



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Friday, February 23, 2001**

Pages 1197 – 1230

**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**



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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2001****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, 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):** Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Déclarations de ministre. The honourable Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 59-14(3): Youth Exploration Program**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the context of the document Towards a Better Tomorrow, the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly will continue to support and work with all youth organizations to achieve their goals. Today, I am pleased to share with you a fine example of this ongoing work.

As the Minister responsible for Youth and a Member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, I wish to congratulate the new partnership forged between Canadian North and the Territorial Youth Association (formerly the Native Women's Youth Association). This new partnership will provide the youth of the Northwest Territories an outlet where they can access either complimentary airfare and/or discounted airfares, enabling youth to travel throughout the North for productive and beneficial events. Canadian North, a northern-owned and operated company, has agreed to enter into this two-year agreement with the Territorial Youth Association, which I truly believe will prove to be a worthy investment in the youth of the Northwest Territories. To further highlight this, I wish to quote Canadian North's mission statement:

"Our mission is to better meet the needs of northern travellers and the North by investing time, energy and resources to help develop the communities we serve."

The Youth Exploration Program is one way Canadian North is realizing their mission. Through this Youth Exploration Program, youth will be provided with support so that they can participate in addressing the following youth priorities identified by the Territorial Youth Association including: alcohol-drug abuse prevention, youth development and training, racism and cultural education, youth justice and crime prevention, and sports and recreation.

At the break, I wish to invite each of you to the Great Hall. Along with representatives from Canadian North and the Territorial Youth Association, I will be officially launching this special youth initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Déclarations de ministre. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement on Recognition of the Achievements of Hay River Residents**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seeing as it is Friday, I want to take this opportunity to write a good news Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, the good news I am referring to is recognition of some recent accomplishments by residents of Hay River.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two pages from my riding who have been here all week. They are Stephanie Johnston and Nathan Taylor. These two young people are very fine individuals who I am sure will succeed in whatever paths they choose for the future. I would like to thank them for coming here this week.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some Hay River residents who have been inducted to the 1999-2000 Northwest Territories Apprenticeship Honour Roll. These are Jason Coakwell, Bruce McCarthy, Earle Dumas, Kevin McLean, Travis Peterson, Michael Mahussier and Austin King. Mr. Speaker, special recognition should go to Michael Mahussier, who is the top graduating apprentice in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, from January 18<sup>th</sup> to January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Hay River Curling Club hosted the Northwest Territories Championships. It gives me great pleasure to announce that my son Darcy's team was one of the two teams representing the Northwest Territories at the NWT-Yukon playdowns held in Whitehorse. His team consisted of Mike Mageean, Bruce Hunt and Brian Lodge. I also had the pleasure of coaching Darcy's team.

Mr. Speaker, from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>, Hay River hosted the Territorial Figure Skating Championships. These championships attract the skaters from five northern communities. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that Heather Stevely of Hay River received three gold medals and Carisa Broadhead received two gold medals. There were a number of other skaters who received other medals too numerous to mention here.

Mr. Speaker, the territorial wrestling championships were held in Hay River from February 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased to report that all of our Diamond Jenness High School wrestlers won medals.

Mr. Speaker, special recognition should go to the following Hay River wrestlers who were appointed to the Northwest Territories Canada Games Team as a result of good performance at the territorials. These wrestlers were Ricky Leonard, Danny Jackson and Shane Latimer.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Keefe, one of the Northwest Territories premier wrestling coaches, has been appointed the manager of the Canada Games Team. I know that...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Delorey, the time for your Member's statement has expired.

**MR. DELOREY:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Member for Hay River North is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Jack devotes a tremendous amount of his time to our wrestlers and he is to be commended for this. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Kim Klassen, a Hay River teacher who was instrumental in organizing the Cager Basketball Tournament in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement on Recognition of Deh Cho House Pages**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity to recognize two pages who are presently here from the Deh Cho. Mr. Speaker, I feel this is a great opportunity that we as a government can offer our youth. The experience of participating in the paging program is an important task for students to experience our legislation firsthand. The knowledge that we instill in our youth today will go a long ways. These students may someday likely become our future leaders.

The students we have with us are Rosalie Martel and Rosemary Buggins. Both of these students are from the Chief Sunrise Education Centre in the Hay River Reserve. I would like to thank them for their services in the House this week. Also, Mr. Speaker, next week, March 1<sup>st</sup>, is the opening day of the 18<sup>th</sup> K'amba Carnival. One of our pages, Rosemary Buggins, is a K'amba queen contestant. I would like to wish her much success.

I would also like to thank the principal, Brent Kaulbach, the teachers of the Chief Sunrise Centre, chaperone Ms. Kim Beaulieu, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the staff of the Legislative Assembly who assisted in bringing these students for this prestigious task. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Mr. McLeod. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### **Member's Statement on All-Weather Road Connecting Dogrib Communities**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address the issue of the road through Dogrib country that my colleague, Mr. Lafferty, has raised in this House. This issue was before the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly as well and was raised repeatedly by Mr. Lafferty's predecessor. I thought it was a good idea then and I think it is an even better idea now. The circumstances have changed and improved the need for such a road.

We have three diamond mines. I understand there is also a mine being proposed at the old Rae Rock Mine. It is looking for a lot of power, eight megawatts of power. We have the potential for significant hydro development in the South Slave.

As we look at what to do with that power, the issue of coming north with a grid to hook into the Snare grid to feed the mines becomes, in my mind, very attractive and should be looked at. It is a natural extension of that kind of resource development when you look at the road.

Mr. Speaker, this road would benefit not only the industry, but if it were put through as proposed by my colleague, we would have the benefit, after the resource development is over, of permanent roads connecting the communities who are currently there and are land locked, except in the winter.

I would hope that the government and the Minister of Transportation would look at this issue once again. I think there is even greater impetus for this as the economics develop as they have with rising fuel prices. However, with the pressing resource development, I think it makes good sense.

Like my colleague for the North Slave, I would hope to see some recognition of the need for this road in the planning of the government in the months and years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Economic Development Activity in the Beaufort Delta Region**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Constituents of Inuvik, my wife and children, today I rise to give notice that I will not be in the House on Monday, February 26, 2001, and will miss part of February 27, 2001, as I will be attending the official opening of the Swimming Point Camp Site, as well as touring the Akita's Equtak rig.

Mr. Speaker, it has been some time since the Beaufort Delta has seen the activity that is starting to increase again. I can recall as a child travelling down the east branch of the Mackenzie River many times, and going past the camps that were established and operating in those days, and Swimming Point that also used to have a camp. As things turned down in the Delta, those camps disappeared. For years, as we drive by to the summer camps, we would see an area that had been abandoned. You would see the gravel pad, there was nothing left besides a place where the barges used to go to shore.

Mr. Speaker, once again in the Delta, we see activity starting and growth happening. It has been a long time and at this time, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Delta are more than just workers and labourers. They are partners in businesses. They are taking advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead. This time, I think and I hope, that truly in the Northwest Territories we will see some growth, not just by jobs and pay cheques, but by true partnerships and by northern businesses. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### **Member's Statement on Obligations Under the Canadian Health Act**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Monday I questioned the Minister of Health and Social Services as to whether or not we have, as a government, contravened the conditions placed upon us by the Canada Health Act in the way we deliver health programs and services. The Minister replied that she felt that the department had lived up to the obligations under the Canada Health Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Health Act requires the provinces and territories to fulfill certain criteria in order to qualify for full cash contributions. The criteria is in the areas of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality and portability and accessible programs.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Minister stated:

"Significant downsizing in the department over the past years by previous governments has eroded our capacity to monitor and enforce standards, and provide administrative and clinical leadership to oversight".

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we realize that we have in some ways by that statement, violated the Canada Health Act.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again, I have brought to the attention of this House certain concerns related to my constituents who have had problems accessing health care services until it was too late. There again, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is in contravention of the Canada Health Act with regard to the accessibility of programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous attempts to restructure and reorganize our health care system, but we must never lose sight of the fact that there are certain rules that we may follow. We have health boards who do not have a system in place for accountability, or ensuring public input to ensure that the boards have a process to evaluate the conditions of the programs they deliver, and I for one, Mr. Speaker, feel that the department has to seriously look at the federal obligations that we have under the Canada Health Act.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister questions on this matter today. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Fundraising for the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to speak about the recent Flight of Dreams fundraiser. Mr. Speaker, most children have all their lives to make wishes come true, but for those children who may never have a tomorrow, there is the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. The goal of the foundation is to provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for children suffering from high-risk, life-threatening illnesses. In order to qualify, a child must be between three and 18, and their wishes can be as simple as a visit to their grandparents or a tour of Disney World.

Last Saturday, Mr. Speaker, Yellowknife hosted its third annual Flight of Dreams, a fundraising gala event where all the proceeds go towards the Children's Wish Foundation, Alberta-NWT Chapter. Approximately 400 people gathered at the Great Slave Helicopters hangar at the airport dressed in formal attire. Guests were provided with an evening of exceptional food, socializing, dancing, along with opportunities to bid on a variety of items, all donated for a silent auction. The event raised \$30,000, Mr. Speaker.

Thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors of this event, it has been an extremely successful endeavour. I am proud to say that the Northwest Territories has raised over \$90,000 this far towards making wishes come true. In fact last year, the staff of Diavik Diamond Mines raised over \$6,000 at their mine site and the RCMP contributed over \$15,000 from their charity golf tournament.

On average, a child's wish works out to be approximately \$6,000 or, to date, 15 wishes. In the first year of existence, our NWT chapter granted eight wishes. As the public became more aware of this foundation, so did the number of requests. It is pleasing to learn that not yet one child in the Northwest Territories has been turned away. Nationally, the Children's Wish Foundation has granted well over 5,000 wishes to Canadian children.

Mr. Speaker, the event was brought north by two residents of Yellowknife, Peter and Terry Arychuk, who have a son that was granted a wish in 1997. I am pleased to say that today he is a happy, healthy teenager, Mr. Speaker.

At the time of their son's illness, there was no coordinator for the Northwest Territories and Terry was asked if she would be interested in taking on this challenging position. Of course, she gracefully accepted.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers and the Arychuks for bringing this worthwhile charity to the North. As Terry Arychuk has said, there is nothing more satisfying than seeing a child's face light up when they are granted their wish. Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Bell, your time for your statement has expired.

**MR. BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, the honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being no nays, you may conclude, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my fellow Members to join me in taking this opportunity to publicly thank everyone involved who contributed to making this fundraising event such a huge success, and I suggest that you mark February 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Utilization of Solar Walls to Combat Rising Energy Costs**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, being Friday, I will start off my statement with some humour. There are many ways to conserve energy, Mr. Speaker. Instead of turning up the heat, you can put on a sweater and slippers, or you can curl up with a big hairy dog.

There are also other ways; the solar wall, Mr. Speaker, which is a northern invention. There is an incentive program to help people with the costs of installing the solar wall in non-residential buildings. The biggest return on costs is the solar wall. It captures heat from the sun and pre-heats the air going into the building. In many northern places, strong sunlight is available five to nine months a year. No matter what the outside temperature is, the solar wall works in the North.

We have seen two examples of it already with the Weledeh School's solar wall and one at the Fort Smith Recreation Centre. The Weledeh wall is 200 square metres and cost \$70,000. This system sucks in air from outside and can heat that air to 30 degrees Celsius, Mr. Speaker.

Forty percent of the cost was a grant from the federal government, so they recouped \$28,000 from the Department of Natural Resources. The wall will pay for itself in six years. The school saves 8,700 litres of heating oil a year. Over the 50-year estimated life of the school, that is 435,000 barrels of oil that will not be used. This saves the fossil fuels going into the atmosphere, saves on greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, Mr. Speaker.

We need to take advantage of this technology. To do that, we need to examine every new building going up in the North to see if it is possible to install a solar wall. Under the federal Department of Natural Resources' Solar Wall Program, solar walls have to be in place by March 2004 to take advantage of the grant. It is called the Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative.

The GNWT should look at incentives such as this for residential houses to help offset rising costs in the Northwest Territories today, Mr. Speaker. There is a software program through the Arctic Energy Alliance, a non-profit organization that can help calculate heat savings for new buildings with solar walls.

Mr. Speaker, there are lost opportunities every time a new commercial, residential or institutional building goes up in the...

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

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is something our government should consider as a policy for any new buildings, including residential buildings that go up in the Northwest Territories, and possibly look at ways of putting solar walls in existing buildings. That would save on fuel costs, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. I think I prefer the solar wall over the hairy dog. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Member's Statement on Addictions**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected in December 1999, I spent a lot of my initial time as an MLA highlighting the issues of addictions in my region. I shared my constituents' cries for help in this area. I even tabled a petition asking for a treatment centre in my region.

Last February, the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services released the Final Report of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services. It was subtitled Let's Get on With It! This report had specific recommendations for addressing addictions and health care across the Territories.

Last week, when the budget address was being given, I was surprised that no mention of addictions was made. Instead, mention was made that there are still gaps in the existing health care analysis and that a new study has been commissioned to map out an action plan.

Within the Dogrib region, the community services board has taken a lead role in addressing addictions. They have put funds toward training drug and alcohol addiction counsellors and they have mapped out an addictions strategy. At a government level, since last year, four women's programs and two youth programs have been completed in the Deh Cho and the Dogrib regions. These programs, as I understand it, are three weeks in length.

Addictions occur territorial-wide and yet there is only one facility in the entire Northwest Territories to deal with these issues. We have studies and we have our people's cries for help in this area. As a government, let us get on with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

### Member's Statement on Visit of Korean Travel Writers

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being Friday, I would like to speak on something half-seriously and maybe with a personal touch. I would like to speak on the burgeoning aurora tourism industry in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of taking part in a dinner hosting 14 Koreans who made a two-day trip to Yellowknife to learn more about the magic of aurora a couple of weeks ago. The group was made up of travel writers and photographers of three major national newspapers in Korea, whose combined subscription makes up almost 60 million people in Korea in newspaper and electronic media. Also in the group were major travel operators based in Korea, as well as an employee of the Canada Tourism Commission and Air Canada, based in Korea.

Even though I was there as a Yellowknife MLA, it was personally a very moving and emotional occasion for me. Of course, I gave this great speech on how when my family moved here from Korea to Yellowknife in 1978, no one in Korea knew where Yellowknife was and there was not a lot of contact from Yellowknife with that part of the world. The speech was very moving. It was in English and it brought tears to the mayor's wife, except that I realized only about two people in the crowd understood English enough to hear my very moving story. I repeated my speech in Korean.

I think the question they had was how I ended up in this part of the world and how was I able to get elected to an office when there were no other Koreans in the city.

Anyway, I ran into them again the next day and had dinner with them. They were very anxious to catch the aurora because they only had two days here. They had packed all of their suitcases and they were going to stay out every single second until they got on the plane so they could catch the aurora.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that I have heard from them and they did indeed catch the aurora. They wrote glorious reports in their national newspaper and on the web, although I cannot read Korean, because my computer is not able to do it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to advise you that there is now a special club in Korea called the Aurora Canada Club. The criteria for this club is it is only for those who have seen the aurora in Canada. Right now, the membership is 14, and they have asked me to join that club as an honorary member. I understand that these tourism operators were impressed enough that they are organizing it to start the industry there.

I would also like to thank Raven Tours for hosting this gathering. I would also like to inform you that I have had time to visit Aurora Village and other places that cater to the aurora

industry, just so I am not mentioning one group only. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

### Member's Statement on Economic Contributions of Big Game Outfitters

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to speak about the economic contribution of one sector of the tourism industry, and that is outfitters who conduct barrenland hunts for visitors to the Northwest Territories.

Members will have received a covering letter and report from Jim Peterson, president of the Northwest Territories Barrenground Caribou Outfitters Association just recently, Mr. Speaker. I would like to highlight a few comments from his correspondence and the report entitled Economic Benefits of Outfitted Hunts for Barrenground Caribou in the NWT, produced by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Big game outfitting is a growing business sector that creates jobs, earns foreign currency and contributes to the overall health of the Northwest Territories. This new study indicates that since the barren-ground outfitting industry was created in 1982, it has grown from five operators to 11 today.

In 1993, Mr. Speaker, the industry generated \$1.92 million. Today, it has generated an estimated \$3.13 million in 1999. Members provided hunts for 595 non-resident hunters and a harvest of 921 caribou. On this basis, Mr. Speaker, each caribou allocated to outfitting was worth \$3,400 to the Northwest Territories GDP and each hunter contributed \$5,300 to our economy.

Other significant benefits include some 880 weeks of employment, half of which accrues to communities outside of Yellowknife. As well, 57 percent of the meat goes to Northwest Territories communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged and optimistic with the successful steps being made toward the implementation of the Dogrib self-government agreements. There have been some issues in the past, Mr. Speaker, in terms of resolving the interests of the tourism operators, including the barrenground caribou outfitters in this region. I understand that progress is being made through improved consultation, communication and trust between the parties, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to a satisfactory resolution of the issue. It is incumbent upon this government to make sure it takes forth its responsibility to recognize the interests of the broad public in negotiations. I think this is an example where progress is being made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like Members to join with me in welcoming a group of young people from William McDonald School, a school in my constituency, to the Assembly today. We are joined by a grade eight class there. The teacher is Belinda Fraser. I know that one of the student's mother works here in the Legislative Assembly, Laurell Graf, and she invited me to embarrass her son royally, but I will not do that to him today. I would like to say *bienvenue* to everybody from William McDonald today.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Mr. Dent. *Bienvenue*. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to recognize two important people who are going to be participating in the Youth Exploration Program: Dianna Beck, the youth coordinator for the Territorial Youth Association; and also from the corporate sponsor, Patrina McDaniel, who is the marketing sales analyst from Canadian North. Welcome. Also, two members to their left is Mr. Stanley Keevik and also Carol Ovayyak from our region in the Mackenzie Delta. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always a pleasure to recognize constituents of the riding of Great Slave and also people who represent the media and carry the message out to the people. I would like to recognize Mr. Lee Selleck. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not often do this since I never have any constituents in the gallery, but today I have a couple of people from Lutselk'e in the gallery. Mr. Wayne Basil and Ms. Delores Michel from Lutselk'e.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize my constituency assistant, Deborah Pottle, in the gallery. I want to thank her for coming over this week to help me get through the constant flow of paper that goes through during session week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Chair would like to recognize Ms. Kim

Moreside and her students. Ms. Moreside teaches math with the Native Women's Association class. Ms. Moreside.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS****Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, I feel there may be a real possibility that the Department of Health and Social Services may have contravened the objectives under the Canada Health Act. My understanding is that the Canada Health Act makes the territorial government responsible for ensuring that agencies delivering programs on behalf of the government are accountable and that the administration and operations are also accountable to this government.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me what monitoring processes are in place to ensure that the boards and agencies delivering programs on behalf of this government are being adhered to?

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

**Return to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated through my Minister's statements and through questions that have been asked in this House, it is my belief that our system is under considerable stress and strain right now. The delivery of health services in particular is something which we need to stay ahead of because it is an ever-changing field. There is constant medical research going on. There are new technologies, new equipment, new pharmaceuticals, new best practices and treatment.

We acknowledge that in order to operate the most effective and quality health care system that we can, there are modifications that we do need to make from time to time. Mr. Speaker, this is why we are undertaking the review that we are at this time. We are also conducting operational audits to ensure that we do have the kind of supervisions and authority reporting mechanisms in place to ensure that those quality services are delivered to our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Minister mentioned there were gaps in the system in areas like home care programs, TB testing, immunization programs and services to adults with special needs. She expressed concerns that those programs are not being delivered to standard and are not being delivered at all. Some

of those programs, like TB testing and immunization, are there for the benefit of our communities to ensure the health of the population.

Having identified this, I would like to know, what is the Minister doing to correct these health risks so that the health of the people in the Northwest Territories will not come to harm? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a department, we are working with the boards to ensure that these services are being delivered and delivered to standard. I think that it is important that when there are issues and concerns that do come up, that we are able to share those with the public and with the Members. Also at the same time, be able to assure them that we are able to do everything in our power to address those issues. I can assure the Member that we are very busily and actively pursuing those remedies at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Madam Groenewegen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

#### **Supplementary to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the Minister has identified any additional resources to ensure that we are implementing programs like TB testing and immunization in the areas that we are responsible for, to ensure they are being implemented and that the residents are not being short-changed in not having these programs delivered to date.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I have been in committee of the whole too long and I am in the chairman mode. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are committed as a department and as a government to ensuring that boards are adequately resourced in order to deliver the programs that we need to deliver.

When we receive the results of our operational review, we will be in a better position to determine whether that resourcing, which we have in place now and the system we have in place for resourcing, is adequate. If it is not, Mr. Speaker, we do have a supplementary reserve which has been set aside until those determinations can be made, which would then be used in order to make sure that those services are in place and up to standard. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned on Monday that the department is aware that there are some deficiencies in delivering programs by health boards, and there is not always a clear means in which the department is required to account. So, Mr. Speaker, the Canada Health Act requires that agencies...

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would just remind Members that supplementary questions should not have a preamble. Certainly the final supplementary should not have a preamble. May we just have the question?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government requires the boards and agencies of the government to administer operations and programs on behalf of the government. They must enforce...

**MR. SPEAKER:** I must hear a question, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister commit to ensuring that the existing standards that are in place are not breaching the Canada Health Act? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Madam Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman...I did it again. I am sorry.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It must be something in the water.

-- Laughter

#### **Further Return to Question 371-14(3): Obligations Under the Canada Health Act**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that in the Northwest Territories, we are indeed living up to all of the principles of the Canada Health Act through our health care system and that all residents of the Northwest Territories are ensured access to health services. We devolve the authority for the delivery of many of these services to the board level. What we are looking at right now is the accountability framework, whereby we are able to monitor that those services are in fact being delivered after we devolve that funding and...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen.

-- Interjection

I would just like to remind responding Ministers that questions should be as short as possible in order to preserve the time in question period. The Minister did answer the question and then she went on beyond that. I will just caution Members. Your rules require that. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### **Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Mr. Bell and I were questioning the government about the fuel rebate that is proposed to be delivered to Northerners, recommending that the government consider a graduated

scheme. I have some questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation on the proposed fuel rebate.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard that as few as 3,000 of the 13,000 households in the Northwest Territories may benefit from this proposed rebate. Can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation tell me if they have an estimate of how many households will receive the fuel rebate?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that approximately 3,300 houses will be receiving the fuel rebate at this time, although that is a preliminary estimate at this point. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So only approximately one quarter of our residents will receive this rebate. Mr. Speaker, we were told that one of the reasons for not having a graduated administration scheme was the difficulty of administering it. Can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation advise me, do clients of the Housing Corporation all receive exactly the same support or does the system vary according to household income?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a maximum amount that the individuals qualify for and that is based on their core need income thresholds. That is intended for the lower income families across the Northwest Territories. It varies across 32 communities. Each community has a different level. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if Housing Corporation programs are currently varied according to income, why could the fuel subsidy not also be varied according to income?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to confirm with the Members here that the Housing Corporation is responsible for the administration of the

program. There is a policy side of it that has been determined between the Housing Corporation and the Department of Finance. We are still working out the various elements of the program. We had said in the last couple of questions raised to me that we would hopefully have something to the public as early as the first week of March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Finance thought that one of the problems was the administration and it would be too complex to administer a varying program, will the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation talk to the Minister of Finance and let him know that current programs do vary according to household income and it would not be difficult to provide the administration of the fuel subsidy according to household income?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 372-14(3): Eligibility for Fuel Cost Rebates**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to speak on this matter. We will be coming to some conclusion rather quickly on the issue of the fuel rebate for all residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to ask Minister Ootes, the Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, about his recent Literacy Strategy. Specifically, I am interested in the \$400,000 he has earmarked for workplace literacy programs. Can the Minister tell me if the private sector was consulted in rolling out how this workplace literacy will be delivered and exactly what the budget would be as well? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. There were two questions there. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We released the Literacy Strategy yesterday. This was after a great deal of consultation that took place over the past several months. We had ten focus groups plus some 200 people who were consulted on the literacy thrust in the Territories. As well, there was a literacy workshop in Yellowknife last fall. We took into account some of the recommendations made on that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this extensive consultation then, can he specifically answer if the private sector and private sector companies were consulted?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether direct contact was made with specific companies. However, as I have said, we had a conference on workplace literacy last fall at which many industries were present. They put forward their issues and those issues were put together by the literacy council. We used that particular information and that conference as a data-gathering opportunity. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicates he is not sure if direct contact was made. I am pretty sure direct contact was not made, Mr. Speaker. I would like a commitment from this Minister that he will consult with the private sector now.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Mr. Speaker, we had a conference here last fall. Which industries would you like us to contact? Which businesses? We are very expansive in this Territory. This program is meant for workplace literacy. We will provide \$400,000 based on application from industries. We know that large industries, for example, BHP has established their own literacy program. We know that other industries are establishing their own programs. We understand that there is a need out there. We have identified \$400,000 for that purpose. Additionally, small businesses may apply for this as well as larger operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

**Supplementary to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, BHP has identified monies for workplace literacy. I think this is out of desperation as the government is not doing its job. I hope...

**MR. SPEAKER:** A question, please. Order, please. Mr. Bell, may we have the question?

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we had a conference, Mr. Speaker, but surely it is not too much work for the Minister to call some of the major companies like BHP and Diavik. Will he do that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 373-14(3): Workplace Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did personally meet with BHP in the fall to discuss their literacy thrust. I am well aware of that. As well, I have been in touch with Diavik's training group. Glen Zelinski is the head of that. I met with him not one Sunday ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am on top of this. I know what industry needs of this. I know what businesses need. It is not only large industries we have to be concerned about, Mr. Speaker. We have to be concerned about the smaller operations in the Territories as well, the aboriginal groups, et cetera. These all fall into this as well, Mr. Speaker.

With regard to why we did not meet our responsibility, we do not have that kind of money and we did not. That is why we are putting this money in, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation dealing with the solar wall. Has the Housing Corporation looked at installing solar walls in all commercial and institutional buildings in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not part of our policy in the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, but we have been involved with the Arctic Energy Alliance. We will direct our staff to begin to look at the cost-effectiveness of this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost-effectiveness and the kindness to the environment is proof enough, because 450,000 barrels of fuel in 50 years is quite a lot of fossil fuels, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister commit to the Members in this House that he will look at putting solar walls on all commercial and institutional buildings that the government puts up in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not indentured to speak on behalf of the commercial builders or other departments of our government. However, if it applies to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, we will obtain further information and hopefully respond back to the Member in reply to his question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**MR. NITAH:** The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is in the business of building new residential homes in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister commit to this House that they will look at installing solar walls on any new buildings that comes up for residents in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have answered questions with regard to alternative heating sources yesterday or the day before. We can look at solar systems as suitable or an alternative source for residential use. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister commit to this House that they will look at developing incentive policies for those who already own homes in the Northwest Territories that want to put in solar walls and reduce their consumption of fuel, or can we expect rebates for those who have hairy dogs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 374-14(3): Solar Wall Installation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we certainly cannot help everyone. If there are requests coming from individual homeowners and they do qualify under our existing homeownership repair programs, that may be taken as a consideration. Although I must advise the Member that a lot of these requests are relatively new, but we will respond accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government has recently announced their intention to earmark \$2 million a year for the next three years towards better educating our population. The purpose of the Literacy Strategy will hopefully go a long way towards making our residents better able to read and write, thereby making them more productive citizens. I cannot agree more, Mr. Speaker, with the importance of increasing literacy rates.

I have a concern though that our educators are having more and more burdens placed on them. In addition to class sizes and resources, they are encountering negative attitudes and disrespect in the classroom. This has escalated to the point where many of our teachers are going on stress leave, more and more teachers are looking at early retirement or retirement packages.

Another area, Mr. Speaker, is kids not attending class. It is a pretty sad day when restaurants have to put up signs that they will not serve kids during school hours simply because many of the kids are getting out of school.

I was wondering if the Minister could advise the House as to what the department is doing for long-term solutions towards eradicating some of the inherent stress placed upon our educators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very good question. There is no doubt that there are stresses in the classroom and it is beyond one of the areas that we are solving and attempting to solve.

First of all, on the size of the classrooms and the student needs, we are putting several million more per year into that area to bring down the PTR and to provide student support.

As well, in the area of concern that there is effective behaviour within classrooms, we are addressing that as we speak. We have had several of our teachers in Vancouver to look at the possibility of how to address this. Apparently, British Columbia has a developing program that may assist us in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if those initiatives are going to be addressing parents and the issue of putting the onus back on the parents and the kids themselves for their

responsibility in gaining their education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt that through our student needs survey that was completed, one of the areas identified was the need for better attendance of students, especially in the more senior years, and support from the community and support from the home. Our efforts through the funding process of the student needs survey, we have a committee called SPAR that allocates funding for the student needs survey. We intend to address that issue through that process. It is a critical issue, as the Member has said. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to see the day where it goes back to yardsticks and strapping, but will some of these initiatives give teachers a little bit more authority for discipline in the classroom to better educate the kids? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the reasons why we are interested to see what has been done in other jurisdictions. For example, I did reference the British Columbia example, where they are working on an effective behaviour support system for teachers and how to approach discipline issues in classrooms, be supportive of parents and so forth. It is an area we are starting to develop to look at. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering if the Minister could inform this House if he has any statistics on the number of our teachers who are on stress leave right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 375-14(3): Relieving Stress on Educators**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have those statistics with me, but I will get them for the Member.

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

**Question 376-14(3): Viability of Community Services Boards**

**MR. MCLEOD:** My question is for the Minister of Health. Earlier this week, I raised the request from Fort Providence for a community services board. We heard in this House, in committee and in the media, about the study being done by George Cuff. I would like to ask the Minister if she would confirm whether or not the terms of reference for that study includes the examination of the viability of community-based boards in some of the larger communities, or does it limit itself to examination of the existing system of regional boards? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 376-14(3): Viability of Community Services Boards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. It does not limit itself to the existing board structures. We are looking at different alternatives to what we may have now, if it is deemed to be more effective. The consultants are seeking input from people who would be knowledgeable and have ideas and suggestions about this.

The opportunity to meet with the consultant has been made available to Members. Certainly I would encourage Members who may have ideas about things like community services boards to share those ideas with the consultants when they have their interviews with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 376-14(3): Viability of Community Services Boards**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you. Would the Minister of Health indicate if there would be a willingness to begin talks with the community of Fort Providence in order to establish a community services board in that community?

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

**Further Return to Question 376-14(3): Viability of Community Services Boards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it would be prudent to wait until we have the recommendations of the review back prior to commencing consultation on specific models. However, we could arrange for people in the community to feed their input into the review that

is ongoing now. That could be accomplished, but as far as the government getting involved in pursuing those kinds of models before we have the results of the overall review, I just think the time would be better afterwards. Certainly we would like feedback and input from everyone possible and their ideas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 376-14(3): Viability of Community Services Boards**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a concern raised by Members of this House and in the communities that the study may be setting the stage for re-centralization. If that should happen, there is a real fear that we would be encountering difficulties and we would not see a further devolution of services to community services boards.

However, it is apparent that we will not be looking at any new initiatives until the study is concluded. I would like to ask the Minister if she could give an indication of when could we expect the results of this study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 376-14(3): Viability of Community Services Boards**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we had anticipated the recommendations from the review being available by June. As I indicated in committee of the whole as well, we would like those recommendations to come to us sooner, though I think the earliest we could reasonably expect them would be in May. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hakuna Matata. Don't worry, be happy. A saying I used earlier, Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the Minister of Finance. Unfortunately, it is just a saying right now and I do have concerns, especially when we look at the budget address under the heading of tax income.

Mr. Speaker, the Finance Minister once again raised the issue of taxes and he is talking here of personal income taxes. We had this issue raised earlier this week by my colleague from Range Lake. I have concerns, especially when we look at the previous budget address that we came into this fiscal year with, there was talk of taxes being included in that as well. Mr. Speaker, that shows a complete turnaround from what we were initially told as Members about taxes.

I would like to know from the Finance Minister what his intent is about personal income taxes. Thank you.

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

#### **Return to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my budget address, my intention on personal income tax is to do as all the other jurisdictions across Canada have, and move to a tax on income rather than our tax being a percentage of federal tax. That allows us much more flexibility.

As well, I mentioned in my budget address that I am looking at setting up an advisory panel to give me advice. This would be a panel made up of people who have expertise in the income tax area. They will be reporting back to me within a matter of months and giving me more advice on how we may want to restructure our taxes. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe he should have put in his budget address that he will be dealing with tax accountants.

Mr. Speaker, my question is why has the Minister not brought this forward to the committee to initially start discussions there, so that we can all have input and speak for our constituents as well?

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

#### **Further Return to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to bring it to the committee at any time the committee wants to discuss it. As well, as I mentioned in response to another Member's question the other day, I will bring the terms of reference for the proposed committee and certainly will bring to the committee any advice that is provided to me by this advisory panel. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our concern is that he would bring advice to us, to tell us how it would be implemented, and possible increases. If we delink, as the Finance Minister intends, is that in fact a way of possibly coming in for increases? I would like to know, if he comes forward to the committee to bring this, at what stage will it be?

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

### Further Return to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I do not appreciate the implying of motives in my statement of what I intend to do. I want to be open with the Members. I do not have any motive of trying to, as Mr. Roland suggests or implies, of increasing income taxes. That is not my intention. My intention is to develop a good northern personal income tax system, one that is made in the North using our expertise. I will work with the committee to do that. I have committed to doing that. I do not have a hidden agenda as the Member suggests. Thank you.

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

### Supplementary to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to having that meeting with the Minister in committee to see some of the details that he may have already worked out. His reference to my making comment...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question, please.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the Finance Minister have information available for committee?

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

### Further Return to Question 377-14(3): Individual Income Tax Returns

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I find the Member very confused. First of all, he said that he did not want me to bring him information. He wanted me to come and talk to the committee. I am prepared to do that as soon as he calls a meeting. I will do that this afternoon if he likes. In terms of information, the information, as I mentioned the other day, on the terms of reference for the advisory committee, I will do that once our main appropriations are through here.

Second, Mr. Speaker, is information from the advisory committee. I will bring that forward when the advisory committee brings me that information. I have not prepared a bunch of information at this point. I have served notice in the budget address that I intended to move us in that direction as have all other jurisdictions across Canada. About the only information I can share right now is information on what is happening in other parts of Canada, which my staff have been collecting. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

### Question 378-14(3): Water Quality Liability Concern

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in our discussion on water, the issue of the impact of Walkerton came up in terms of what happens if there are not clear standards or enforcement, and liability was mentioned as well. It has just been brought to my attention that in fact there is

another ripple effect because of Walkerton. I have been led to believe that the NWTAM has group insurance for all the communities and have discovered that their rates are going to go up by as much as 70 to 75 percent, and one of the issues is the liability resulting from the disaster at Walkerton and what happened in that community and what happened in that municipality.

I would like to ask the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs if he is aware of that particular turn of events and what the department plans to do to work with the communities to make sure that they do not get overburdened by these significant cost increases. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

### Return to Question 378-14(3): Water Quality Liability Concern

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must concur with the Member that I am not aware of the turn of events. I will endeavour to find a response back to the question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

### Supplementary to Question 378-14(3): Water Quality Liability Concern

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that, because I just became aware of this a few minutes ago. I would like to ask the Minister if he would keep me informed, and I will speak on that, and as well that my colleagues be kept informed, because if that is the case, it is going to potentially affect all of our communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

### Further Return to Question 378-14(3): Water Quality Liability Concern

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as the Minister responsible for MACA, I will try to gather all the required information and reply back to this House as soon as we can.

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

### Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is regarding the recruitment and retention challenges of nurses. Mr. Speaker, on February 20 in the committee of the whole debate, the Minister stated that:

“Nurses and social workers are lumped in with all other public servants, which makes it difficult to accommodate their issues, and leads to recruitment and retention challenges”

Mr. Speaker, we have information from the union that states in fact that the fact the nurses are part of the Public Service Act does not have anything to do with the challenges we face with recruitment and retention. In fact, there are....

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Chair feels that the preamble is a bit too long. Question, please.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of this information, would the Minister not agree that this is not the reason why there are challenges in recruiting nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Return to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in specific relation to some of the suggestions that have been made in order to address some of the recruitment and retention issues around health care professionals, which are in very short supply right now, the fact that they are all part of a collective agreement with many other workers in the public service does present a challenge. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister not agree that may be one factor, but there are a lot of other issues that are making it difficult for the nurses, such as burn out, because of the overtime they have to work and many other situations involved with the working conditions? Would she not agree?

Also, it is not just about money, which is what is addressed by market supplements...

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

**MS. LEE:** That is not what the question is.

**AN. HON. MEMBER:** You already asked the question.

#### **Further Return to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of shortages of nurses and health care professionals nationally and internationally is a contributing factor. Working conditions is a contributing factor and the discussion around things such as housing in the remote communities is also a factor. We are not able to address the issue of housing for nurses in the small communities in isolation. We would have to address it for all public service employees. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Minister has agreed to my first question. I wonder if the Minister would look at all of the other conditions, besides the fact that they are a part of the public service, to see if we can address those issues. Would the Minister consider that, please?

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

#### **Further Return to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are continually looking at ways we can enhance our abilities to recruit and retain health care professionals in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

#### **Supplementary to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to suggest that the one way for the Minister to find out what the situations are is to do an exit interview of all nurses who are leaving their jobs. Would the Minister consider looking into that?

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

#### **Further Return to Question 379-14(3): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree that the information that could be gathered from exit interviews would be very helpful in determining the kinds of things that have contributed to our high turnover.

The nurses are the employees of health boards and we would have to secure the cooperation and concurrence of boards to conduct these. It would be difficult for the department to track down these individuals, as when they are leaving, they may not always be passing through headquarters. We would have to work with the boards to ensure that exit interviews were conducted. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen. During the November session, the Minister stated that it is not that the department wants to get away from residential treatment programs, but that they are fairly costly to run.

Last week, I received information from a Minister indicating that the department spent over \$325,000 in this fiscal year sending

people to southern facilities. This cost does not include the associated travel costs.

Can the Minister tell me what the associated travel costs are for sending Northerners to southern treatment centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Return to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those costs would be covered under medical travel in most instances. I would not be able to provide that level of detail, but I could undertake to get an estimation of those costs associated with those referrals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, the associated travel costs for sending people to Hay River, since we have no treatment centres in the North Slave. If the Minister can provide me with that information as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I could probably fairly quickly have the department identify those costs as well. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In November, the Minister stated that the department wanted to have a comprehensive selection of different types of treatment that community members could access. Can the Minister tell me where they are now in developing the different treatment options? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department, as most Members are aware, is just about to bring an addictions and mental health framework to the standing committee. This is something that has been prepared in cooperation with the health and social services boards and a number of other agencies. We are hoping that this particular strategy, which will be complete with costing and

an action plan, will help us identify a selection of alternatives for people who are wishing treatment for addictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister commit to looking at putting a facility in the North Slave region, as we have only one facility in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 380-14(3): Costs of Residential Treatment Programs**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the idea of a residential treatment centre in the North Slave is something that can be discussed. Our statistics and information indicate that there are numerous types of treatment and help for people with addictions that are successful and effective.

We need to consider, together with the Social Programs Committee, what the most beneficial expenditure of the resources we have is in addressing addictions. We feel that the 30 residential treatment beds we have here in the North now is, on a per capita basis, fairly substantial. There may be other options that are less expensive and equally as effective. Certainly, we are willing to discuss all alternatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 381-14(3): Changes to Labour Standards Legislation**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday, my colleague from Range Lake asked the Minister for Justice, the Honourable Jim Antoine, about parental leave benefits. At that time, the Minister advised the House that the government was looking very carefully at it and hopefully will make the necessary changes to accommodate this change in labour standards.

Since then, I, and I believe other Members, have received calls from constituents to see if there was more certainty to this. Can the Minister advise today, Mr. Speaker, will this government be bringing forward changes to complement the federal labour standards? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

#### **Return to Question 381-14(3): Changes to Labour Standards Legislation**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the honourable Member for the

question. Later on today in the House, I will be giving notice that I will be moving this bill, Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act. Hopefully that will formally kick the process off of making the amendments. There is certainty in that stuff. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary to Question 381-14(3): Changes to Labour Standards Legislation**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that recent bit of information. I am wondering if the Minister could then advise the House and the public, given our process and our procedure, when might enactment of that proposal become reality? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 381-14(3): Changes to Labour Standards Legislation**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this amendment is a good one, seeing that the federal government has changed the Employment Insurance Act to give parents additional weeks, up to 50 weeks, for combined pregnancy and parental leave. Our Labour Standards Act only allows up to 29 weeks. We would like to make some changes to take in the benefits that the new EI is allowing it. It is really the will of the House here to move it through in this sitting. Thank you.

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

**Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. It is in light of the statement I made yesterday and the letters that I tabled in regard to the non-compliance order issued to the Department of Public Works for the breach of the health regulations with regard to water.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, what role does his department play when these compliances are filed, since the department is responsible for municipalities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the role of the department is that we are the funding agency that provides funding to the municipalities, so that they themselves have good operation of both their water and sewer programs. We work in cooperation with the Department of Health and Social Services, who really is responsible for the water guidelines. We also work with Public Works and

Services, who manages several water sources in the communities, if that answers the Member's question. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, I believe the infrastructure in Tsiigehtchic is an asset of this government. Since it is an asset of this government, are we also liable for having a water treatment facility that is not up to par?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer this question in the context of the question raised by the honourable Member for Thebacha. We are trying to ascertain the liability factors at this point. I am not sure that I have all of the answers. I am going to take it and find out and respond back. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me if the department analyzes all of the water samples and reports that are submitted to the environmental health office?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, not at the department per se. We do have Public Works and Services take the water samples and submit them to the various laboratories from the various communities. Some come to Yellowknife and others go to Nahendeh and it goes to Fort Simpson. We are responsible to help the communities to follow through with the process. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is basically stating that his department has no liability or no fault if anything happens with the water system?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 382-14(3): Departmental Role in Water Compliance Issues**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not say that we were avoiding the liability. The liability question was raised earlier and I said that we would ascertain from our department's perspective to find out more technically detailed information as it applies to that very question.

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

**Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question again is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It is about the Literacy Strategy that he unveiled. I am wondering if the Minister can tell us how the \$700,000 in community level literacy is to be delivered? Specifically, who will be the delivery agent for the \$700,000 worth of work?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to state that the Literacy Strategy is a \$2.4 million strategy. The \$700,000 is one component. There are a number of components to this. It is intended that we use the \$700,000 to ensure that literacy is delivered in communities. It will be a combination, Mr. Speaker, of the Aurora College. They will coordinate with NGOs and community service institutions. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to hear that. It was my initial understanding that the bulk of the \$700,000 would be spent through delivery of ABE by Aurora College. We all know that some of the communities do not have Aurora College. Just for clarification, where there is no Aurora College, NGOs will be delivering this program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, the assumption is being made that that is the way it will be. As I said, we will work with the NGOs because we cannot just commit to say if the college is not present in a community, then it will definitely be an NGO. That is not feasible in many cases,

Mr. Speaker, because there may not be an interest on the part of the community to deliver it. However, our interest is there to ensure that we work with the NGOs wherever possible. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So then it will be up to the responsibility of the community and community groups to apply for the bulk of this funding. Is that correct?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, like other areas as well, Mr. Speaker, as I said, we have a number of programs. They are quite extensive. We want to ensure that we get word out that organizations that are interested in the delivery system contact us and ensure that they have an opportunity to look at this particular program for possible delivery. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I am glad to hear NGOs will be involved. We all know that by giving the NGOs some of this money, they are able to leverage other funds, such as federal money in the area of literacy. I think it is a very effective delivery mechanism. Will this be on a first come, first serve basis? If the \$700,000 gets used up, some communities may be left out in the cold.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 383-14(3): Delivery of Literacy Programs**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of the details of this still have to be worked out. There is an implementation stage now that has to be instituted. It cannot be strictly on a first come, first serve basis. Our intent is to ensure that communities out there have literacy programs. That is very important. Combined with that and we referenced that earlier, we spoke on that, we have literacy programs for the aboriginal languages, for seniors, and for a number of other areas. With the \$700,000, I think it is a case of making sure that it gets into the hands of the communities. Thank you.

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

**Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to reassure the Minister responsible for Finance that I am not confused, but I am confused by his responses. On one hand, no taxes and fees, on the other, taxes and fees, executive assistant-DM. Mr. Speaker, can the Finance Minister inform us, as he stated that he might have some information on the personal income tax issue, what information does he have?

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

**Return to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, as I said in my earlier comment, the Department of Finance is now collecting information on the experience that all of the provinces have gone to a tax on income. What experiences they have had with this approach, that is the information I have right now. The department may have other specific pieces that I am not aware of. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to when we would look at delinking from the federal government tax situation that we are in presently?

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

**Further Return to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, with the support of the committee and all the Members of this House, our intention is to do this in the 2003 tax year.

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

**Supplementary to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the delinking, it seems like a fairly straightforward situation as other provinces are doing that. Why is there a need for an advisory committee in this instance?

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

**Further Return to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, my objective in doing this is not just for the sake of delinking our tax from the federal tax

and going from a federal tax to a tax on income. My intention in doing this is to establish a northern-made, northern personal income tax income and structure that fits all our needs best. So I see this as much bigger than just delinking it. I think this is a tremendous opportunity for us to design our own tax system in the North. It is much more complicated than simply just delinking. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Finance Minister commit to this House and the people of the Northwest Territories that through this process, he will not be increasing personal income tax for residents of the Northwest Territories?

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

**Further Return to Question 384-14(3): Individual Income Tax Initiative**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, what I can commit is to working with all the Members, the committees, anyone who wants to have consultation with me on designing a northern personal income system and structure. I cannot commit quite honestly that it is not going to change.

If we want to have exactly the same as we have now, then I would not be going through this exercise. I think it is possible now to develop a system that better meets the needs of all our people, whether it is the working poor who are trying to make ends meet or whether it is at the higher income levels or whether it is dealing with people who have money they want to invest and hope we invest in the North. It is a complicated exercise. I cannot say to all people that there will be no tax increases. Quite honestly, I cannot say that, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The time for question period is over. Item 7, written questions. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Hay River South, Madam Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek to unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition in visitors in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Madam Groenewegen.

**REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize some of the members of the Status of Women Council board of directors. In particular, I would like to recognize Mrs. Tessie Gonzales, who is from Hay River. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two ladies from Holman, Ms. Annie Goose and Ms. Jean Apakualuk. Ms. Apakualuk is a member of the Status of Women Council.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you. As the MLA for the Sahtu, I would like to welcome and recognize Theresa Etchinelli from Tulita.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce residents of Inuvik. He caught me off guard here, but we have a class of students and teachers from Samuel Hearne School in Inuvik.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I would like to welcome the students. It is always nice to have young people come and observe their Legislative Assembly at work. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a good friend and constituent from Weledeh. I introduced her the other day and just mentioned that she is the chairperson for the Status of Women Council. I did not mention her name. I apologize to her for that. Vi Beck. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes, I would like to recognition Mr. Steve MacFadyen, Mr. Gordon Robertson, Mr. Shane Brewster and Mr. McDonald. Welcome to the gallery.

-- Applause

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Jenny Turner-Beck and Dianna Beck. I am not sure if they live in my constituency or not...Yes, they do.

-- Laughter

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** They are also involved with the Native Womens Association and are good community people here. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Again, I would like to welcome everyone who has come to observe the Legislative Assembly. Welcome to your Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I just want to remind Members, of course, as my duties dictate me to, that you only get one shot at recognition of visitors in the gallery usually, but we cannot go for more than 30 seconds. The Chair is going to exercise a little leniency today. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

##### Reply 7-14(3)

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just reviewing the budget address, there are some good initiatives in the budget, but I also have to warn that we are not out of the woods when it comes to the deficit of this government. I have gone through the cuts that we have had to bear in the North in the last five years and I do not want to see ourselves jump back into that problem, especially realizing that we have a debt wall of some \$40 million. The initiatives that are in the budget call for borrowing, in some areas up to \$100 million for the highway initiatives we put in place.

I think also we have to realize that we do have to continue to ensure that our programs and services that we do deliver are adequately funded and that we do serve the residents that we are elected to serve.

Mr. Speaker, we have a thriving economic future in the oil and gas industry and also with regard to the diamond industry, tourism and the other sectors that are out there. I think I see very much missing in this budget in the amount of resources and revenues that presently continue to flow to Ottawa.

I am talking, Mr. Speaker, of the royalties that presently the federal government receives on behalf of this government. I for one feel that we have to do more to ensure we get our fair share of the resources that this federal government presently gets. To date, they receive some \$343 million in federal royalties, some \$346 million in corporate income tax and also in other benefits that arrive at more than \$800 million benefiting the federal government. Yet the grant we receive from the federal government is somewhere in that range, but this has been going on for quite a few years.

We had some major oil and gas developments with regard to the Norman Wells area that was discovered back in 1921 and has been in production ever since. There have been a lot of resources and revenues which have flowed to southern Canada. As Northerners, we are still struggling to meet the needs of the people of the North. I feel that we have to continue to pound on the federal door to make them aware that we need those resources.

We are the ones who live with the social and economic impacts that come from these developments. We are the ones who are going to be left with the holes in the ground, the resources being exploited. You are talking about a non-renewable resource which can never be replaced. Once it is gone, it is gone. You cannot go back for more.

We are talking about diamond industries. We have seen other countries and other provinces across the country that have

exploited their resources to find out they have a bigger problem now than when they started. I feel that is one area that is missing in this budget.

We have to speed up the process to devolve the Northern Accord, the control of our northern resources to Northerners. It is done everywhere else in Canada except in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. That is one of the big items I do not see in this budget.

Another area that I have concerns about is we realize we do have problems with literacy with regard to programs in our communities, but the programs that are being allocated in the budget are insufficient in order to deal with that problem. We have opportunities with regard to employment in different areas, but unless we have the people qualified to take on those positions, it is all for naught. We will continue to see people fly in and fly out taking jobs away from Northerners.

I feel the resources that are in the budget with regard to the allocation of wages distributed, \$15,000 to a community with the population under...you cannot do much for \$15,000 these days. In order to do justice to delivering literacy programs and other programs in our small communities, we have to have the resources to attract good teachers, good people to carry out those responsibilities to ensure that we improve on the latest recent statistics and employment statistics in a lot of our small communities. I feel that more emphasis and dollars have to be put into that area.

Another area that I have concerns about is with regard to the whole area of the hotel tax. It was a good idea, but I do believe this government is presently talking about a \$20 million surplus, yet the amount of money for that, subject to not having a hotel tax, is \$375,000. That is an administration fee. That is just to administer the program. That is not even to deliver it.

I feel that if we are serious about tourism and serious about promoting that industry in the Northwest Territories, we have to increase the amount of money in the budget to somewhere in the area of \$1 million a year. We have cut that budget where it is barely surviving just to make the little things like brochures, pamphlets and what not and even maps for tourists. We have to do more in that area. I for one feel that is an area we have to improve on.

With regard to the different subsidies, what we have in the budget will assist the people but I think we have to do more in that area to find new ways and new initiatives to find ways to bring down the high cost of energy, the high cost of diesel fuel in the Northwest Territories.

We as a government, and also the federal government, receive a lot of taxes out of these products with regard to gasoline, diesel fuel and what not. Somehow we have to try to find ways to regulate that industry. We are sitting on major oil and gas fields, yet in the case of Inuvik and the Delta, the cost of natural gas has increased to such an amount that it is not as feasible as it was just a number of years ago. There again, we have to find ways to deal with those problems.

Regarding the highway investment program, I support the initiative. It will speed up the process, but I do not feel that we can take the risk at this time of borrowing \$100 million on the assumption we are going to generate \$15 million out of taxes. If we do not generate the \$15 million out of toll fees and what not,

what are we going to do to bring down the debt of borrowing \$100 million? It is going to go back to my original argument that we do have a deficit. We are not out of the woods with regard to our deficit situation. We are limited on the amount of money that we can borrow. I feel we can ensure that we protect ourselves against those unforeseen scenarios. If we do not meet the goals that we are trying to set, what do we do then?

The developments we are talking about today with regard to the mine industry, we are talking about Diavik developing their facility. Once the facility is in place, the demand for the tolls will be limited and the numbers we are looking at will be going down.

The same thing with the oil and gas industry. Once the industry has developed the infrastructure, their camps, their airports, they are bringing in their drilling rigs and have these facilities on base, we are going to be left with supplying the materials that are needed to maintain those camps and those facilities.

I think that is something we have to look out for to ensure our projections are right and that we do not find ourselves borrowing more money than we can actually pay off, or finding ourselves back in a situation where we are stuck with a major deficit like we have been in the last number of years.

Also, the other area I feel is missing, or we need more done on, is ensuring that community support is there for the overall development of community infrastructure and human resources within our communities. We have to allow communities to be more independent and more self-sufficient. For the amount of nickels and dimes we throw at them, it does not suffice. We have to give them the adequate resources that are needed to carry out programs and services.

We cannot continue to do strategies and continue to do proposals and at the end of it all, we have are some great recommendations, but we limit the resources that are really needed to carry out those responsibilities, especially within our small communities who are trying to take on more responsibilities for programs and services.

One thing I feel is very much missing is there is a real reluctance for communities to take on Government of the Northwest Territories programs, because they have been burned so much in the last couple of years because of the cuts and the limited resources that are there.

I will use an example. Right now, the Beaufort Delta area is going through a major development boom, yet the resource dollars within the region, especially in economic development and tourism, have been slashed because of a \$10 million cut that was made to this government to different programs and services. They cannot even assist in the development of proposals for regional corporations to take part in this development. These organizations are now turning to the federal government saying the Government of the Northwest Territories cannot help us, we have to get our assistance through Indian Affairs.

We are looking at aboriginal program dollars from the federal government. I do not think that is fair to the people who may not be able to access that funding. There again, I think we have to ensure that we expand on the economic dollars that we have out there, and that we find ways to improve the economic situation that we find ourselves in.

If we are not going to take advantage of these opportunities that are sitting at our door now, we are going to lose out and we cannot afford to lose out on development such as oil and gas or mining, because we did not have the resources to assist groups to take advantage of that opportunity during that window that is there right now.

Again, another issue that I feel is critical and I applaud the government that we are looking into it, is the whole area of FAE/FAS, literacy and other social programs. There again, we have to ensure that the resources and the people are there who are trained and have the skills to deal with the problem.

We cannot just give it to a front-line worker and say, "Here is a program, deliver it." They have to have the qualifications, they have to have the skills, and they have to have the resources to carry out the programs. We should not tie their hands because of some policy or some initiative that the government put in place that limits the people who are carrying out these programs to do them justice and do it in such a way that they feel that they need that flexibility or they need the room to move with regard to that program.

The other area that I think that we have to seriously work on is with the government's roads to resources. We have accessed some dollars from the federal government to build bridges on the winter road in the Sahtu. I think we have to do more to access federal dollars to improve not only bridges, but also develop the infrastructure that we have out there.

I have brought forth to this House the possibility of... and also with regard to the environmental situation we find ourselves in. In the Delta this year, the last time I counted, someone mentioned there were 30 incidents where vehicles went through the ice. That is not only a possible environmental hazard, but it is also a safety question. We have to ensure that public safety is out there and that we are operating in the North knowing that we do have some harsh conditions to operate under.

I think it is important as a government that we do improve our infrastructure. I for one support the Member for North Slave in trying to find roads to communities. I put a motion to this House to look at the possibility of an all-weather road to Aklavik, yet there is no mention of it in here. I received a letter back from the Minister saying, "Sorry, the financial situation does not call for it," but he is supporting the road to Tuktoyaktuk.

If we can do it in one area, we should do it in other communities. I think we have an obligation to the residents of the Northwest Territories to allow them to have the ability to move and if that means putting all-weather roads into all our communities, I support that 100 percent.

I also believe that we have to start improving our infrastructure for the demand that is going to be needed from the renewable and non-renewable resource sector, especially looking at getting permanent bridges built. Right now we are having problems with our river crossings or even the ferry operations in light of what is happening in Fort Providence.

I for one feel that we have to start expanding our infrastructure to allow for the federal government to start investing some of those millions of dollars they have taken out over the years with respect to royalties and revenues that are out there.

One area that I see is lacking in the presentation is the whole area of aboriginal self-government, the whole area of ensuring that land claims are being implemented, and that we as a government continue to live up to those obligations and not forget about them.

This government has taken on several initiatives. We are looking at doing major reviews with regard to the Business Incentive Policy. We are doing a review of the Wildlife Act. We are doing several reviews, but yet, Mr. Speaker, we are not allowing organizations or aboriginal groups to have fair input. You cannot drop a report on someone's desk and say, "What do you think? Here it is."

We have to give them the resources to actually thoroughly go through it and see if it has an effect on their land claims, their rights, or how it is going to affect them personally with regard to the way they operate a business or operate any resources they may need. Right now, I do not see in any of these studies or any of these reports, incremental funding that goes to organizations or aboriginal groups to ensure that their rights are not being infringed upon.

One of the things that came out is the whole area of aboriginal income tax, and also with regard to the aboriginal agreements where it clearly states that this government, in changing any preferential policies, has to have full consultation with those groups. That does not mean that you send them a report in the mail and say okay, we want your input. I believe it means that we as a government have to ensure that they have the resources and they have the resource people to do a thorough review to ensure that their rights are not being jeopardized.

With regard to the other initiative that this government is looking at with respect to the hydro development, I feel that if anything is going to be done in hydro development, that we have to ensure that the benefits flow to everyone. It is not just in one region. If it means that we give a tax credit to bring down power rates in other jurisdictions -- so that we can make it as fair to all residents in the Northwest Territories, it does not matter where you live -- but if there are any benefits, economically or in regard to profit margins or whatever of these operations, that it goes back into an overall fund so that we are able to bring down the cost of living in the Northwest Territories and not continue to see these increases, such as tax increases, property increases, or other increases that are out there.

There was mention in the Minister's statement about the whole area of the regulatory reform process and how we have to involve industry and what not. I for one feel that it is federal legislation and it is a federal responsibility. As a government, we are part and parcel of that process.

We have to find ways of ensuring the working relationship between industry, the aboriginal groups and governments and make it clear that we do not, just for the sake of opening up development, cut away at the regulations and make it such an easy process that there are no real thorough reviews or there is no real thorough environmental protection in place, to ensure that we have systems there that actually do justice to communities.

One area that I feel that allows through that act, especially with regard to the environmental assessment process, allows for social and economic reviews to take place as part of the environmental reviews. We have seen the social and economic

benefit agreements with regard to the diamond industry, but to date there is no such regime with respect to the oil and gas industry.

I think we have to be able to develop legislation to ensure that we have the same protection in the oil and gas industry as the aboriginal groups in regard to their social and economic benefit agreements in the mining industry.

We have to find a balance between the different initiatives with regard to oil and gas, minerals or any other development that takes place, so that everyone is able to benefit and we do not have one group getting more benefits than the other, that there is a balance there.

Mr. Speaker, those are some of my points with regard to the budget address. Mahsi.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Krutko. Thank you. Item 10, replies to the budget address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### **ITEM 16: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

##### **Bill 20: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 26, 2001, I will move that Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

##### **Bill 21: An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 26, 2001, I will move that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### **ITEM 17: MOTIONS**

##### **Motion 16-14(3): Amendment to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a motion to amend the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

WHEREAS it is necessary to clarify in the rules of the Legislative Assembly that a Minister shall be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures;

AND WHEREAS, it is desirable to appoint a Minister as the fourth alternative to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Rule 87(2) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by inserting "and the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures" after "Accountability and Oversight";

AND FURTHER, that the following be added to Rule 87(3), 87(3) will read:

The Membership of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures shall consist of:

- a) four Members and one Minister; and
- b) four alternative Members, one of whom shall be a Minister.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make note that we do not have a quorum. We do now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The Chair does recognize a quorum. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Bill 19, Committee Report 5-14(3), Committee Report 6-14(3), Committee Report 7-14(3), with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Welcome to committee of the whole. We are dealing with Bill 19, Committee Report 5-14(3), Committee Report 6-14(3), Committee Report 7-14(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would defer to the Minister of Finance, but there would be just too many rules for him to have. I would just like to suggest that we continue with Bill 19, consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services. Should we conclude that, then the Department of Transportation? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. We will continue with regard to the Department of Health and Social Services. We are on page 6-19. We will take a short break.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I will now call the committee back to order. Would the Minister like to bring in any witnesses?

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to bring in witnesses.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses in? Madam Minister, can you please introduce your witnesses?

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have with me today Ms. Penny Ballantyne, the deputy minister for the department, and Mr. Warren St. Germaine, director of financial and management services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. The committee is considering page 619, primary and acute care programs, budget summary, operations expense, total operations, \$91,328,000. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under contributions to boards of management, I was wondering if we could get a breakdown of how much is provided to each of the boards?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Deh Cho, \$9,193,350; Deninu, \$1,124,973; the Dogrib, \$5,257,118; Fort Smith, \$8,423,833; Hay River, \$9,856,312; Inuvik, \$34,326,481; Lutselk'e, \$925,097; Stanton, \$33,320,078; and Yellowknife Health and Social Services, \$13,671,184. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuvik and Stanton boards sounded like very similar amounts. I had expected that there be somewhat of a larger difference between them. Has the amount that is proposed for Stanton increased in this budget over last year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask Mr. St. Germaine to speak to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for all of the boards in fact will be increased from the current year to the next fiscal year to specifically deal with issues in the areas of forced growth for physician services, medical travel and other areas identified as critical investments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed the increase is approximately \$4 million overall. Is each of the boards receiving the same percentage increase?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase depends upon the nature of the increase. For instance, with the collective agreements, the increase is related to the number of staff they have and the pay rates they are being paid at. With physician services, it relates to where the physicians are employed. That varies between boards, so it is not a constant percentage for each board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two boards I am most interested in are the Yellowknife Health and Social Services and the Stanton board. Can I get in dollars what the amount of increases is in this proposed budget from this current year to the budget year for those two boards?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do not have final numbers at this point because we do not have the information with us. We will have to undertake to get the information to whatever level is current right now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if I can receive a commitment on when that might be delivered to Members of the Legislative Assembly?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we could undertake to have that by the middle of next week.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Primary and acute care programs. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister tell us on the community social service workers whether we have a full contingency of social workers in all our communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the last time the information was gathered was in November. There was a 20 percent vacancy in the social worker positions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could the Minister identify where those shortages are?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there were three vacant positions in Yellowknife, zero at Stanton, three vacancies in Inuvik, one vacancy in the Deh Cho, 1.5 vacancies in Fort Smith, three vacancies in the

Dogrib, zero vacancy in Lutselk'e, zero vacancy in Deninu, and zero vacancy in Hay River.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reason I ask is when you talk to a lot of the social workers, there is a lot of stress associated with that job. I know that there is a lot of turnover because of the changes we have made and also the reporting systems that are there. I am just wondering if there have been any attempts or plans to allow for more training, or allow for more time off, or give them leisure time so they are able to be more productive in their jobs.

What we are seeing is that without having a full core staff in these communities, one or two people are taking on the whole load where there should be three people. I think that is where we have to do more.

We have lost, especially in my region, a lot of senior employees within social services who had been there for several years, who left for personal reasons, had moved on, or retired from that field because of the increased workload from what they were previously used to, to what they are getting today.

I would like to ask the Minister what exactly is being done to assist the social workers to try to find ways to offset that workload and also to try to find new recruitments to fill in whenever possible so they can have stress leave or what not rather than having to burn themselves out?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think probably the most obvious and immediate way that we have of relieving the stress on the social workers is to ensure that the positions are staffed up to the amount that are allocated for that region or community. Also, with the ten new social workers that we are hoping to hire, we hope that will spread the workload over more social workers and will relieve some of the stress on them and on the system.

I agree with the Member that when people start to be overworked, the potential for the numbers to diminish and the situation to deteriorate is compounded. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raised this earlier, the whole area of ensuring that they have the resources to do their jobs. I mentioned in the conversation I had with regard to Aklavik is they have two computers but no printer. One computer is working and the other one is not, yet they are required to submit reports and they also have to document all the reports to the regional office. They seem to spend more time on paperwork than dealing with the clients. Have you looked at a way to ensure that they do have the equipment to do the jobs without having to deal with obsolete or second-hand equipment that is given to them from the regional centres?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we can undertake to follow up with the Aklavik nursing station to see what they are missing in terms of equipment, but the normal process is that we...I am sorry, it is

the social workers who are short. Normally, the process is that we fund the boards, the boards then purchase and distribute the equipment to the various communities. So if there has been a breakdown there, we will attempt to identify where the problem is there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Another concern I raised was allowing them some human resource support staff. There are people there that are either working part-time who are usually at a secretary-receptionist position. For them to have good staff by having someone there for just a half-day position, the turnover is pretty high when people can get full employment and not just part-time employment.

That is something this government should look at to ensure that when we do have these positions, we should try to ensure that they are full positions and not just part-time and that they are there as more of a support service. I think that is what is going to be needed to take off this extra workload from the social workers. If anything, that is one area that can really help the social workers in our communities, to ensure that they do have other human resources around them that could take off that extra workload, especially on the reporting side and having to do all this documentation with regard to reports and that.

Is that something the department could possibly look at and see if there are revenues that could possibly go into that area to enhance that service, which is greatly needed in a lot of the communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, Mr. Krutko's remarks have been noted and we thank him for his input on this. I take them more as comments. His remarks are noted. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Another area I wanted to touch on is the whole area of treatment services. The Ti'oondih Healing Camp, which was built by the Gw ich'in Tribal Council to a tune of over \$2 million, is still available for providing programs and services. Right now, they kind of contract the facility out to different groups and agencies that want to deliver a certain program. They do support core programs by way of the different treatment programs where they have accessed funding through the aboriginal healing program.

Due to the concerns that have been raised in this House that we only have one treatment centre in the Northwest Territories with 39 beds, we should start taking advantage of those facilities that are elsewhere, besides the present facility that we have been using and sending clients to southern Canada. If anything, we should be working in conjunction with these different organizations who have these facilities and offer the use of these facilities for treatment. I feel that the Inuvik region is not using it as much as they could be.

You have the different aboriginal groups who have been using it for their programs. Yet the regional health board has not been using it to facilitate it for different programs. Also, we could save a lot more money keeping it in the region than having to send them to Hay River or southern Canada. Have

they looked at or started dialogues with the different treatment service providers who are in the North to see if we can access their facilities, rather than having to continue depending on southern facilities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do agree with the Member that if we could provide all the services in the North, it would be more ideal. Some of the referrals to southern institutions and southern placements are because people may require a very specialized treatment for perhaps more than one addiction and it becomes rather complex.

As I mentioned this morning in question period, we are working on an addictions and mental health framework that has been identified as a priority in our department's overall strategic plan. We do need to look at the issue of addictions and mental health in a holistic manner and look at the linkages with some of our other social workers. We will be working with the standing committee very shortly on this strategy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Primary and acute care programs, operations expense. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** The Minister mentioned three vacancies in the Inuvik region. Could you identify where those vacancies are in Social Services?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated before, that information was as of November 2000, and I do not know where those vacancies are. I should also point out that the vacancies may have changed by now, but we could try to get the most current information for the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$91,328,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Page 6-21, primary and acute care programs, grants and contributions, total contributions, \$87,952,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Page 6-23, children's programs, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$10,147,000. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I have noticed that there has been a fairly significant growth in the amount of money expended for children in care. I was wondering if we could get a bit of an explanation for that, please.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the increase is attributable to forced growth in foster care by \$358,000; increased funding for Trailcross in Fort Smith of \$100,000; funding for NGO forced growth, \$32,000; and forced growth for southern placements, \$132,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we have been fairly successful in repatriating adults in care from southern institutions to the North. Hearing the Minister talk about forced growth of more than \$100,000 for southern placements as part of the increase here, what are the chances of seeing some repatriation of southern placements for children in care?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are currently 20 children accessing specialized southern placements. At any given time, there is also four on a waiting list. The efforts in terms of repatriation again is similar to the challenges that we face in repatriating adults, or in offering services to conflict kinds of problems here in the North. In some instances, there is a certain, very specialized expertise required in addressing the needs of some of these children who have severe behavioural problems.

As far as repatriation opportunities, we will continue to review them within the scope of our Continuing Care Strategy. This review will include looking at current and future facility-based needs. Thank you

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister listed off a number of challenges to repatriation, ranging from qualified personnel to provide the treatment to facilities. I would just like to get a sense of the balance. How much of the challenge relates to not having either the budget to provide capital facilities or not having access to facilities already in the North?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to clearly identify what is facility related and what is perhaps human resource related in terms of specialized care. Not all of the 20 children who are accessing specialized southern placements have the same problems. You could have a number of different kinds of reasons why these children are present for care in southern facilities. In some instances, it may come down to the volume of children that may require these and whether or not it is possible to build facilities, programs or expertise around those numbers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would encourage the department to keep a close eye on the potential for repatriation. I think it only makes good economic sense to improve services as much as we can close to home. Having a core group of clients might help provide services or the base for services to a lot of clients who are not in need of institution care as well. It could perhaps cut down on travel costs and improve the quality of life for a lot of Northerners.

I think that this Legislature has in the past expressed its support for repatriation. I know I would certainly hope to see this watched carefully. I would certainly support seeing -- whether it takes capital or increased funding for professionals -- more people brought back to the Northwest Territories for treatment.

We are seeing growth here. I notice in the budget books that we do not see any growth for early intervention. This initially caused me some concern because it appears from looking at the budget books, we are seeing dramatic increases in the cost for treatment after people are presented with problems, and no growth at all for preventative programs. I am pleased that the government has agreed to add \$2 million, although I recognize it does not show up here, for the Early Childhood Development Program.

I would just like to again reiterate that while we are talking about that money, it is going to be important that Members of this House, through the committees, have access soon to what is proposed for that program, so that we can have input before the department or the government moves to spend any of that money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not hear any questions, just comments, and we will take those into consideration. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like the Minister to expand a bit on the plan for the Early Childhood Development Program. Could she identify the program areas, is it children's programs, primary care, community health services, where the money will be targeted? I know they had a fairly wide range of initiatives.

I would also be interested if she could speak to the cooperative approach that is going to be used to develop a joint plan with Education so that, in fact, it meets all the goals and ties into the Healthy Children's Initiative and all these other areas where there is money for young children. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Mr. Miltenberger could narrow the question down a little. He wants more detail on the early childhood development and he wants to know how the two departments are collaborating on these efforts? Mr. Chairman, I would just like clarification.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two issues. Could the Minister identify where this program is going to fit within the various program areas before us today, children's programs, primary care, community health programs. Since this is a joint initiative, could she lay out how she intends to work with the Department of Education to come up with a tight, functional strategy that is going to tie into other initiatives like the Healthy Children's Initiative and will flow on into literacy and all these other areas where there is money being spent for children? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could speak generally to that, but it is the level of detail that the Member is asking for, to take the entire \$2 million and allocate it to these particular things that are identified in the main estimates. However, if he would like a general overview, I could ask Ms. Ballantyne to elaborate further. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Ms. Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:** Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, we provided this briefing to the standing committee earlier, so I will just repeat that the four main areas of investment will be: parenting and family support; pregnancy, birth and infancy; early childhood care; and learning in community supports.

Some of the specific actions being considered include universal screening for FAS/FAE, home visitation programs, curriculum-based education programs for teens about parenting, resource kits universally provided for all parents at pregnancy and other critical parent-child transition points, community resource centre pilot projects which could integrate existing early childhood programs so that they would be more effective for children and their families.

In terms of the relation with ECE, there are certain components of the Early Childhood Development Plan that obviously would be purely a health initiative. For example, prenatal screening for FAS/FAE. On those types of initiatives, we are working with health care professionals. For example, we are working closely with Dr. Nicole Chatel, a pediatrician with long experience in FAS/FAE on the pilot projects on the universal screening tool for fetal alcohol syndrome effect.

With respect to those projects which could be integrated, that is where we are working jointly with ECE to look at how we could enhance existing early childhood programs that ECE is currently running in the communities. In some of those communities, as you know, we also are funding a number of programs ourselves, plus the federal government is funding programs like Aboriginal Head Start. The integration aspect is one that I think is going to be a real challenge for us, because even our two departments are not the only partners. We will be laying out in the plan how we will work towards an integrated programming at the community level, which both departments believe is so critical to advance the effectiveness of the dollars that are out there.

That is a very quick overview. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate the complexity of this particular issue. I just want to make the case again, while we do our work with the children with us, ultimately we want to have children born healthy so that we no longer have to deal with FAS/FAE and the related problems and we can focus on strong families and giving them the skills and support at home.

If you want to look at a long-term investment, having children born healthy is probably, I would suggest, where we would like to have a lot of attention paid. How that is done will require a lot of work with social workers, nurses, and all these other folks. To me, that is the ultimate goal if we ever want to have a day where we do not have to talk about FAS/FAE in this House. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister is can she give us an idea of how many children we are talking about who are in care at this present time? What percentage of those are aboriginal children?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need one moment, Mr. Chairman. We do not have the exact numbers of children who are in care at our fingertips here. We certainly know what it is, we just do not have the details here. I can say that generally it is usually between 300 and 350 children in care at any time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have any idea of what percentage of the children who are in care are aboriginal children?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, approximately 80 percent. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that bothers me a lot is that you can go through Canadian history, we can see what has happened in Davis Inlet and other places in the country. What happens to the child once they are taken away from their culture communities and taken to a large urban centre, Yellowknife or wherever, that just the environment that they have been taken to, they have become accustomed to. When you take them back to the communities they are from, the children are either bored or they do not fit in because they became adaptable to another culture or another geographical area.

What I see happening, especially in my community, I have had several calls in the last while of children taken out of the communities I represent where the grandparents have called me and asked me to intervene to see if there is anything they could do so they will take care of their grandchildren and what not. Yet they are still being taken out of the communities and sent to Yellowknife.

There are a couple of children here in Yellowknife today. The mother of the children is in Fort McPherson and the father is here in Yellowknife, but he is unemployed and does not have his own place. He is trying to go back to school to try to improve himself. He is trying to look for his own place but he is not able to because he is not employed.

Because of either your cultural background or the social conditions you find yourself under, we are back to the old system where because you are aboriginal, you hunted, you trapped, you lived on the land and spoke a specific aboriginal language, people took your children away and tried to brainwash them, saying that was evil.

I for one feel that we are not doing anything different from what they did back then. We are continuing to take children away out of the communities saying we know what is best. You have a problem because you have FAE/FAS. You are not rich. You are poor. Because of all of these circumstances of who you are, it is held against you because you are saying you cannot

provide for your child because you do not have a job. You cannot provide for your child because you have a disability.

These are things that are against a parent or a person. Do we, as a government, have a right to put labels on people, saying that because of your circumstances or social conditions that you live under, you have 85 percent unemployment in your community, you do not have the right to raise your child because of the conditions? Sure you might have drank and what not. So does the whole community. You happen to be within that percentage that is looked at by society as being unproductive.

I for one feel we are going back to the old system of hostels where we are institutionalizing children where they become in the system. You can never get them out of the system once they are in there. They either go in at a young age, then the next thing they go into the juvenile system and then they are in the correctional system. Then you are wondering what is wrong with the system.

Unless you are able to deal with the problem in a community as a family and as a unit in a community...I thought that under this child protection, also in regard to the family law bills that have to be passed, there were going to be some assurances for people in the communities, and aboriginal leaders or aboriginal groups, regardless of whether it was Inuvialuit or Gwich'in, would be notified that this was happening, that you will have input into the process.

We talk about community justice committees we are trying to set up in our communities so that they can have a say in our justice system. I think we need a similar process when it comes to children. We have to have a system in place where the aboriginal cultural communities, regardless of what group it is, has notice that these children are going to be taken out of their communities and away from their parents, that they are able to intervene on behalf of those people that they represent.

I have a real concern when it comes to developing regulations or laws and what not. At the end of it all, all we are doing is giving the government a bigger hammer to hit you over the head with at the end of the day. There are no real reasons, in some cases, for the law to be enacted or changed, except to give someone with responsibility more responsibility so they can overshadow your lives and say exactly how they can impose themselves over you, or how they can basically have control over your lives regardless of whether you like it or not. They can walk through that door, grab your child and walk out the door and there is not a damn thing you can do about it.

Unless there are some laws and regulations in place that protect the parents...I have heard from some parents whose children have been taken away and moved from one day care unit and put into another one without even notifying them. They were put on medication without notifying the parent that they are now on a stronger medication than they were when they left the home. They are doing these things to their children, but they do not have a say in the matter.

I think that because of what we see happening in this country, especially what is happening in a lot of the other aboriginal communities in Canada, we have to find ways to deal with the problem at hand. It is a family as a whole. You cannot just take a child out of the community and not deal with the problem at home. Then you expect the child to go back to that same lifestyle. Unless the lifestyle changes, where they know they

have to change certain things and then the child is basically to fit into it.

We cannot continue to take children or people away from a system without trying to fix the system. I think the government has to do more to ensure that there is accountability and also that we do notify First Nation governments. What is this government doing to ensure that aboriginal organizations that represent these children who have been taken away have received full notification and have the right to intervene on their behalf?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if a need arises to go to court with respect to the custody of a child, aboriginal organizations are notified. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Can the Minister explain how they are notified? Is it a phone call or is it a letter? Do they have a certain time to respond before the child is taken out of the community?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is not just when a child is being removed from the community. It is when there is an issue of legal custody. Aboriginal organizations are notified in writing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** How much time does the aboriginal organization have to prepare their case and also intervene?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in terms of time frame, a required time frame around notification, we would have to get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I will ask the same question with regard to the parent of a child that is being taken away. Do they also receive notice and do they have a specific time frame to respond to what is going on or have an opportunity to look at the legal system?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, it is mandatory to contact parents when there are issues surrounding custody being taken to court. In instances where parents cannot be found or contacted, that is when you do occasionally see ads in newspapers and so on, trying to provide them with notification. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Do the grandparents of these children have any rights by way of intervening or having the ability to get custody without having to go through the whole process? In a lot of our communities, grandparents have raised a lot of children. Are they notified also?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it is not mandatory to notify them, but they do have the ability to intervene if they choose to do so. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on page 623, children's programs, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$10,147,000 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Could the Minister give us a breakdown of how much money is spent with regards to the children who are taken into custody and how much we pay out to keep them in those facilities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Mr. Krutko could be more specific, because when children are taken into care, they are not necessarily kept in facilities. In the vast majority of cases, they are kept in homes. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this government pays out \$9.4 million with regard to children who are in care. Is there an actual breakdown of how much is spent in southern institutions, group homes, or do you have an actual breakdown to see where these dollars are being spent? Are they spent in Yellowknife or southern Canada?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For southern placements, we are budgeting \$2.4 million. That is in places such as Alberta Bosco Homes, Society for the Treatment of Autism, Parkland Facility, as well as Calgary Alternative Support. In the Northwest Territories, we provide funding to the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Board. We have around \$1 million to run the Trailcross facility. Additionally, we provide contributions to the boards totalling approximately \$5.9 million to provide foster services and other children's services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Do they have a breakdown of the \$4.5 million that is spent on the foster homes and where they are located?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, we do not have that level of detail available.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Is there a possibility of getting that information with regard to the \$4.5 million that is being spent and where it is being spent?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that question to Mr. St. Germaine.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can provide that information for the previous fiscal year. The current fiscal year is incomplete because we do not have complete numbers. As to where the money will be spent next fiscal year, the specific details are not known because that varies in terms of the actual numbers of placements and how the boards actually place the children. So we do not know exactly where they are going to spend it. We know what the board allocations are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** When do you expect to have that report concluded and available?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** For the previous fiscal year, we can probably have that compiled within the next couple of weeks, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine. We are on page 623, children's programs, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$10,147,000 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-25, children's programs, grants and contributions, total contributions, \$7,595,000 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-27, community health programs, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$21,971,000 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister inform us as to what is taken into account when budgets are set up for shelters, such as emergency shelters, transition houses, safe homes? I know there are a number of them across the Territory.

The Inuvik Transition House is a group I have worked with for some time and try to make sure they have enough money to run throughout the year, but every year getting close to Christmas is a time when it is most critical. They are having a hard time keeping their doors open because of the lack of funds. They are very well aware of the other budgets that other transition shelters and safe homes receive, but for some reason the Inuvik one, even before the budgets were transferred to the health boards, there was concern that they would not be adequately treated when it came to the budgets.

If we could get information on how those were initially put together, and maybe a commitment to do some changes and address that adequately? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask Mrs. Ballantyne to give a bit of background on the funding allocation to Inuvik. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Ms. Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when we ask boards for forced growth, we do ask them to identify forced growth needs of NGOs. As you have seen previously in this budget, there is an allocation for that. The expectation is that it will be passed back to the NGO from the boards.

In the case of some boards, we have had a couple of instances over the past years where we have had to follow that through and make sure the NGOs did in fact receive all of the funding which the department had obtained for them through this process.

I cannot speak specifically to the issue in Inuvik, but I could certainly undertake to review that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** If I could have that commitment made and I look forward to receiving information back regarding that situation. I know before the funding was transferred to the health boards, the government itself used to handle the NGO funding and there were concerns raised back then, but it is an ongoing one. When you compare the facility, the number of beds, clients and intake, unfortunately, in a sense, it is one of the busier ones. So I look forward to having that information. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. We have made that commitment and I will take Mr. Roland's comments as comments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question with regard to the home care budget, which I notice is staying the same. I am just wondering if the Minister could indicate what her projections are on the draw on home care as

we move to having seniors stay in their own homes and try to maintain as many people independent living situations as long as possible. I do note that independent living has gone up about \$300,000. No, I cannot add any more today. I noticed that it has gone up, anyway.

I wonder if the Minister could speak to the issue of home care projects. This is a very important program and I fully support keeping people in their own homes as long as possible. Given the costs of operations, the status quo budget is of some concern. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All we can say is we will continue to evaluate the need for resourcing for home care and the demands on it. We recognize that seniors who can stay in their own homes is the most ideal situation for them as long as they can, and probably as well for us in terms of cost. So we will just continue to evaluate over the next few years what the uptake is and whether it is adequately resourced. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Page 6-27. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same line with regard to the whole thing of home care programs, I think it is important that we continue to carry that out. That was one of the areas that the Minister mentioned that there are gaps in the system. Where is it that this program is not being delivered at this time, especially when it comes to home care?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when I have been previously asked about this, I have said that there are instances where boards are being funded to deliver home care programs and those programs are not being carried out, but as I said, while the review is going on and until all the information is in on the boards that are being reviewed, I would prefer not to indicate where this is happening. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is an important aspect, especially when it comes to our elderly population, that we do have to ensure that they do provide that. In a lot of our small communities, aboriginal communities, they do not have taxis and what not that they need. A lot of them cannot get out. There are people with disabilities, especially elderly people, who depend on this program for them to get treatment or have the nurse or doctor provide different services.

Could the Minister look into the communities that have not been receiving it and find out why it is that they are not being provided with it? I think it is an essential service and it is important that you do ensure that all the people with disabilities and the elderly are receiving that program. It is a very important service to those people in our population.

Again, I would like to ask the Minister, will she make that information available with regard to the program that is being delivered in some cases, but in other cases it may not be?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that home care services are very important. We are looking into it through our operational reviews. When that information becomes available, we will be able to share the extent of the problem in a more detailed way. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the overall community health programs, the residents of the communities, that is their first defence to dealing with illness and living healthy lives and what not. It is important that they receive the different programs provided through community health programs.

For elderly people and people in general, nutrition is one area that we can do more to improve by improving the nutritional values that people have, especially with children.

With sugar diabetes, cases are going up and the different statistics are there, but a lot of that has to do with ensuring that we do have programs that can educate people and also make them aware of the importance of nutrition and also the importance of the type of lifestyle they live. We can make a statement, if you change your lifestyle, everything will be okay.

That is the simple solution, but everybody knows that is not the way it works. Would the Minister consider doing a thorough review of the overall community health programs and submit a report back to this House?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** When? When, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, community health programs are reviewed annually and any changes that might be necessary are brought forward in the business plans and discussed with standing committees. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They report annually, but I am talking specifically of this program on its own, not all the other ones put together. I think we do have to get statistics from each community to see exactly what the different results are. I touched on different studies that are

there. We have the different communities with regard to cancer statistics, other statistics like diabetes, there are all these other ailments out there. It would be good to pinpoint exactly what the community stats are on each one of those.

If sugar diabetes is going up in a particular community, the question would be why. The same thing with regard to other diseases that may be in the communities. I think that if we could get that type of information to see if there is a trend out there, and how we as a government are administering those different programs and services to ensure that we are able to control or monitor them a lot better than we are doing today. That is a possibility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our various initiatives within the department, very shortly we are going to be bringing to the standing committee the Addictions and Mental Health Strategy. We also have a Continuing Care Strategy that covers off a number of the areas that are covered under the community health programs. Without undertaking in-depth reviews of each of these individually, I just want to assure the Member that we do continue to stay focused on these areas through various internal strategic planning exercises. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know how to say this because there are a lot of people I know who are disabled, who, never mind walking out the door, but a lot of them have the situation where they cannot go to the health centre. They cannot even go to the store. They are bedridden or they have such a bad case of arthritis or what not, that the whole question of moving and mobility and getting around is a major problem in a lot of our communities. Yet these people call the health centre, they call someone for a particular aspect, they are ridiculed because they are either calling too much -- go get a taxi, find your own way here. I think those are the little things that we may take for granted, but being elderly or disabled, it is not a funny fact of life. It is serious, especially with these disabilities that we will all come to meet some time in the future, with regard to arthritis and other diseases that creep up on you the older you get.

That is where my problem is, and I see that we have to do a thorough review to ensure that everyone's rights are being considered when we deliver programs and services. Not just look at it from a medical side, but look at it from the patient's side to see exactly if they are getting what we are offering, and if we are not offering it, why not? I think it is important that we look at the overall question.

I think that we have to do more with respect to disabilities, especially when we have these programs in the communities, that we do not start cutting these programs out and not replace them with something that is going to do just as well, especially when we are talking about people who are not able to get around or able to access the health centres. They may need people to go from the health centre to serve the needs of these residents. I would like to ask the Minister, will she seriously look at that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not cutting out programs, Mr. Chairman. In fact, we are doing quite a lot in terms of trying to make them as effective and as responsive to the needs of people as possible. We do this through a number of different avenues, not the least of which was the recent conference on persons with disabilities, the Count Me In Conference, which I spoke to here in the Legislature. There is extensive work going on in terms of consultation with people who receive these services, and that information is fed back to the department to make sure that the programs are as effective as possible. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on page 6-27, community health programs, budget summary, total operations and expenses, \$21,971,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-29, community health programs, grants and contributions, grants, total contributions, \$20,488,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Information item, active positions, page 6-31, information item, boards of management active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-33, details of work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I was going to ask a question on active positions, if we could go back.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** What is the committee's wish? The Member is requesting to go back to page 6-31. Do we agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We will go back to page 6-31. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask the Minister if they have affirmative action statistics with regard to these different positions in the different regions and communities and what not, so we can see exactly where they are held. Also for headquarters, considering that we do have an Affirmative Action Policy in place. I wonder if it is being followed in this department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I was not clear on the "yes." Does she have that information on the affirmative action breakdown, also including headquarters, and can we have it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, I thought the Member asked if we followed the Affirmative Action Policy. That was the question I heard. We do not have the information on the breakdown of the affirmative action candidates in the various positions, but we can try to get that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Page 6-31, information item, boards of management, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-33, details of work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-34, details of work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-35, details of work performed on behalf of others, total department, \$10,420,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-36, revenues, recoveries and transfer payments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We will go back to page 6-7. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I am still on page 6-36.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** What page were you on, Mr. Krutko?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Page 6-36.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** You wish to go back to page 6-36?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Nay.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Okay, we will go onto page 6-7, Health and Social Services, department summary, operations and expenses, total operations and expenses, \$182,811,000. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** What page?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6-7. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** With regard to capital allocations, we do receive funds on behalf of the federal government to carry out specific programs, especially when it comes to the non-insured health programs and with regard to the hospital care fund for

Inuit and Indian people. Is there a particular accounting system?

Do we have to have separate accounting for those dollars that are being expended within that classification, so that we can see if they are being spent on the responsibilities we do have to carry out for those programs? In the budget, it works out to over \$22 million. Is there a way to be able to get that information, so you could see exactly how that money has been spent? Do we have to account for it to the federal government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are considering this budget and there is nothing in this budget for the NIHB. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Could the Minister repeat that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no budget item contained in these main estimates related to the non-insured health benefits. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that the money received for hospital care for Indians and Inuit, \$16,943,000, is not part of the total amount of this, and the same thing applies for the medical care for Indians and Inuit for \$4,755,000? That is not part of this budget?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko, the committee agreed not to go back and you are calling figures on page 6-36. We are now on page 6-7. Do you have comments to make on 6-7? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to see how exactly these amounts fit into the overall operation expenses of \$182 million. Presently, we carry out programs and services on behalf of the federal government and some of those dollars we get are earmarked for Indian and Inuit programs. Do we have to account for those programs separately or do we have to account that to the federal government when it comes to the overall operation expenses of this government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Madam Minister.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, the items that Mr. Krutko is referring to from page 6-36 are not NIHB. NIHB is a Health Canada program which we administer on behalf of the federal government. The two items that Mr. Krutko refers to are DIAND programs. It is a different arrangement in terms of recovery. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Do we have to account for those programs to DIAND with regard to the amount of money we get to administer health care on behalf of those people?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The revenues that the Member refers to are recovery of cost for hospital services and physician services. The hospital services and physician services are captured under all services programs and under primary and acute care. We bill back the federal government for the cost we incur related to providing for those two particular services to aboriginal people who are status Indian and Inuit and the amount is capped. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine. Page 6-7, Health and Social Services, department summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$182,811,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Under other expenses, it has dropped almost \$11 million. Could I have an explanation on exactly where that expense is not being incurred?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a combination of factors. That is the decrease of the budget of \$5.5 million related to non-insured health benefits that is removed from the budget. It is also a transfer from other expenses to grants and contributions of approximately \$7 million for physician services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine. Page 6-7, Health and Social Services, department summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$182,811,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regards to the cost of assets service, there is an increase of \$1,140,000. What is the increase there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. St. Germaine.

**MR. ST. GERMAINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do not have that detail with us today. I can provide that to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I move we extend hours to conclude Health and Social Services today.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Handley, you can make a motion to extend hours to complete the item that we are dealing with now, but anything beyond that would be...The motion on the floor is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Carried. We will conclude this item on page 6-

7, total operations expense, \$182,811,000. Mr. Krutko, did you have further questions? Okay. We are on page 6-7, Health and Social Services, department summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$182,811,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We will go to capital on page 6-8, Health and Social Services, capital acquisition plan, directorate, total directorate, \$1,250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Primary acute care, total primary and acute care, \$16,899,000. At this time, the Chair will recognize the clock and will rise and report progress.

-- Interjection

Thank you. There seems to some confusion as to what we wanted to accomplish here. Do we have unanimous consent to conclude the Department of Health and Social Services today?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. We will continue on with...there was a nay. We will rise and report progress. Thank you, Madam Minister, and your witnesses.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. Item 21, report of the committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

#### ITEM 21: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 19, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002 and Committee Report 7-14(3) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre as seconding the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

#### ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment today. Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, 10:30 a.m. for the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. Also at 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Orders of the day for Monday, February 26, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
  - Motion 17-14(3), Amendment to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly (Handley)
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001
  - Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 19, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002
  - Committee Report 5-14(3), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the 2001-2002 Main Estimates
  - Committee Report 6-14(3), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the 2001-2002 Main Estimates
  - Committee Report 7-14(3), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the 2001-2002 Main Estimates
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 Monday, February 26, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:00 p.m.