Article 1024.

These negotiations have not been completed and therefore the North American Free Trade Agreement does not apply to procurement by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The purchase of construction and building materials by federal governments is also not covered by the North America Free Trade Agreement.

Annex 1001.1b-1 Goods, Sections A -- List of Certain Goods and B -- General Provisions, clearly exempts these types of products.

#### **Return to Written Question 6-14(3): Information Regarding Douglas Anderson**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Bill Braden on July 5, 2000 regarding any further information or reports concerning the reasons Douglas Anderson was taken from family and into the care of the government.

The department has, over the course of two years, conducted several searches for information pertaining to Mr. Anderson and has forwarded a considerable number of records to the applicant. The department also arranged for records held by the Government of Nunavut and relevant to Mr. Anderson's request to be sent to Yellowknife. These records were subsequently released to Mr. Anderson.

The Department of Health and Social Services has not, after extensive searches, identified any further records relevant to the applicant's request. In your question, you refer to a

Document 59 that was cited in a letter from the department to Mr. Anderson. This document was noted in the letter as being not received by the department. Unfortunately, department staff made a clerical error. The department clearly received the document and it was released to Mr. Anderson. Document 59 should have been noted as being illegible.

#### **Return to Written Question 7-14(3): Palliative Care**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Brendan Bell on July 5, 2000, regarding palliative care.

1. Q. Recognizing the demand for palliative care facilities and the need for alternative care will surely increase over the years, I would be interested to receive statistics relating to the number of deaths per year due to terminal illness and deaths of palliative care patients.

A. There are approximately 200 deaths per year in the NWT. The NWT Health Status Report 1999 (chapter 4) indicates that between 1991 and 1996, cancers accounted for about 25 percent of all the deaths, circulatory diseases for about 23 percent and respiratory diseases for about 18 percent of all deaths.

How many of these deaths result from terminal illness depends on how terminal illness is defined. One way to answer the question about terminal illness would be to determine the proportion of deaths attributable to chronic illness. This has not been done because death certificate data on the length of illness is not sufficiently reliable.

Information about the number of palliative care deaths is not available as statistics on deaths due to terminal illness and palliative care may be one and the same. Palliative care is a specialized form of managed health care for individuals who, along with their families, are living with a life-threatening or terminal illness (usually at an advanced stage). Palliative care services are helpful not only when an individual is approaching death, but also in the early stages of a terminal illness. It is at this point that where the care for the terminally ill becomes the same as palliative care.

2. Q. Please provide a breakdown as to whether deaths occurred in hospitals, other facilities or in home settings over the past five years.

A. Statistics on the place of death for the terminally ill or palliative care client

will not be available until the fall of 2000. The data will provide information about the location of death (i.e., whether it occurred in a hospital, other facility or home care setting), but it will not identify clients who die in palliative care beds because the type of bed (e.g., emergency, palliative, long term) is not recorded on the death certificate.

3. Q. Please provide a cost analysis of palliative care for the terminally ill, including a breakdown of the hours of care required to provide service by physicians and nurses, as well as the additional costs incurred for other hospital services.

A. It is not possible to provide an accurate analysis for all costs relating to palliative care.

Physicians' fee schedules and diagnostic codes do not identify terminal or palliative care conditions. In addition, systems currently used do not have the capability to provide a breakdown of precise information on time spent by a physician, nurse or support staff with each terminally ill or palliative care client.

The length of a stay of a terminally ill or palliative client in a hospital, home care setting or other facility is only a partial indicator of the time and costs. Other elements of palliative care will have been administered at various times during the earlier stages of the client's illness. The gradual inclusion of these elements, such as visits to nurses at community health centres, home visits, home care services, are also not broken down into a statistical format.

Likewise, palliative care services are provided by a variety of other trained and untrained caregivers, including family members, social workers, spiritual counsellors, home care workers and nurses. Other supports may be obtained from dietitians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and volunteer workers. The main goal of palliative care is to provide comfort and dignity to the individual and their family.

4. Q. What is the number of current hospital beds allocated at Stanton Regional Hospital to accommodate the needs of the terminally ill or those requiring palliative care?

A. Stanton Regional Hospital has two rooms specifically identified for palliative care. One room is on the Extended Care Ward and one room is on the Medical Ward. Each room has one bed.

As there are often a number of terminally ill clients on both floors, whether for a brief or extended period of time, there may be elements of palliative care being administered to a varied number of clients at various locations and levels of the hospital. The admission of a client to a palliative care room does not limit the use of palliative care in other rooms and in other locations such as the client's home or a community long-term care facility.

#### **Return to Written Question 8-14(3): Fiberglass Water and Sewer Tanks**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Dent on July 5, 2000 regarding fiberglass water and sewer tanks.

1. During this period, the NWT Housing Corporation specified a 325-gallon polyethylene water tank and a 504-gallon fiberglass sewer tank for use in its Homeownership Assistance Program and Retrofit Program. Records for this time period have been archived and were disposed of after seven years and are no longer available.

The last record for a purchase of a 504-gallon insulated fiberglass sewage tank is from 1992 for a cost of \$4320.00 F.O.B. Yellowknife

2. The average price paid for fiberglass tanks used in Homeownership Programs and Independent Housing Programs, F.O.B. Yellowknife for the years 1995 through 1999 were:

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 500 gallon low profile water tank   | \$1954.52 |
| 1000 gallon low profile sewage tank | \$3124.78 |
| 504 gallon insulated sewage tank    | \$4367.99 |

#### **Return to Written Question 9-14(3): Ownership of Treatment Facilities**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Dent on July 6, 2000, regarding the ownership of the treatment facilities.

1. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) holds the first mortgage on the detox facility on Franklin Avenue and the Dettah Road facility known as the Northern Addictions - Rehab.

2. The Government of the Northwest Territories does not guarantee the mortgages for either facility, rather we indemnify CMHC against any

- losses should Northern Addictions Services (NAS) default on their mortgage payments.
3. NAS owns the Rehab facility on the Dettah Road and the NWT Housing Corporation just recently (October 20, 2000) took title to the Franklin Avenue Detox project.
4. In an effort to protect the Rehab facility from possible freeze ups, the Housing Corporation covered various utilities, building maintenance costs and building security. In total, the Housing Corporation provided close to \$40,000 towards utilities, maintenance and building security. The Housing Corporation is currently recovering this additional funding from NAS.
5. The Housing Corporation administers both a first and a second mortgage on the Northern Addictions Rehab facility. The outstanding balance on the first mortgage is \$2,820,823.52 and the second mortgage balance is \$105,861.96.
2. Q. Has the Department of Health and Social Services paid any rent, lease or mortgage payments, and/or utility costs for the Franklin Avenue Detox Centre or the Dettah Road facility known as the Somba K'e Healing Lodge since April 1, 1999? If so, how much?
- A. (1) The department, through the April 1 to June 30, 1999 Contribution Agreement, indirectly contributed \$21,096.67 towards mortgage and utility payments for both the Franklin Avenue and Dettah Road facilities.
- (2) The department entered into a tenancy-at-will arrangement with NAS and the NWT Housing Corporation for the Franklin Avenue facility for the period July 1, 1999 to April 14, 2000.

#### Return to Written Question 10-14(3): Departmental Expenditures Related To Treatment Facilities

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Charles Dent on July 6, 2000, regarding departmental expenditures related to treatment facilities.

1. Q. After the contract with Northern Addictions Services (NAS) was canceled, did Health and Social Services make any payments related to the contract, and if so, how much?
- A. Following the expiry of the 1998-99 agreement, the department entered into two contribution agreements with NAS, as follows:
- (1) A Contribution Agreement, for the period April 1 - June 30, 1999, in the amount of \$341,499; the purpose of which was to wind down existing programs; conduct an outcome study of NAS clients for the previous three years; complete an assets inventory; develop an accurate operating budget; identify the NAS debt; and participate in the joint department/board/NGOs consultation process to review alternative programming options for addictions.
- (2) A Contribution Agreement, for the period May 27 to June 12, 1999, in the amount of \$14,520.00, the purpose of which was to cover the costs of meals, accommodations and (local) transportation for 41 community alcohol and drug workers to participate in training workshops at the Dettah facility.
3. Q. How much did Health and Social Services pay in salaries and training for staff from these facilities after April 1, 1999?
- A. An employee/employer relationship did not exist between the department and NAS. The April 1 to June 30, 1999 Contribution Agreement,
- Mortgage payments in the amount of \$23,633.11 were transferred directly to the NWT Housing Corporation, the mortgage holder, for the period July 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.
  - Utilities and taxes in the amount of \$21,829.14 were paid directly to the utility companies and the City of Yellowknife by the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board.
  - An invoice for approximately \$2,625.90, representing a pro-rated mortgage payment for the period April 1 to 14, 2000, will be received from the NWT Housing Corporation in the near future.
- (3) The department has not made any direct or indirect rent, lease, mortgage or utilities payments for the Dettah Road facility since the expiry of the April - June 1999 Contribution Agreement.

however, included a budgeted amount of \$246,889.96 for salaries and benefits.

Indirectly, the department also made in-kind contributions through the facilitation and delivery of specific sections of the training workshops held in May and June, 1999.

4. Q. Under the terms of the contribution agreement, ownership of the furnishings should have passed to the GNWT when NAS ceased operating the facilities. Did the GNWT take possession of all furnishings? If not, what is the value of the furnishings taken over?
- A. Under the terms of the contribution agreement, the furniture, furnishings and non-fixed capital items did not have to be returned to the department unless the termination clauses of the agreement were invoked. Since the agreement simply expired on June 30, 1999, NAS did not have any legal obligation to return the assets to the department.
- In compliance with the terms of the April to June 1999 contribution agreement, NAS did conduct an inventory of assets for both facilities. The inventory, however, did not include a replacement or depreciated value for the assets.
5. Q. If furnishings were missing, what was their value, based on original purchase price? Has any effort been made to recover any missing assets?
- A. It cannot be said that any of the furniture, furnishings and non-fixed capital assets are missing. NAS purchased the assets in the Franklin Avenue facility with funding from a second mortgage with one of the local banks. NAS continues to be financially responsible for the second mortgage. As the non-fixed assets in that facility belong to NAS, no effort can be made to recover them.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any further returns to written questions? Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

## ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

**Bill 2: Write-off of Debts Act, 2000-01**

**Bill 3: Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2000-01**

**Bill 7: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act**

**Bill 9: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has reviewed Bill 2, Write-off of Debts Act, 2000-01; Bill 3, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2000-01; Bill 7, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act; and Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, and wishes to report that Bills 2, 3, 7 and 9 are ready for consideration of committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

## ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**Tabled Document 44-14(3): Guarantees for Debt Issued by the GNWT and Minimum and Maximum Short-Term Debt Owed by the GNWT During Fiscal Period 1999-2000**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 1-14(3), I wish to table the following documents entitled Guarantees for Debt Issued by the GNWT and Minimum and Maximum Short-Term Debt Owed by the GNWT During the Fiscal Period 1999-2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Tabled Document 45-14(3): NWT Establishments with Five or More Rooms by Community**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, further to my Return to Written Question 3-14(3), I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Establishments with Five or More Rooms by Community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Housing, Mr. Allen.

**Tabled Document 46-14(3): NWT Housing Corporation Development Projects**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to my Return to Written Question 5-14(3), I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Development Projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Item 13, tabling of documents.

**Tabled Document 47-14(3): Report of the Auditor General to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly for the Year 1999**

As the Speaker, I wish to table the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Other Matters for the Year Ended March 31, 1999.

**Tabled Document 48-14(3): Annual Report of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner – 1999-2000**

Further, I would like to table the following document pursuant to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act I wish to table the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Period April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Tabled Document 49-14(3): October 30, 2000 CBC Radio Transcript – Premier Kakfwi on Family Violence**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a transcript of the CBC Special Report yesterday afternoon, October 30, 5:25 p.m. and it is in regard to the family violence awareness campaign, the interview given by the Premier which I found was very personal and yet very profound, to which I would like to speak tomorrow. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Tabled Document 50-14(3): NWT Tourism – The 2006 Challenge – Towards a Tourism Strategy**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Tourism, the 2006 Challenge, Towards a Tourism Strategy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Are there any further tabling of documents? Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

**Tabled Document 51-14(3): Election Returns and Declarations for Chris Garven, Roy Erasmus, Mary Felice Beckett and Daniel Walton**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 183(4) of the Elections Act, I wish to table the following returns and declarations respecting election contributions and expenses: Chris Garven and Mary Beckett of the electoral district of Inuvik Boot Lake; Roy Erasmus of the electoral district of Weledeh; and Daniel Jay Walton from the electoral district of Tu Nedhe.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

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

**Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I given notice that on Thursday, November 2, 2000, I will move that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Bill 12: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 2, 2000, I will move that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No.1, 2000-2001, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Bill 14: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 2, 2000, I will move that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. 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):** Mr. Speaker, meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and at 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee of Rules and Procedures.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 1, 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

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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
  17. First Reading of Bills
  18. Second Reading of Bills
  19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  20. Report of Committee of the Whole
  21. Third Reading of Bills
  22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until November 1, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

