



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, October 31, 2001****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Mr. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Please be seated. Just by way of a little bit of trivia, I understand today is the first full moon in 40 some odd years. I understand it is also a blue moon. It is the third moon in October -- I mean, it is the first full moon to fall on Halloween. That is what I meant. Item 2, Minister's statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement on Support for the Secondary Fur Industry**

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank a friend of mine in Sachs Harbour for sending me this tie to wear in this House. Along with wearing this tie, he also asked me to send a message to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to make Mr. Handley aware that we can do some amazing things when we put our minds to it, especially items that we can make out of fur such as muskox.

However, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to realize we do have renewable resources out there. Realizing it is Halloween and all -- and this is not part of my costume for this evening -- but I think it is important if we have the initiative to do something with different products and try different things that we can. I think in this case, Mr. Floyd Sydney of Sachs Harbour has shown me we can make products such as ties and we can even make underwear with fur products.

-- Laughter

We should take the time to consider those types of endeavours. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development what he is doing to ensure we consider these initiatives and we maybe consider financing some of these projects.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko for explaining that. I thought it was your beard.

-- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: A little long in the tooth there. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement on the Need for an NWT-Based Tannery

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when our people have animal hides they want tanned, they have a choice. They can either try to do it themselves or they can send the hide out of the Northwest Territories to be tanned. I have always felt that we should have an NWT-based tannery for our people. There are thousands of muskox in Sachs Harbour where Mr. Floyd Sydney sent the hide from. Where do they send their hides? They send their hides south.

There is a history in the North Slave where I come from where we have had tanning hides, tanneries, private tanneries and we have had training facilities where there no longer is training for tanning. We have had people like internationally known D'Arcy Moses who could use northern tanned hides for fashion creations. We have many aboriginal women in the North who are making garments with tanned hides such as Berna Beaulieu, Alice Sangris-Wifladt and Karen Wright-Fraser, to name a few. Would it not be economically sound to have a northern-based tannery? There are many cottage industry northern workers who could use the benefits of northern tanneries.

In the past, there have been concerns raised about the environment in using conventional tanning methods. However, it is good to know there are new environmentally friendly tanning processes developed. The demand for leather products is still there. The fashion industry uses leather for shoes, coats, belts, gloves and neck ties. There is also sheared fur. That is another trend gaining popularity in the North.

Mr. Speaker, we have prime examples in the Legislative Assembly of the use of tanned hides, such as the vest I am wearing and the jacket Mr. Krutko is wearing.

What we need in the North is a real plan for a tannery that can train and employ people in our communities. We have been concentrating on oil and gas and diamonds and we have been moving away from the traditional economic lifestyles that we have had in the past. I will have questions for the Minister later on this subject, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Wishes for a Safe and Bountiful Halloween

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we leave this month behind and start a new tomorrow, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the children of Range Lake and all of the North a very safe and bountiful Halloween evening.

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents experiencing this age-old tradition of Halloween for the first time in Canada is a family of my cousin and his two children. With the busy schedule I have had the last week or so, I have not had a chance to explain to my niece and nephew, who are two and four, the meaning of trick or treating and goblins and ghosts and so on but I expect to be able to do that tonight, as I will be spending my evening with them and hope to meet the children of Range Lake as they come to our door.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if they will believe me because while they were planning to move to Yellowknife, I had assured them that by October 31st, we would be experiencing very, very cold weather and in all of my 23 years, I am not sure if we have had a Halloween as warm as this. I might have a little difficulty explaining everything but I do look forward to being in my riding. I also want to tell the people that I will be in number 1 Ward Crescent, which is right across from the stop sign from Wal-Mart. If any of my constituents want to talk to me about what has transpired in the House in the last couple of weeks, I will be there until at least nine o'clock and I do hope to talk to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close wishing everyone a very safe and happy Halloween. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. We can expect treats when we knock on your door? Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on Appreciation for the Support and Confidence of Colleagues

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank this Legislature and the Members in it for the confidence they have placed in me this morning. I will do my utmost to do the job that I have been given as best it can be done. I would just like to point out that this has been a long process, as has been mentioned before. I think the fact that we are here today ready to move on with the business of government is a demonstration of how consensus government works. It may not be perfect. It may not be without its warts and wrinkles but I believe it is an effective form of government and I would like to thank everybody. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Membership in the Governor General's Curling Club of Canada

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on a part of my life that was very important to me before I became a Member of this Legislative Assembly.

As most of you know, Mr. Speaker, curling was a very big part of my life and I put in a lot of years playing the sport and also coaching and encouraging younger people to take up the sport. My accomplishments in curling have not been all that great but the rewards that I have received from the sport of curling have been quite amazing.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998, for example, I was nominated to represent Canada in a tour of Scotland along with 39 other

Canadians to curl in a competition called the Strathcona Cup. I was over in Scotland for 28 days representing Canada and curling against Scottish teams. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that at that time we won the Strathcona Cup for Canada.

About two months ago, Mr. Speaker, I was nominated for membership in the Governor General of Canada's curling club. The Governor General's Curling Club of Canada has only 100 members Canada-wide and it was quite an honour, Mr. Speaker, for me to be nominated to that curling club for my achievements and my input into the sport of curling.

In the recent events in the House, I was uncertain as to whether I was going to take a trip to Ottawa to receive the membership into this curling club. The membership is being presented on November 2nd, which is Friday. Now that things have been settled in the House, I want to inform the House and my constituents at home that I will be absent from this House for the next couple of days. I have decided to go to Ottawa and receive the membership in the Governor General's Curling Club of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Congratulations, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on GNWT Role in Crime Prevention

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to talk about the Government of the Northwest Territories' role in supporting by-law enforcement and crime prevention in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is one of the stated roles of the Department of Justice to increase the capacity, role, scope and impact of communities in addressing their own justice issues. This is a very worthy goal, Mr. Speaker. However, Mr. Speaker, the community constable program has seen its funding decreased to zero this year, according to the main estimates of the Department of Justice.

This decrease to zero is presumably the result of the community constable pilot project coming to an end. This program was jointly funded by the federal government and according to the RCMP web page on the InterNorth site, the program has been a success in the North. The web page goes on to state that we are a role model for the south in this area. Mr. Speaker, this program was a success and I would like to know if the Department of Justice has taken steps to set up this program permanently.

Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Members are aware, the main funding for by-law officers for communities traditionally comes from the Department of MACA under community block funding agreements. Block funding arrangements tend to lead to situations where communities are forced to make difficult decisions with ever decreasing amounts of funding.

Mr. Speaker, at the present time, communities are forced to make decisions as to whether to hire by-law officers or recreation workers. They know that they cannot afford both. Yet there are ever increasing incidents of vandalism and crime in our communities, Mr. Speaker, and without specific focus on crime prevention at the community level, these crime levels will

continue to escalate. It is very important, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Justice and MACA work closely together to ensure there is a coordinated effort on crime prevention and enforcement in our communities. There is little point in the Department of Justice devoting so much in the way of resources -- community justice circles \$733,000 in the current fiscal year -- if the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs does not give the communities sufficient resources to hire local enforcement officers. The community justice circles are in danger of sitting around in circles with nothing to do.

My understanding is that the RCMP is willing to help with training and facilities, Mr. Speaker, yet the communities struggle to find the funding for wages.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for consent to conclude.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the current budgets provided by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs are simply not enough. It is time for a more integrated approach to community policing, Mr. Speaker. A more integrated approach that will lead to a more seamless and accountable delivery of community policing and program delivery. An approach that would see the Department of Justice take on a specific role of administering and providing community law enforcement, funding and program delivery in a close, working relationship with the existing community justice service and community governments. In this way, communities will be able to see with certainty where responsibilities for local crime prevention and enforcement lie and take comfort from the fact that there is a continuum of law enforcement in place at all times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Hallelujah Night at the Inuvik Community Lighthouse Church

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on an event happening across the Territories as we have hit the end of the month, October 31st, traditionally known as Halloween.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one comment that in Inuvik, there is something slightly different than what is traditionally practiced. It is being practiced this year in the Inuvik Community Lighthouse Church. It is called Hallelujah Night.

This is an event that is put on for children from the community to take part in activities that are safe and also promote a lighter hearted atmosphere than one that has traditionally been expressed through Halloween, that being evil spirits, Mr. Speaker, something that they try and encourage their children in a way that is somewhat different from the normal practice. I

think it is an opportunity and it is open to the community. I hope they have a fun night as they will be having games. I believe the younger children will come dressed up as characters from Noah's Ark.

I wish them all the best in that. To all those that are partaking in the events of Halloween and trick and treating, I wish them a safe evening as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on NWT Physician Shortage

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise here today to talk a little bit about the sustainability of our health care system in the Northwest Territories and specifically about the physician shortage that we currently face. Members of the Social Programs Committee have had a recent presentation from the Northwest Territories Medical Association and we discussed the number of physicians that we currently have in the Northwest Territories and what it would require for us to get up to what they consider a full complement of physicians. Currently across the Territories, we have 51 physicians. The numbers from the NWTMA would indicate that we need somewhere in the neighbourhood of 80 to 85 physicians just to provide basic services in the North.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that that is simply talking about the number of physicians we need in the larger centres who would then fly into the smallest and remote communities to provide service, so we are not talking about permanent physicians even in the smallest communities. If we were to go there, we would need even further numbers.

Mr. Speaker, one number that is often analyzed when we look at jurisdictions in Canada to see whether or not we have adequate numbers of physicians is the national physician to population ratio. The average in Canada is 185 physicians to 100,000. Mr. Speaker, we have the worst ratio in the country in the Northwest Territories at 92 to 100,000 people. The problem with not having enough physicians is that the ones who are here are drastically overworked, Mr. Speaker, and that generally means that they are not willing to stick around very long with those kinds of conditions.

Mr. Speaker, locally in Yellowknife, we did move from fee for service to salary, which has provided some help to physicians but it has not seemed to help us in the area of recruitment numbers. We have a lot of work to do here, Mr. Speaker. I know the NWTMA provided the Department of Health with an MD resource plan and as of yet, has had no official response to this plan. They delivered it last February, I believe, so today in question period, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and will specifically ask him when he plans to respond to this resource plan. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Yellowknife Homeless Coalition

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, homelessness has become a big issue across Canada and we are not immune here in the North. I think it is becoming more and more apparent to the casual observer walking through downtown Yellowknife that we have a growing problem. If you talk to the non-government organizations involved, the situation has indeed become critical.

Over the summer, Members may have heard a concern about emergency family housing and a request from the YWCA to have the Housing Corporation fund some additional units in Yellowknife. I would like to thank Minister Allen and the Housing Corporation for recently signing a contract with the YWCA for ongoing funding for an additional three emergency family housing units.

It is really important, Mr. Speaker, to hear the word "ongoing" in there because this is not just a one-year agreement. It is an ongoing agreement. For NGOs, that is the most critical issue. It is more critical, in some cases, than getting the amount of money that they asked for in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the non-government organizations of Yellowknife and their partners in government who have been working together as the Homelessness Coalition and who have developed the Yellowknife Community Plan to Address Homelessness.

The coalition is made up of a broad cross-section of NGOs and government agencies. This type of cooperative effort is remarkable. It should be recognized and encouraged.

I am happy to see that some government departments have joined the initial small group to work together. It is only with this kind of coordinated approach that our resources are maximized to find real solutions to the homeless situation.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories needs to ensure a higher level of participation and more cross-departmental cooperation. Like other governments in Canada, we need to recognize the problem of homelessness and how it is growing. It has become so serious that I think we need to take a look at making a Minister responsible for homelessness in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will take this opportunity to table the Yellowknife Community Plan to Address Homelessness, as developed by the Homelessness Coalition, dated July 1, 2001. The document was developed following extensive community consultation and research. The plan consists of three primary components: first, community planning, capacity building and research; two, programs and services for the homeless; and three, housing capital projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the federal government has agreed to fund this program over a three-year period but that three-year period is almost half finished.

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. Dent, you may conclude your statement.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, to date, no Government of the Northwest Territories funding has been committed to this specific plan over and above the existing programs and services, other than the three additional family units. The funds committed, for instance, to the Side Door project and other initiatives were from federal funds.

It has taken the coalition halfway through the federal three-year plan of the time allowed to use that federal funding just to get to this point because they do not have the capacity to move this forward. They require support and buy-in from this government to pursue this as vigorously as is necessary.

One way we could participate better is to make sure that we have complete cooperation with the group by having membership there. Currently, while some departments are members, the Housing Corporation maintains only observer status on the coalition. The department should fully participate. Sending an individual as an observer does not give the coalition someone who can make decisions and commitments to the plan.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that our government needs to demonstrate its commitment to dealing with homelessness. We need a ministry and we are also going to need some money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Yellowknives Dene/Diavik Participation Agreement and Scholarship Awards

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 26, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Diavik Participation Agreement Implementation Committee celebrated the launching of the committee and the official opening of their office. October 26 marks the one-year anniversary of the official signing of the participation agreement.

At the celebration, five graduates from the class of 2000 received secondary scholarships valued at \$500 each. The five scholarship award recipients are Angela Beaulieu from N'dilo, Paul Betsina from N'dilo, Lonnie Erasmus from N'dilo, Pauline Mackenzie from N'dilo and Jason Tezetcheli from Dettah.

The scholarship award recipients must have completed grade 12 with an overall average of 65 percent and must be members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. They also must provide a transcript of their marks as part of the scholarship award. Diavik provides the scholarship fund as part of the participation agreement, Mr. Speaker.

I congratulate the scholarship recipients and wish them the very best in their studies. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Challenges Facing New Cabinet Member

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the election this morning. I would like to congratulate Mr. Miltenberger on his election and subsequent appointment to Cabinet. I believe Mr. Miltenberger knows very well the way we feel on this side of the House and the issues that are facing the North and I look forward to working with him in addressing those issues.

One of the issues that is on the furthest point of our mind is the Department of Health and Social Services and the recommendations resulting from the Cuff report. I encourage the Premier and Cabinet that they seriously consider Mr. Miltenberger to be placed in that portfolio, as I believe Mr. Miltenberger has a strong desire to address the fundamental problems, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to working with him in that area if I can encourage the Premier in doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Public Consultation Methods Utilized by the GNWT

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, when the 14th Assembly was first elected and sat down in our first Caucus to look at what our ideas and our values and our priorities and our visions were going to be, we talked to some extent about communication. We set out in our vision document, Towards a Better Tomorrow, a certain way of expressing what we wanted to do. We said: "We will consider your input, build on the framework and develop a comprehensive action plan."

We say, Mr. Speaker, that we will be a more open and transparent government and in all aspects, we say to people that we want to hear from you, the public, the stakeholders in our society, in our economy.

What do we want to hear, Mr. Speaker? Do we want confirmation only that we are doing the right thing? Do we want to hear from the public, the stakeholders that there is support for what we are doing and that there is only one way -- our way? Or are we prepared to hear more contrary or alternative viewpoints and give them the consideration and inclusion, Mr. Speaker, that they are due?

The dictionary defines consultation as to ask the advice or the opinion of, to deliberate together or confer. There is action and energy in the process. It is a two-way street, I would assert, Mr. Speaker.

I am particularly concerned about this government's consultation process and approach. The concern is illustrated in one citizen's comments in reference to a recent committee hearing, "My overall impression is one of a government that has quit consulting with its citizens. It announces and defends new initiatives. I feel stonewalled."

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the results of this approach with a couple of major pieces of legislation. We have a couple more big ones coming in, specifically the Human Rights Act and the Wildlife Act, that I know are going to be contentious and should be well-heard and well-debated.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at how this government has consulted on major initiatives, it is clear that a better understanding and process for consultation is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is especially apparent in the reviews that are now underway in the Wildlife Act that there is consultation going on with only one side of the ownership and the management side of the Wildlife Act. This is where the department has put considerable funding into aboriginal consultation. There are other people in the Northwest Territories who deserve equal voice, Mr. Speaker. I hope we are learning and that we need to learn quickly so the government approaches initiatives in a more collaborative, inclusive and comprehensive manner. Our citizens are not part of the problem, Mr. Speaker. They are part of the answer. Government needs to show that it is listening to all Northerners and should be responding accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement on Transition to the Role as a Regular Member

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as has been stated by some Members here, I too am glad that the most recent chapter in this Assembly has come to a close. There are many things that I am now looking forward to; the ability to speak to my constituents' issues on the floor of this House, not missing so many community events because of other travel commitments, spending more time with what is left of my family. My eldest son married this summer and lives in Edmonton now. My second son, Jeffrey, who was supposed to be in college this fall, has actually gone to Kiev in the Ukraine in Eastern Europe as a volunteer missionary. Thankfully, I still have one little person at home and with her recent election to student council, I need to get home to re-establish my political presence before she takes over the town.

Mr. Speaker, I also look forward to reconnecting with friends and constituents and having a relaxed time without the pressure of knowing that I will be catching an airplane the next day. I know that it will also be a relief for my husband, who has had to do double duty during the past two years. The role of Regular Members and Cabinet Minister is quite distinctively different and there are advantages to both and some disadvantages. I look forward to the ability to speak to many issues and speak to the issues of the government from a different perspective now. Thank you so much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Katie Garrison. She has been a page in the House for the last week. I want to thank her for coming over and representing Hay River in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South...Centre...Frame Lake. It is that full moon. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 172-14(4): Growing Homeless Problem in the NWT

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier of the Northwest Territories following up on my Member's statement earlier today. Many other jurisdictions in Canada, both provincial and particularly the federal government, recognize the growing problem of homelessness. Will the Premier recognize that problem is also a problem in the Northwest Territories and designate one of his Ministers responsible for the issue of homelessness?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Premier.

Return to Question 172-14(4): Growing Homeless Problem in the NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the suggestion made by the Member and consider it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 172-14(4): Growing Homeless Problem in the NWT

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Premier agreeing to consider the suggestion and recognize he may want to discuss this with his Cabinet colleagues. Could he give me a timetable for when he may be able to conclude that consideration? Would it be one week, one month? What sort of timetable are we going to look at before we hear the response?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 172-14(4): Growing Homeless Problem in the NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Perhaps I could commit before the beginning of the next session. Thank you.

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

Question 173-14(4): Physician Resource Plan

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today, as I had indicated earlier, is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Antoine. It is about the resource plan, the MD resource plan that was submitted to his department by the Northwest Territories Medical Association. They published it last February and to date have had no official response from the department. I am wondering if Mr. Antoine can tell me when he plans to respond to this resource plan officially. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 173-14(4): Physician Resource Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the physicians resource plan that was tabled last February has gone to the department and it calls for the need for additional physicians across the Northwest Territories. The plan assumes -- last February that the current model for provision of health care service would continue but since that time, we have gone through the Cuff report and the aftermath of it. The previous Minister has been working hard with the department to put together an action plan as a result of consultations from the results of the Cuff report and the consultation that followed. So the determination of the number of physicians that are required would depend on a number of different factors and largely based on the delivery model and sustainability of the health care system.

So at the current time, there is an overall look by the department to look at the whole health delivery system. It is in the mix at this point in time. Once we have a better idea of the draft action plan going through the Cabinet system and thus given to the Ordinary Members, that would be the step to take at that point in time. It is going to take some time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 173-14(4): Physician Resource Plan

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate that an action plan is being developed and we decide what type of service delivery model we will use, but clearly we are so far behind in the physician to population ratio -- in fact, the worst in the country -- that this is really an emergency. I do not think the answer that this is really going to take some time is appropriate. We do not have time, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Minister will acknowledge that indeed we have to address recruiting more physicians very quickly and we really do not have time to wait any longer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 173-14(4): Physician Resource Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the urgency of this matter. I will take the concerns of the honourable Member and speak with the officials in the Department of Health and Social Services and see where we could take this urgent matter for more physicians in the Northwest Territories at this point in time. Thank you.

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

Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about the issue of by-law enforcement and the escalating crime rates and prevention in the communities and it was hard to decipher which Minister is responsible and who I should direct my concerns and my questions to. This issue does not recognize lines between the Departments of Justice and MACA. I will direct my question to MACA, however, because it is my understanding that they are the funding source to the communities for the positions of by-law officers.

In light of the statistics that are coming out regarding crime and the escalating crime rates, what are he and his department doing to assist communities to enable them to hire by-law officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can continue to fund the municipalities for by-law enforcement. I believe they are now called protection officers. The level of funding, I am not certain of. It has been a constant problem in the communities to provide certain protective services. Again, we need to review some of the community budgets, which we have begun in some communities, to see where we can improve that level of service. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, as this issue is something that does not recognize any boundaries, it crosses over many departments that may view having this responsibility, I would like to ask the Minister if he is working with any other departments to develop a coordinated approach to deal with the issues of crime prevention and by-law enforcement, specifically the Department of Justice?

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

Further Return to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must be fairly constant in my answer and I must say that no, we have not at this point. We have not been working with the Department of Justice. It is two different areas of the judicial that I am not familiar with. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my riding, I believe there is only one community that has a community constable and no other communities can afford a by-law officer. I believe the community that has the community constable is struggling to find funding sources. I would like to ask the Minister if his department assists any communities in the North with salary dollars to hire by-law officers or community constables? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are some municipalities that do receive funding for protection services. How the communities administer that fund is entirely in their budget process and their administration but there is some funding to provide for protection services. To what degree, I am not familiar with.

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

Supplementary to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding the Minister is speaking about is rolled into a general revenue fund. It is up to the community to decide what the priorities are. Many times they are forced to decide between a recreation worker, a water treatment plant worker, town foreman or a by-law officer. I would like to ask if this Minister is intending to increase the funding specifically geared towards by-law officers?

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

Further Return to Question 174-14(4): Crime Prevention in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, I think all departments are under severe pressure and constant pressure, I might add, to review several budgetary items. I am

sure each department, including my responsibility as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, will review and see how we can lead the municipalities into trying to reprioritize some of their important administration. Thank you.

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

Question 175-14(4): GNWT Legislative Consultation Policy

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, in my statement, I discussed aspects of a communication and consultation process. I would like to put a couple of questions to the Premier in his capacity as Minister responsible for the Executive and performing a coordination function for the government overall. I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, does the government have a policy that prescribes the consultation process on legislative initiatives? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 175-14(4): GNWT Legislative Consultation Policy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 176-14(4): Establishing an NWT Tannery

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of RWED, the Honourable Joe Handley. Mr. Speaker, fur is one of the first economic resources in the Northwest Territories. This was used by the early traders and to this day, we are still sending our fur south. A fashion and traditional arts business in Fort Simpson, Nats'enelu Limited, has to buy their leather from the south and they also have scrounge around for moose hides. I would like to ask the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development if he can look into establishing a fur and hide tannery in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 176-14(4): Establishing an NWT Tannery

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I heard the Nats'enelu people talking about the need to have more northern tanned hides available. RWED would be very interested in any proposal to establish a tannery.

In fact, we have tried it in the past on a number of occasions. People want fur and hides that are tanned in a traditional way and it is a very labour-intensive way of doing it. However, if there is a good proposal, I would be interested. In fact, I am asking RWED to talk to Nats'enelu about what the possibilities might be. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 176-14(4): Establishing an NWT Tannery

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he could look back at a project that was in place a number of years ago in the tannery areas and see if it would be feasible to reintroduce some of those training programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 176-14(4): Establishing an NWT Tannery

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in about '94 or '96, somewhere in that period, RWED -- or Renewable Resources at that time -- did start a tannery program here using very simple basic materials, but materials that would help make it easier than the traditional way of tanning in order to attract more people into it. We had trained a number of people and then the interest seemed to die away. There were not a lot of people who were willing and ready to take training or devote themselves to this very strenuous task of tanning hides. If there is a renewed interest in doing that, then we are very definitely interested in it. Thank you.

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

Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a question for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in a similar area of questioning with regard to trying to find programs to enhance the fur industry, the craft side of it; beaded jackets, muskox ties and also people who are in the cottage industry of making slippers and other crafts like fur pants. There is the quality of craftsmanship out there, but we do not seem to be doing much by way of assisting them through program dollars, resources. We assist in the diamond industry. We assist with training for oil and gas.

I think we have to start looking at a program specifically designed for the fur industry. I would like to ask the Minister, are you looking at any new initiatives to establish a program on its own to assist the cottage industry dealing with fur products?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I take the Member's concerns very seriously because the traditional economy is very important to many of our people. I think producing northern products from fur and other northern materials is more than just an economic activity. It is cultural. We have, through the NWT Development Corporation and RWED, undertaken a number of areas of support, Mr. Speaker.

We are still working on opening Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik fur shops. There are discussions going on with the Development Corporation right now. Dene Fur Cloud is in operation. The Nats'enelu do their own marketing and are showing a great deal of promise. In fact, D'Arcy Moses just returned recently from a trip to Germany with the Governor General where he is promoting northern products, aboriginal products. The Arctic Canada Trading is moving some fur but not large amounts. So there are a number of initiatives and if there are interests in communities and if the projects seem viable, then definitely -- either through RWED or through the NWT Development Corporation -- we are interested. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a segment of our population that has some very unique skills and I think we have to build on that, especially with respect to crafts and being able to produce things and also being able to promote it. Mr. Speaker, I am looking more in line of what they have done in the Eastern Arctic and how they are able to take a segment of their economy, especially the seal harvesting aspect, and they have been able to go miles with that. That is one of the areas where I think we as a government can also consider maybe adopting a similar process to deal with fur products, like how they were able to deal with the seal products. Has the Minister had a chance to meet with his colleagues from the east to see if that program can be adopted here in the west?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have talked very generally with my colleagues in Nunavut on this issue. I am going to Nunavut some time in mid-November and will certainly make a point of following up on that at that time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister, through his Department of RWED, met with the federal government in trying to look at the new economic development agreement and ensuring that we have a program specifically designed to assist the fur cottage industry in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, my department, RWED, has been working very hard in trying to negotiate an economic development agreement with the federal government over the past two years and they continue that effort. The traditional economy is very much a piece of that economic development agreement, if we are successful in negotiating one. I agree with the Member, it is an important part of our economy. We cannot get too focused on oil and gas and diamonds and forget that piece. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a challenge out to the Minister to show me physically that he really supports this industry. I would like him to wear this tie for a day in this House just to show us that he really supports the fur industry.

-- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. In the light of the day, yes, Minister Handley, you may or may not answer that question.

Further Return to Question 177-14(4): Promoting Fur Trade and Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to wear that necktie. Next Halloween would probably be appropriate. Thank you.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment in that whole area of the department, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, many, many people in the Northwest Territories are very worried about their languages. Many people in the communities are very short. There are no day cares available, Mr. Speaker. There are educational opportunities for adult education. There are employment opportunities for single or young parents that want to work but cannot because there are no babysitters or day cares.

I would like to ask the Minister a question in that area. There are elders in our communities. There are language requirements. Has the Minister and his department ever considered using elders as day care providers so that they could speak their languages right in the day care to kids aged six months to five years old, when they could learn the most? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has a suggestion of using seniors for day care programs. Some time ago, a federal program was made available to us, Mr. Speaker, to work seniors and those over the age -- I believe it was 50 to about the age of 60 back into the workforce. We decided that we would advertise that particular program and funding availability for that. A number of school divisions took advantage of that and are employing those individuals within the school system. I believe there is a total of about 17. This is the type of program that communities could look at as a possibility.

For the past year, the funding may have already been committed, but I believe if we approve a budget in the coming year, there may be possibilities next year in that whole area. It is federal transfer money, Mr. Speaker, and I believe it is available for about a two-year period. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with the program that the Minister has referred to, which is a federal program. I am speaking about a brand new program for the Northwest Territories that could be resourced by this government. I am speaking about elders providing day care for kids who are not in school, Mr. Speaker, so that day care could be provided so that young parents could have time to go to school or go to work while the elders gain employment and speak their traditional language to the kids between six months and five years old possibly. That is what I am speaking about. Can the Minister look into creating facilities and resources in this manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we did approve an early childhood development plan several months ago. It is a \$2 million program per year to look at the support for young children between the ages of birth and six, by the time they get into school. One of the plans in that was language nests and that could be an area that, certainly if communities felt it appropriate, that seniors, elders and those with language skills could come into the program. We do have and we are encouraging and part of the program is to address the language issue for young children.

I think the Member has a very good point in what he is bringing forward here. We do need to concentrate on this and we do feel that we already have the mechanism. It may need a bit of refining in that area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had vaguely indicated that there might be room for refinement in this program. I strongly encourage him to look directly at that area as an opportunity to employ elders, as an opportunity to have day cares in our communities and as an opportunity for kids to learn the different languages that we have in the Northwest Territories. That is a specific area of childhood development. Does that plan that was approved a couple of months ago have that component in it, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan that was approved some time ago has a number of components to it, Mr. Speaker. As I said, one of the components was the development of a language nest, whereby young children would join their parents and others to look at the language restitution and development, Mr. Speaker. We feel that is the start of a good program in dealing with community problems for young children but additionally it may prove -- naturally, we have to be concerned about the available funding that we have and we have to live within that at the moment. Certainly it can be the start of a concerted program in communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can I get a commitment from the Minister in this House today that he will encourage his department to look at the viability of day cares run by elders for kids who are not in school as of yet so that their parents can free up their time to go to adult education or to go to work? That is all I am asking for, Mr. Speaker, a commitment.

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

Further Return to Question 178-14(4): Elders as Day Care Providers

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we already have a commitment, Mr. Speaker, in terms of a great deal of funding going into the Early Childhood Development Plan. That is an area we are moving forward to. In addition to the plan itself, I have asked my officials to do an inventory of individuals and identify the qualifications in communities to handle such areas as day care supervision, other possibilities, Mr. Speaker, and other qualifications in other areas.

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

Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question would be directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. On a yearly basis at this time of year, as the Delta starts to freeze over as winter sets in, the ferry crossings are removed and costs start to climb in communities as more and more goods are flown in. There are many new residents in the community of Inuvik nowadays, Mr. Speaker. For that purpose, I would like to have the Minister state the duration the ferry will be out before the crossings are normally in place. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the plan at this point in time is for the work on the crossing to take place as soon as the ice is strong enough to hold the equipment. A lot of this depends on the weather, of course, as the Member knows. The department is not expecting there to be any delays other than for the weather. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue that I raised with the Minister in the past about equipment to encourage or speed up the process of ice crossing building. I would like to know if his department has had a chance to possibly bring up some equipment that would speed up that process.

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

Further Return to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department was working on a plan to use spray equipment to speed up the thickness of the crossings. We are working on that plan in relation to the oil and gas industry's demand for early use of the crossings.

The conversations we have had with the oil and gas industry resulted in them saying they did not see a need on their part for an earlier opening of the crossing. However, the department is still considering whether we are going to put that into use anyway. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope in fact that does proceed, as the cost of living to normal residents is quite high at this time of the year. My question, further to this issue, is the department finding that the weather patterns this winter, for example, will shorten or lengthen the period between when the ferry is pulled out and the crossings put in? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. It is a difficult question. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the comparison information right now as to when the highway crossing closed last year versus this year or the year before. I do believe it is very, very close to normal at this point. I believe that the information I was given for expectation of opening of the crossing would be about the 20th of November. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. He did state earlier they were still considering using the ice water spraying to increase the thickness of the ice crossings sooner. Will that be done this winter or is that for future years? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 179-14(4): Ice Crossings in the Mackenzie Delta

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the plan was to put it in use this year, depending on whether or not we could partner with the oil and gas industry on this because there is a price tag of \$50,000 attached to this project. We would have to find it from within if we could not share costs with the oil and gas industry.

At the present time, indications are the oil and gas industry is satisfied with just waiting for a normal ice crossing because I was told it does not affect their operation at this point. So whether we put it in place this year or not will depend on whether we can find funding from within.

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

Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Justice. I am sure the Minister is aware of the situation regarding crime rates in the North. We are

seeing an increase in public damage, public mischief. We are quickly beginning to realize there are not resources in the communities to deal with that.

As it has been indicated in the media, the RCMP are already resourced to the max. They do not believe they have enough resources to deal with all the different levels of crime that are happening in our communities. In some cases, there is a reluctance from the RCMP to deal with by-laws, resulting in some of the community councils not passing by-laws that maybe they should, such as helmet by-laws, snowmobile by-laws.

I am not seeing any increase in dollars being allocated or earmarked towards by-law programs or policing programs. This concerns me. As a former mayor, I know full well that it is not realistic for the Department of MACA to expect the community to make a choice with the scarce resources they have on hand, between a by-law officer and another position.

It also concerned me that the federal program earmarked towards community constables has sunsetted. Although there is some money for next year there is no money for this year. I would like to know if the Minister is considering designing a program or rolling in an existing program, such as the Community Constable Program, into a By-Law Officer Program that would include by-law officer funding? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole question of policing and public safety is a concern to all of us. We have known for some time that there is a need for more resources to go to the RCMP and other plans, including the Community Constable Program, which is our attempt to try to deal with this issue not only through the RCMP but through our own resources and other initiatives, along with the RCMP help.

There is coordination going on between the RCMP and the different departments in this government, namely the Departments of Justice and MACA. There is going to be a continued look at a plan that the RCMP put forward asking for the type of resources that they are required to do, the type of policing and public safety that is required in the North.

The by-law officer, the by-laws in the communities, that is something that the Department of Justice has to work on with the Department of MACA. I think there is an attempt there through the Community Constable Program to do that. We were just informed on September 21st, this last month, that the federal solicitor general advised that there is additional funding for this year as well as next year. Federal money is going to flow to this Community Constable Program. How we do it, we need suggestions from yourself as well as word from the RCMP and the Department of MACA and the Department of Justice to try to realize the type of resources we have the best we can. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he would assure myself, Members of this House and people in the communities that although I am very glad to hear that there are additional resources in terms of dollars being earmarked for the Community Constable Program, I am not quite satisfied. I do not have the comfort that it will include by-law officers. I think it is a little bit two different parts of the same concept. I would like to ask the Minister if he could give me the reassurance that he will include the by-law officer salaries or funding for by-law officers as part of this federal program that is coming out, or he will attempt to.

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

Further Return to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to try to be a little more clear here on where the by-law enforcement officer and Community Constable Program merge. This Community Constable Program provides individuals employed by different communities as by-law enforcement officers with the opportunity to pursue careers in law enforcement and become fully trained police officers. That is where the linkage is.

The funding I announced just now from the solicitor general is an increase for a continuation of this program. We will see if the by-law officers fit in there. I will have to work with my colleague from MACA on this one because it is a joint jurisdiction between these two departments on how we fund these different schemes and programs and services that we have. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister found his briefing note. It still does not answer my concern. My concern is not every by-law officer program or not every by-law officer hired in the communities belongs to the Community Constable Program or can qualify under this program. I want to be reassured the Department of Justice will be looking at and including by-law officers as part of their community policing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this whole question of communities that pay their by-law officers through MACA funding and the Department of Justice would pay for the training of them, their travel and training, uniforms and the community continues to pay for their salaries on an ongoing basis. That is what the nature of this joint arrangement is. I would have to work with the RCMP. The RCMP is an independent police force that we contract to do

policing in the Northwest Territories. We have to consult with them and, like you said in the earlier days of the sessions, we have a new commanding officer that I have yet to sit down and have meetings with to cover all these bases. I will raise this as one of the issues for discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, short question, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA supplies salaries, I agree. However, the budgets do not allow for all the requirements that are placed on it to include salaries for by-law officers therefore, we are not seeing by-law officers. The training coming from Justice is \$3,000 per community. That is not enough. I want to be reassured that the Minister will be open while he does his review to hearing submissions from the communities regarding by-law officers. It is a problem. Communities cannot hire by-law officers. There are not the resources out there. I think the Department of Justice has to take over the responsibility. Will he be willing to listen to the communities and be open to submissions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, your equally short response.

Further Return to Question 180-14(4): Funding for Community Policing Programs

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will listen to the communities and hopefully we will work with the communities through the Department of Justice and the RCMP to try to find a solution to this situation. Thank you.

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

Question 181-14(4): Proposal to Amend Liquor Regulations

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question today to the Minister responsible for the liquor commission and it has to do with some of the unruliness that happens in some of our Yellowknife streets on weekends, especially after the bars close. Community leaders, including city council, have been talking about some of the options that we could use to address that problem. One of the suggestions is to extend the time period between the bars closing and what is called last call, at which time you could buy the last drink. I think there is uncertainty as to whether or not this can be done by changing the regulations. I was wondering if the Minister is aware of whether or not this is something the city could do by changing the regulations or is it something the liquor board is responsible for? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 181-14(4): Proposal to Amend Liquor Regulations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, if you will indulge me for a minute. I would like to thank Mr. Krutko for the necktie and allowing me to wear it today. I look forward to seeing the matching headpiece. In fact, I might consider buying it for

Cabinet, except we might look like a roving band of Taliban terrorists and get arrested. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I am not certain whether the liquor board has the authority to be able to do the kind of extension that Ms. Lee is referring to but I would be happy to check into it and get back to her. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I was not sure whether this was April 1st or October 31st. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 181-14(4): Proposal to Amend Liquor Regulations

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, at the same time, maybe he should check the regulations to see if he is allowed to wear that sort of tie in this House. Mr. Speaker, I did not hear from the Minister whether he is taking this question as notice. I think my question was pretty clear. I would really appreciate it if he would take it as notice and find out what steps we can take, whether by regulatory change or legislative change, to consider this sort of option and whether or not it is the responsibility of the liquor board or some other government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 181-14(4): Proposal to Amend Liquor Regulations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I would be pleased to take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 182-14(4): Design and Promotion of Fur Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Again, Mr. Speaker, knowing how important the fur industry is, the Territory was built on that industry and because of that, that is why we are here today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister with regard to a very respected individual, Mr. D'Arcy Moses, who has really changed the cultural trapping industry and modernized a lot of the styles we see in the North nowadays. With regard to the Aklavik fur shop and the Tuktoyaktuk fur shop, have you considered input from Mr. D'Arcy Moses to see some of his ideas on how we can enhance that program by improving on the existing manufacture and design of fur products, fur coats that we presently produce there? Can the Minister tell me if he has considered that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 182-14(4): Design and Promotion of Fur Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I personally have had discussions with Mr. Moses. This is not one of his creations, by the way. I have had discussions with him about the fur industry in the North generally, about the potential that is there. I did

not talk specifically about the Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk fur shops but I think it is a good suggestion and one that I will have the Development Corporation look into.

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

Supplementary to Question 182-14(4): Design and Promotion of Fur Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly when he will possibly meet with Mr. Moses to consider the possibility of allowing input? With regard to the review that is taking place with the Aklavik fur shop and the Tuktoyaktuk fur shop, if there is a possibility of being able to receive his input so we can see those two fur shops open again so we can have our people employed?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 182-14(4): Design and Promotion of Fur Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will commit to either myself or through the Development Corporations having discussions with Mr. Moses within the next month. I expect that the Development Corporation may have in fact already talked with him. We will continue with those discussions. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 182-14(4): Design and Promotion of Fur Products

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Minister to ensure that he keeps me apprised of what is happening and also the communities of Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk, to allow the employees of those two fur shops, to make them aware that there are things happening to keep us at ease, to know that there is movement on this matter, which, for a lot of people in our communities who have lost their jobs from those two factories, we may possibly be able to get them back to work.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 182-14(4): Design and Promotion of Fur Products

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly I will keep the Member apprised of any discussion on the matter. I can say there are ongoing discussions that the Development Corporation is having. They are considering a proposal from one of the corporations to take over and operate the shop. Mr. Speaker, I will do anything I can to make sure this does not represent the tail end of the fur industry.

-- Laughter

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

Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, if I remember correctly, when we approved this year's budget, we included an amount of about \$550,000 for consultation on the new Wildlife Act. Could the Minister advise me how that money is proposed to be spent this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the money that was approved for consultations with the Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group has been allocated in two main areas, one being consultations and the other meetings with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. The various aboriginal organizations who are participating in it have spent about \$232,000 on consultations that they have arranged within their areas. As well, there has been about \$60,000 spent on meetings directly with RWED. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for confirmation, was the Minister saying that the Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group has received \$292,000 this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, about \$232,000 has been allocated by the Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group to various different aboriginal organizations for consultations within their regions. Those include the North Slave Metis Alliance, the South Slave Metis Tribal Council, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Game Council, Sahtu Secretariat, Salt River First Nation and Deh Cho First Nation. They have had various amounts they have applied for consultation. In addition to that, there has been approximately \$60,000 spent on meetings with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I attended a public meeting in Yellowknife on Monday, at which RWED conducted consultations on the new Wildlife Act. The RWED staff there indicated that there had been something between the area of \$100,000 and \$150,000 allocated through the Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group. I think this issue needs to be cleared up so that the public understands the amounts.

The question is, will the Minister commit to providing funding to other groups, such as the Sports Hunting Federation, to also be involved in the consultation process?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, there has been considerable consultation with other groups as well. We have had a number of public meetings. We will continue to hold a number of meetings. I do not believe we have had requests for funding for consultation at this point. There have certainly been requests for opportunities for consultation and we will continue to meet with those. We have also had suggestions. For example, it was suggested at a constituency meeting for Yellowknife MLAs that we send out information to resident hunters when we send out questionnaires. I have followed up on that and there will be questionnaires going out. So we are making every effort we can to consult with the public as thoroughly as they would like within the time frames we have. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there may not have been requests thus far, but I heard expressed at the meeting on Monday night an interest by resident sport hunters there to get the federation, the Northwest Territories Hunters Federation, going again. I believe they would like to have an opportunity to work with the department on this issue. Will the Minister consider such a request if it comes forward?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 183-14(4): Consultation on the Wildlife Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly we want to have thorough consultation on the Wildlife Act. Any request that comes in that is reasonable and will advance the purposes of the revised Wildlife Act, we would consider.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether some people feel that we are doing too much for the aboriginal people but we have to recognize the special relationship that aboriginal people have with wildlife, the commitments that are there under their land claim agreements. It is a different situation for aboriginal people than it is with the general public.

I believe RWED has gone a long way to ensuring that there is opportunity for all of the other organizations and individuals to be consulted.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, if there is something that is a worthwhile proposal someone wants to put forward, I would be happy to consider it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Youth and MACA. Mr. Speaker, when we first got elected and got together as Caucus in Fort Providence, we came up with a document called Towards a Better Tomorrow. In our discussions and commitments to the youth of the North, can the Minister tell me what has been done to create infrastructure and activities for youth in all communities of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to advise the Members here, as well as the public, that we have been constantly working to approve the programs for youth across the Northwest Territories and it varies from community to community. I think there is some good stuff to announce here in the last year through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, which has supported the youth portfolio. We have provided \$40,000 to the Territorial Youth Association to assist with delegate travel and organizing their annual general meeting.

We also provided support so that they may attend the Dream Catchers' Conference in Edmonton. We also appointed a staff member to assist in the coordination of youth programs. Those are three of approximately five different initiatives that we have taken over the last year to assist in youth development. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are very good programs and I encourage the department to continue to support those programs. Youth need to get together to plan for their future. However, I am concerned with the lack of infrastructure in the communities. My colleague, Mr. McLeod, spoke about the need for by-law officers in our communities because there is more and more trouble. I believe that is because there is less and less to do in our communities every day. What is his department doing to create infrastructure so that they could be utilized by the youth of our communities, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our ongoing analysis of community needs, we are finding that we need to put more money into the program side of sport, youth and recreation as opposed to infrastructure. We are trying to get an idea from the department's perspective in our

consultation with communities what is most feasible. We find that, yes, with the new government-wide capital planning process, we will probably get less but we also want to turn around and put more funding into program development so that the youth and the residents have an opportunity to participate. That is a goal of the department at the moment. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that the department is looking into developing plans. We have been here for two years now, Mr. Speaker, almost two years, and we have to ask when will we start the implementation process? When, Mr. Speaker, when? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand and I do know it that it was a long and arduous journey to try to get funding put into place for youth initiatives. I believe it is going to occur in the new fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another winter without infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, another winter. Can the Minister tell me what kind of programs, infrastructure and resources is his department envisioning when we are talking about implementation in the new fiscal year? What kind, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return to Question 184-14(4): Facilities and Activities for Youth

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In providing just a quick general overview -- hopefully we will be able to supplement more recreation programs in the communities, put more money into the Youth Corps Program that will give youth some preliminary work experience. They may also provide additional grant money to the communities where they can begin some community work projects that would help enhance the youth to gain some necessary experience where they can move on to other more employable opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The time for oral questions has ended. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 7-14(4): Highway Expenditure Reports

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Transportation Minister, the Honourable Vince Steen. I would like to ask the Minister if he can table the expenditure report for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the 2000-2001 fiscal year, and to give Members copies of this document immediately before the end of this session or at the start of the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to the opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 60-14(4): Package of Letters From Yellowknife Businesses Requesting Lower Corporate and Payroll Taxes

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a package of 18 letters from Yellowknife businesses to the Minister of Finance. These letters request that the Minister raise the small business corporation tax threshold, lower the small business tax rate, reduce the general corporation tax rate and some of the letters are asking for the elimination of the NWT payroll tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Tabled Document 61-14(4): Yellowknife Community Plan to Address Homelessness

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Yellowknife Community Plan to Address Homelessness, which was prepared by the Homelessness Coalition here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Tabled Document 62-14(4): Articles Regarding Leather Tanning

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents related to a tannery in the Canadian industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 13, tabling of documents. Any further tabling of documents? Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**Motion 14-14(4): Recommendation for Appointment of Executive Council**

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 2, 2001, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that J. Michael Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha, be appointed to the Executive Council.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 12. Motion 12, second call. Motion 12 has not been responded to. It shall now be dropped from the order paper. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I read in the House earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 14-14(4). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Delorey, you may proceed with your motion.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS**Motion 14-14(4): Recommendation for Appointment of Executive Council (Carried)**

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recommendation for appointment of the Executive Council member:

WHEREAS section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Executive Council are appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that J. Michael Miltenberger, the Member for Thebacha, be appointed to the Executive Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Is the House ready for the question? Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**Bill 14: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 15: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 15 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**Bill 14: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 15: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 15 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 6, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15; and Tabled Document 51-14(4), with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call committee of the whole to order. Good afternoon, colleagues. We have a number of issues to consider in committee of the whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend we consider Bills 6, 11 and 15, in that order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will take a short break and come back and consider Bills 6, 11 and 15.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call committee of the whole back to order. We will consider Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act. I will call upon the Minister responsible to introduce the bill. Minister Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act, proposes to designate June 21st as a statutory holiday in the Northwest Territories.

Creating this holiday will be a significant acknowledgement of the importance of aboriginal people and their cultures in the rich mosaic that is the Northwest Territories. It will give all Northerners a chance to celebrate and participate in special community activities.

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. David Krutko, deserves much of the credit for this idea. He began this work last year on National Aboriginal Day when he asked the Premier to make June 21st a statutory holiday. Several municipalities, aboriginal organizations and community groups have supported this idea.

In June 2001, the Premier featured this initiative in his opening statement of the current session. He described how this act could define the Northwest Territories as a place that acknowledges the aspirations of aboriginal people while respecting the diversity of all our residents. This is a very powerful sentiment. We look forward to the NWT celebrating its first National Aboriginal Day statutory holiday in 2002.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to describe this bill. I would be pleased to answer any questions from committee members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I will ask the committee responsible for reviewing this bill, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, if they have any comments. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight reviewed Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act at its meetings on September 10 and October 22, 2001. The committee would like to thank the Honourable Roger Allen, who appeared before the committee on October 22, 2001 on behalf of the Minister of Justice. The committee would also like to thank officials from the Department of Justice and FMBS for presenting the bill and responding to issues raised by the committee.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed legislation will designate June 21st as National Aboriginal Day. This statutory holiday will recognize the contribution of aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories and will celebrate and honour aboriginal culture. The committee was unanimous in its support for designating National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday.

The committee received a copy of a letter dated July 20, 2001 to Minister Antoine, written by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce. This letter outlined a concern centered around the cost of both private and public sectors of adding a further paid holiday to the annual calendar.

Mr. Chairman, the committee supported the initiative to designate June 21st as a day to celebrate and honour aboriginal culture. In order to address concerns raised before the committee, a motion to amend the bill, which would have removed one existing statutory holiday, namely the first Monday in August, was proposed. In this fashion, it was thought the bills objectives could be achieved.

The motion to amend was not supported by the Minister and the bill was therefore presented in its original form for consideration. Members look forward to a discussion on these issues during a clause-by-clause consideration of the bill. This concludes the committee's comments on Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses in at this time?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in? Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today are Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board Secretariat; further to my right I have Diane Buckland, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice; and to my left is Janice Laycock. She is a senior policy advisor with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We are dealing with Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act. General comments. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few general comments on Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act. I am certainly in favour of it and I have heard from a lot of my constituents who also support the creation of this statutory holiday on June

21st. I also would like to acknowledge the work of Mr. Krutko, who was the impetus for this. He can take responsibility for this getting to the stage that it is at currently.

The one concern that was raised a few times with me, specifically with local business people, was the concern that Mr. Dent has referred to, that in fact there will be a significant public and private sector cost to adding another statutory holiday. The suggestion was made that possibly we could substitute a holiday that was not a federal holiday, such as the long weekend in August, which may not have a lot of meaning to many folks and create National Aboriginal Day on June 21st and eliminate the long weekend in August. I did make this proposal at the committee stage and proposed an amendment. It did not get past the committee stage in that forum and I do not imagine, after polling my colleagues here today, there is the willingness to move on this amendment. So I will not be making it today, Mr. Chairman.

However, I would like to say that although the public and private sector costs will be significant and I would have liked to have seen us eliminate one of the other holidays, I still think it is important to go forward with this and create National Aboriginal Day on the 21st, even if it means adding another statutory holiday. I think we are now in that process and I am glad to see that we are following it through.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. Krutko for his work in getting this going. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. General comments. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned in the official report from the committee, the support for making National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday among the Regular Members was unanimous. I am certainly part of the group that supports making the holiday a statutory holiday.

Like Mr. Bell, I had been approached by a number of business people who outlined their concerns about the cost to their businesses, to the economy in adding a holiday. A number of them had pointed out that a day like the first Monday in August, which has no other real name other than the first Monday in August, does not recognize anything so we were not really giving anything up if we eliminated that day. We could have honoured the contribution of aboriginal people and culture to the Territories and still kept the costs the same as what it is to both the public and private sector.

I regret that the government was not willing to agree to that proposal but I do think it is important that we move forward and make National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday. I certainly am in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments. The Chair will go to Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as stated by those speaking previously to this bill, I as well support the initiative that has brought this forward and that we are going to see a day recognized of the people, the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. This is a significant move to recognize that in the Northwest Territories. I as well had some concerns and I have raised them. There has been much discussion to see if there was an appetite to do a trade of days, in a sense, to establish June 21st as the holiday but remove

August 8th, trying to save the private sector some funding. They are the biggest ones out there who are going to pay for this. The government as well. There is a cost to this in the sense of a monetary issue.

Though I understand and recognize the need to move forward on this, I also know that there are a lot of small businesses out in the NWT who would have to fund this holiday. I do not think it was a thing to try to add costs but recognizing again the importance of this.

When you look at the discussions we went through in public hearings, there was almost a split in the committee as to which way to go. Then the government has decided not to concur with the amendment that was put forward. It is unfortunate in a sense for the funding situation but I, along with Members of this House, feel that it is an important enough issue to move on and have this established. Although I might not agree with some Members saying August 8th represents nothing. You will have some labour groups probably say that is an issue that they have worked hard to get recognized by government. Again, it was a big concern as to the total impact when it comes to both this government and private sector businesses.

It is something we need to put in place, but there is still some concern there of the impact to the private sector. Hopefully, in the Minister's response it will be something he will try to address and why the government or Cabinet did not want to see this move forward.

I know that when there was much debate between other Ministers of this government and committee Members on this idea of moving this date over, it was one where they defended the establishment without a trade because August long weekend is one that is in our Public Service Act and has been negotiated there and that was a concern.

A fair bit of Members have felt there was a need to still move forward with an amendment but at this stage, I think the majority of Members recognizing the importance of the issue have agreed to move forward on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. General comments? Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a general comment in support of the intent and spirit of this bill and, as Mr. Bell mentioned earlier, there was a motion brought in our committee review process for the possibility of an amendment which would ensure the holidays in total would be equal. I missed an opportunity there to speak on that motion and I just wanted to say for the record here, I believe I stated the sentiment way back when this National Aboriginal Day legislation for the Northwest Territories came before us as a proposal.

Mr. Chairman, I believe very much that this is a very significant and historic bill and an historic act for this Assembly. Like anything else that we do, there is always a cost and consequences for our actions. I am very aware of the fact that business communities have expressed their concern about the impact this would have on their cost of doing business. We also understand that the government will be one of those employers who would have to bear extra costs.

Mr. Chairman, as a legislator, I have to balance the cost of this. I would like to state that I had the occasion to partake in the June 21st celebration at Soomba K'e Park, which used to be known as Petitot Park, last June. I can tell you that even though it was a working day, the crowd that came out to celebrate there was as big as the crowd that we see on July 1st. I could just see how if that was a holiday where people could be away from work and partake in it, that we might possibly have a bigger celebration there and an opportunity for everyone in the city to come out and enjoy the festivities and treats. I think that day and its celebration could grow. For that, I think the purpose, intent and the end result we are going to have from this holiday is very significant.

The other thing about the cost is that the August 1st weekend, although it does not denote any special event, it is a very important holiday for Canadians. It is the end of the summer holiday, especially for this part of the world. The cost that I am thinking of is that if we got rid of that holiday, we would not have a holiday between the July 1st holiday until the September long weekend, which could be up to seven or eight weeks. I do not think that we want to create any possibility where there might be some resentment from those who would rather have August 1st as a holiday or the August long weekend holiday than the June 21st holiday.

I think given the importance that the recognition that this holiday is meant to be, which is to celebrate the place of aboriginal peoples in the Northwest Territories, as well as sending out the message to the rest of Canada and the world as this jurisdiction being the first one that would actually declare the day a territorial holiday.

It is important for me to put it on record that I support the intent and spirit of this bill. I appreciate the business cost of doing this, but that the meaning and importance of the action itself that is meant to be resulted from this legislative action is important enough and that we should minimize any possibility of there being any negative feelings that may result if we decided to take out one of the most enjoyable holidays in August.

I needed to put that on record. I would just like to close my comments by congratulating Mr. Krutko for introducing this and making this a public issue and the government for taking action on it. I would also like to acknowledge someone else out of this House, actually, who was part of the team that mobilized to have this reality. I believe Mr. Arnold Enge was one of the people in the group that tried to lobby us to do this. I just wanted to put that on the record and congratulate the Minister and the government for seeing this through. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I too will be voting in favour of creation of this day. Like my colleagues, I would like to reflect on some of the issues that came up in this debate and in this discussion and give you some reflection of where they came to rest for me.

The cost was certainly the most obvious and the most tangible impact of this for our economy. I learned through it and with the assistance of the department and others that a day of production, if you will, or a regular day of work in the Northwest Territories across all sectors, government, private sector, non-

government organizations, is about \$8 million. That is no small change, Mr. Chairman.

It is obvious as well that June 21st comes at the height of a very busy time of year, a very busy point in the activity cycle. It is, of course, at the top of the building and construction season for outside work. It is very much an important time of the year for tourism.

I also tried to reflect on those people who, by virtue of the jobs they have or the projects they are on, would not be able to celebrate the specific day, June 21st. I also looked at the idea of the exchange with a different day, to see where the merits would be of taking one day, if you will, and reprofiling it.

As well, Mr. Chairman, I had to consider the impact on some students in the Northwest Territories and their families. As we know, this is right at the end of the high school or the school semester. For those grade 12 graduates who would be writing departmental examinations, that schedule is set to mesh with the Alberta curriculum and for some students who would be scheduled to write exams on that day, they may not be able to avoid it or other work might have to be done to reschedule things. Anyway, there is an impact there that we tried to consider.

I also looked, Mr. Chairman, at taking the value of this day but wondering whether this coming year, 2002, is the year to start it. A holiday in a non-aboriginal culture, anyway, is a day where you celebrate or commemorate something; something that is earned or achieved or already behind you. In that respect, I was wondering whether this is a holiday something like Labour Day, which was created at some point, I do not know the history of it, but there was a need and then a consensus to celebrate the achievements of labourers and workers in our society, so we have Labour Day. It might be a bit of a stretch, Mr. Chairman, but is Remembrance Day, just coming up, also something that is done in a much more somber way, of course, a much more serious way, but it celebrates and marks the end of something and an ongoing purpose.

You know, here in the Northwest Territories, we are on the verge of so many advances for aboriginal people and aboriginal rights; self-government, devolution, resource-revenue sharing, things that are barely touched in other parts of Canada. We are doing them here, though we do not yet have them in our grasp.

I was wondering, would there be some point, maybe a few years down the pipe, that when we do have a lot of these things achieved and done and implemented, is that a time then that we should really say okay, now we can celebrate it?

Within aboriginal culture itself, something that I have not heard of would be the concept of -- especially prior to European contact -- taking a day in the year to celebrate something, to have a party. Is that part of aboriginal culture itself? I have not heard much of it. It certainly is part of non-aboriginal culture.

In considering all of these aspects, I talked to a lot of people about it, especially business owners. I got the general response that this would be something that would be more appreciated among their workforce, especially at one of the best times of the year that we have. There was a readiness among employers, the few that I talked to, to do this.

I think the best advice that I got, and this is what really helped me to decide that this bill was worth supporting and supporting wholeheartedly, is that it is not about cost and it should not be about trade-offs. It is about our values in Canadian society. It is about the recognition of aboriginal cultures and what they are striving to do and what we in a consensus government are trying to do. It is about mutual respect, Mr. Chairman. I think it is about bringing cultures together.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I think it is about demonstrating leadership to the rest of Canada that this is indeed something that should be celebrated and a full holiday is an appropriate way to do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. General comments. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to voice my support for this National Aboriginal Day and I want to commend the Premier for putting the call out there to the aboriginals and to people across the North to give an indication as to whether or not they wanted to see an aboriginal day and, of course, they came back positive.

I wanted to say that I cannot accept that a National Aboriginal Day, especially when there was a consideration to substitute it for another holiday, I do not think that is something we can consider. I want to commend the Minister, however, for looking at all the options, even the option that he quickly wrote off about looking at half a day. A national aboriginal half-day was not possible.

I do not believe that we have any alternative but to set up June 21st as a holiday. I think there is a real need that we recognize the aboriginal people of the North and across this country. I want to state that most of the communities -- I believe all the communities are celebrating National Aboriginal Day already. Most of the communities declare holidays for the band councils and for the Metis Nations, and most organizations take a holiday on that day. It is only fair that we make it apply to all people in the communities.

I want to say that it is really important to me that we have a day to respect and honour the aboriginal people for their accomplishments, for the history of this country and also honour a day to recognize and celebrate their culture and traditions. I want to say that I am supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I remember back in 1995, I believe, I was hired by the federal government, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, to organize one of the very first few aboriginal day celebrations. They gave me a budget and I got performers from all over the North, Inuit, Metis and Dene. George Tuccaro was hired to be the M.C. Unfortunately, Mr. Tuccaro took a spill. He tripped over wiring on the stage. We used a flat bed for a stage and he tripped, so I had to take over as M.C. I will reiterate what I said then. "It is about time that aboriginal people are recognized for their contributions to the world." There are many, many things that we take for granted today. Tables of corn, for example, they are aboriginal products.

I believe by us passing this bill and making June 21st a statutory holiday, it goes a long way in recognition of aboriginal

contributions to the Canadian society and the North American society. I fully support this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to support this motion and say that coming from a small community, when there are weddings, feasts and other activities that happen in the community, everybody participates. Small businesses and even the local government give time off to their staff to participate. You have to recognize that aboriginal people opened their arms to Europeans when they landed and we were willing to share the land with them.

If they had not done this, we would not be celebrating Canada Day or the Queen's birthday. We have to recognize this and they need to have a day to themselves. Creating a day for them is not acceptable to a lot of the aboriginals. They think they need to have a day celebrating for themselves. I know that in the larger communities, the bigger businesses and the government, they are going to be taking a big cost to give this day up, but I have to say again that aboriginal people need to be recognized as do other groups. We celebrate other days that were created, like Mr. Braden said, so I just want to say that I support it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. General comments. Clause by clause. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): You will find the bill in your grey binder at tab 6. Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act. Clause 1?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 2?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 3?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 4?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 5?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed. Bill as a whole?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Bill 6 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed. Bill 6 is now ready for third reading.

-- Applause

Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. We will now go to Bill 11, Architects Act. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present for public review Bill 11, the proposed new Architects Act.

Architecture is the only profession in the Northwest Territories dealing with health and safety of the public that is not regulated by statute. At this time, anyone can claim that they are qualified to provide architectural services for buildings regardless of their educational training. As a result, there is no guarantee that the architectural designers of NWT buildings are properly trained or qualified to correctly interpret and apply the requirements of the National Building Code and similar regulations. Every province in Canada now has legislation to regulate the practice of architecture and similar legislation is proposed in the new Architects Act.

Mr. Chairman, under the new Architects Act, membership as a restricted practitioner will be extended to individuals who currently practice architecture in the Northwest Territories. This ensures that all individuals who currently earn a living as owners/operators of an architectural business will be able to continue to do so after the act comes into force.

A new NWT Architectural Association will be created as part of this initiative. The association will have approximately 30 registered and graduate members to undertake all duties associated with self-regulation. The Architectural Association will be a self-funding body with its own council, registrar and committees. Membership dues and fees paid by NWT members and visiting project architects will generate the funding necessary to manage the association.

The act will also allow the Minister of Public Works and Services to appoint a public member to the Council of the Architectural Association. This will ensure that the association, as a self-governing body, has public participation. The new association will pay all costs associated with this appointment.

Mr. Chairman, a new version of the National Building Code beginning in 2002, will be less prescriptive and more performance based. This will place more responsibility on architects to interpret and properly apply building code requirements. The proposed Architects Act will help ensure that architects practicing in the Northwest Territories have the education, training and experience necessary to work with the new codes.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention that one minor drafting error has been found in Bill 11 as it now stands. I will be proposing a motion at the appropriate time to correct this error.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. I will go to the chairman of the standing committee, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On October 29, 2001, the Honourable Vince Steen, Minister of Public Works and Services, and his officials appeared before the committee to present Bill 11, the Architects Act. The committee would like to thank the Minister and his officials for responding to issues raised by the committee during the public review.

The committee would also like to thank Wayne Guy, president of the Northwest Territories Architectural Society, for appearing before the committee and responding to those issues raised by Members.

This new act will provide for the creation of a professional association for architects in the Northwest Territories. The bill also provides for the regulation of the profession by the new association and requires, with some exceptions, persons practicing architecture to be authorized to do so by the association.

With the Minister's concurrence, committee members moved to have three clauses amended. These amendments do not change the substance of any section of the bill. The amendments corrected references to certain sections of the act and corrected awkward wording in one situation.

Mr. Chairman, committee members may have additional comments during the review of this bill in committee of the whole. This concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development on Bill 11, Architects Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Will the Minister be bringing in any witnesses? Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses in? Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my right is Mr. Bruce Rattray, the deputy minister for Public Works and Services. On my left is Mark Aitken, director of the legislation division, Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. General comments? Clause by clause? Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 11, Architects Act, page 6, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 9, part 1, clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 4.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 10, clause 5.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 6.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 12, clause 7.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 8.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 13, clause 9.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 14, part 2, clause 10.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 15, clause 11.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 12.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 16, clause 13.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 14.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Part 3, clause 15.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 17, clause 16.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 17.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 18, clause 18.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 20, clause 19.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 20.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 21.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 21, clause 22.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 23.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 24.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 22, clause 25.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 26.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 27.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 23, clause 28.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 24, clause 29.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 25, clause 30.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 31.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 26, clause 32.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 33.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Part 4, clause 34.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 27, clause 35.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 36.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 28, clause 37.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
- CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 38.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 29, clause 39.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 40.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 41.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 30, clause 42.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 43.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 44.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 45.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 31, clause 46.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 47.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 32, clause 48. Mr. Steen.

Committee Motion 29-14(4): To Amend Clause 48 of Bill 11: Architects Act (Carried)

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, this motion is to correct a minor error in the English version of sub-clause 48(a)(ii) by removing the unnecessary word, in this case, the preposition "to." Therefore,

I MOVE that the English version of sub-clause 48(a)(ii) of Bill 11 be amended by striking out "required by a notice" and by substituting "required by a notice."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 48 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 49.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 33, clause 50.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 34, clause 51.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 35, clause 52.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 53.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 54.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 36, clause 55.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 56.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 36, clause 57.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 37, clause 58.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 59.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 60.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 61.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 38, clause 62.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 63.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 64.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 65.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 66.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 67.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 39, clause 68.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 69.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill as a whole, as amended?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Bill 11 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 11 is now ready for third reading as amended. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses.

-- Applause

We will now move to Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation No. 3, 2000-2001, in tab 15 in your grey binder. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3 requests authority for the additional operations expenditures appropriations of \$124,00 for the Legislative Assembly. This request is being made to comply with the authorization process for over-expenditures of appropriations as stated in the Financial Administration Act.

The over-expenditure was attributed to the re-evaluation of the capital lease on the Legislative Assembly building during the implementation of the tangible capital assets system.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. As this is a supplementary appropriation, it did not go to a standing committee, so I will open it up for general comments. Detail has been called. Supplementary Appropriation No. 3, 2000-2001. We will defer the bill initially and go on to detail. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$124,000.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed. Total department, not previously authorized, \$124,000.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go back to the bill. Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001. Bill 15, page 1, clause 1?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 2.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 3.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 4.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 5.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 6.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 2, clause 7.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 3, schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total supplementary appropriations, operations expenditures, \$124,000.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total supplementary appropriation, \$124,000.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Bill 15 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 15 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I shall rise and report progress. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now come back to order. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 6, 11 and 15 and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted. Bills 6 and 15 are ready for third reading and Bill 11 is ready for third

reading as amended. 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 honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 5: An Act to Amend the Education Act

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. Bill 5 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Bill 7: Powers of Attorney Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 13: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 13 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a swearing in of the new Cabinet Minister immediately after adjournment today. Meetings tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Cabinet House strategy, also at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, and at 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs and also of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development; and again of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 12:00 p.m.

Orders of the day for Thursday, November 1, 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 Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 13-14(4): To Move Tabled Document 42-14(4) into Committee of the Whole
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act
 - Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act
 - Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002
 - TD 51-14(4), Investing in Roads for People and the Economy: A Highway Strategy for the Northwest Territories
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act
 - Bill 11, Architects Act
 - Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned to Thursday, November 1, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

