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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, November 5, 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. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Please be seated. Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 55-14(4): Reform of the Health and Social Services System**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share some information with this House about the process I will be undertaking as Minister of Health and Social Services to address the critical need to implement comprehensive reform of the health and social services system.

This reform, that has been attempted with limited success over the past six or seven years, is critical to the long-term viability and sustainability of our health and social service system and to the health and well-being of the people of the NWT.

The health and social services system has been studied numerous times over the past six years, starting with the Med-Emerg report and ending most recently with the Cuff report. As the Cuff and other reports have pointed out, there are serious issues with the system as it currently exists. On the positive side, there are many very good people working in health and social services, both at the departmental and board levels, who have excellent ideas and can help us address the issues at hand if given adequate and appropriate support.

It is time to move beyond the studies and get on with substantial and sustainable reform of the health and social services system. The department has developed a draft action plan to implement changes in specific areas. There has been significant effort by those within the department to develop the action plan and that effort should be acknowledged. However, before it is ready to be released publicly, it is important to take that work and engage the critical stakeholders who will have to help us refine and finalize that plan. The final plan to be tabled must have clear and concrete actions that have the support of Cabinet, the MLAs, the department, the boards and the public.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to take some immediate steps to build consensus and agreement on how to proceed with this reform. One of the critical pieces is to have an oversight team that can work with me to keep the process on schedule. This team will include myself, the deputy minister of the department, a coordinator of systems reform and my executive assistant. The coordinator will report directly to me to ensure there is a

balance between regional priorities and the department's priorities. This position will also ensure that all of the pieces of the project are kept on schedule and implemented in a coordinated way. Department and board staff will do the work to prepare action plans for specific areas of concern and this oversight team will keep the process moving forward and on schedule. We also have the support of the secretary to Cabinet to help provide a peer review of the plan as we put it in place.

Mr. Speaker, there are a series of actions that I believe will set the stage for starting to carry out the reform. Over the next three weeks, I hope to meet with the chairs of the health and social services boards to discuss this process and their key areas. I would like them to share their issues with me, as well as their thoughts on what we could do to fix the most critical of these.

I have been meeting with the deputy minister to discuss the current state of health and social services and talk about opportunities and challenges over the next few months. I also intend to meet with the senior staff in the department to outline the importance of moving forward with the changes in a positive, productive and timely way. It is important that they know they will have my support to move ahead in areas where I feel we have a logical plan and support from the stakeholders. I plan to meet as many of the staff working in health and social services as possible. As part of finalizing the reform plan, we will invite their active input and participation as we put this plan together.

I will be travelling to NWT communities to discuss our approach to systems reform and to listen to health and social services board members, MLAs and other community leaders about their most pressing issues. Particular attention must be paid to those communities with emerging large-scale economic development opportunities such as the Delta and the Valley. We know from past experience that along with development comes a social impact that must be planned for. Meetings will also take place with the NWT Medical Association, the NWT Registered Nurses Association and the NWT Social Workers Association, who will all need to be involved in this system reform.

Timeliness is critical. It is my intention to bring a plan to Cabinet within 90 days that can be tabled at the beginning of the February session. This plan would identify those areas where we can make swift progress and provide immediate relief to some of the pressing issues for both the department and the health and social services boards. The plan will also identify time lines including what can happen in a six-month period, a one-year period and which items will take longer. The plan will demonstrate that we are committed to proceeding with change.

Mr. Speaker, an important part of this plan is communications. We must have communications that keep Ministers, MLAs,

board chairs and their members, staff and the public informed every step of the way. Cabinet, MLAs and board chairs need to be closely tied into the process.

As I mentioned earlier, there are many dedicated people working within the system. We need to give them credit for the work they are doing and for the ideas they have to make things better.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is tremendous potential to improve our health and social services system and look forward to the opportunity to help guide that process. As we undertake this significant work, I hope we will have the support of my colleagues in this House and all of those territorial residents who have an interest in health and social services, from a personal or professional perspective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Persons With Disabilities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want our government to start thinking about creative solutions on how we are dealing with the needs of persons with disabilities. Our projected costs for this fiscal year are more than \$2.3 million just in adult placements in southern placement facilities. That is for 27 adults with disabilities, Mr. Speaker.

In the past, the people of Rae have tried different ways to support their own people with disabilities in the North Slave region. What we really need is a facility for the people so that they can remain in the North.

In Rae, our friendship centre has a Life Skills Program for young adults with disabilities. This program is welcomed by the community with five regular attendees and four who attend less frequently.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to get funding for the program and it always tends to be underfunded. Here is a program that is well received by the community, doing good for the residents and yet the financial support is very slack.

By giving people with disabilities options to stay in the community, they can still have the support of their families. Also, they can have access to cultural activities.

I will quote from a questionnaire done for needs assessment: "I can't trap and spend time in the bush. I would like to do that but no programs allow me to."

Elder parents of these people in need are worried what will happen to them when they pass on. Most of the people sent south have very high needs, according to the Northwest Territories Council for Persons with Disabilities. About 60 percent of persons with moderate to severe disability in the Northwest Territories have multiple disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, 32 percent of them have a learning disability. According to a needs assessment done in the Northwest Territories, the majority of people with disabilities need special

aids or support in daily living. We want to encourage participation in the communities and it is difficult to participate in the community when they are living 1,800 miles south of it. That is what the people want. It takes a community to raise a child. Some people were sent to the facilities and they cannot be raised as a community. Others have been sent out as adults and those are the ones we want to return.

I want to let you know that the people of North Slave want to see a facility built in the region. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on that later. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Proposed Housing Complex for Inuvik Seniors

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about the seniors, especially those in the community I represent. There has been an ongoing issue that they have been working on for a number of years now. As a government and as the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, I have met with my colleague from Inuvik Twin Lakes and we have tried to have something occur in the sense of where some of our seniors want to spend some of their retirement days in the community of Inuvik.

The seniors' society or group out of Inuvik that Mrs. Bertha Allen has put together and worked quite hard on behalf of, trying to ensure the elders of the community, those that first helped establish the community when it was first built, are looking to set up a seniors' home complex that would be in the same vicinity as where they had initially set up their tents when the town of Inuvik was being built.

That area happens to fall right in the same area that is now called the Happy Valley Campsite that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has built over a number of years within the community of Inuvik. The seniors have worked with Housing and they know that the business, in the sense of building homes for them, that plan is falling together and they are very happy that the Housing Corporation has worked with them in that area, but it is a matter of where it is going to be built, Mr. Speaker.

The elders of the community, those who were born and raised in the Delta, have a special interest in that when they look out their windows as seniors, they can see the rivers they travelled on the Delta, that they raised their families in. They want to be able to remember that in their days as seniors. They are even willing to put some of their own capital into this. Right now, a number of seniors in the community of Inuvik own their own homes but as costs continue to go up, it becomes more and more difficult for them to stay in their own homes. They have to look forward now as to where they are going to be staying.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions of the appropriate Minister during question period in this regard. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on Policing Concerns in Fort Providence

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I questioned the Minister responsible for MACA on the allocation of resources to employ by-law officers. Mr. Speaker, beyond the need for by-law officers, a concern has been raised in Fort Providence with respect to policing by the RCMP. This concern stems from what the community says is an entire lack of police presence in the community. This comes at a time when the community is experiencing an increase in unlawful activities beyond the by-law infractions.

Mr. Speaker, this problem has been brought to my attention by the community representatives who are very concerned that if this situation is not addressed in a timely matter, the community will suffer. Mr. Speaker, I have confirmation that this issue has been brought to the attention of our local RCMP detachment in Fort Providence and the commanding officer of the "G" Division in Yellowknife. The response by the local RCMP is that they agree that the problem exists but say that due to limited resources, they must prioritize their responses and patrols.

Mr. Speaker, between patrolling Fort Providence, including 250 kilometres of the Mackenzie Highway system, as well as the settlement of Kakisa and being absent from the community for courses, training, court and leave, the community of Fort Providence feels that it is frequently underpoliced.

Mr. Speaker, both the community and the RCMP are in agreement that the policing problem exists and that incidents of crimes are increasing within the community. Efforts are being made to bring in additional officers when required for things such as special events, but this does not deal with the immediate, day-to-day concerns when the officers are away from the community and no officers are on duty and calls are redirected to Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the lack of available officers and resources, the community at times finds that it is challenged by having to deal with cultural differences with the RCMP members, which is a real concern for an aboriginal community and for the Northwest Territories, where a majority of those persons incarcerated are of aboriginal ancestry.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge my colleagues to question what is being done to ensure that community policing is a priority for this government and the RCMP. What is being done to ensure that our communities are being policed effectively and efficiently? What is being done to ensure that a cooperative relationship exists between the communities and the RCMP? What is being done to ensure sufficient resources are being made available to communities for community policing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will be raising questions for the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Mackenzie Delta Old Time Dance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform Members of the Assembly that the Mackenzie Delta people, including many members from my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes, hosted a fun event last Saturday night that drew a huge crowd of Northerners. What became such a truly great satisfaction in this event was the music provided by the

Mackenzie Delta Good Time Band from my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes.

The musicians travelled from Inuvik to perform for the Old Time Dance held at the Con Mine Rec Centre, after which they were thoroughly impressed with the crowd and the dancers. Mr. Speaker, it was a fun time for everyone and a good example of how our people from the North can gather to share in good fun and good spirit. It brings back many memories of the past.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, on behalf of my constituents who now reside in Yellowknife, I would like to thank the musicians James Nulluk Rogers, Angus Alunik and Charlie Kasook. Also accompanying the band were South Slave musicians Norbert Poitras and Alan Cardinal. Special mention has to go out to the organizers and volunteers, namely Kathy Moore, Rosa Wright, Eddy Wright and Sheila Vittrekwa, and to those who made contributions throughout the day and evening of Saturday, November 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all of you to attend our next major potluck dinner and dance to be held on the last Saturday of February, 2002. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Hydroelectric Power Generation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the GNWT in their efforts to investigate and move forward with increased hydroelectric generation in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the run-off river projects proposed would mean little if any flooding. That is one benefit that the Northwest Territories has over other areas. We can use the water's natural flow rather than storing great volumes of it. I was pleased to hear the Minister's statement that any plan that would include flooding of an unacceptable nature to our environment, residents and communities would not be supported.

Mr. Speaker, I am also encouraged that some aboriginal governments have indicated their willingness to discuss this development of hydro resources. Obviously though, we are going to have to deal with concerns right up front before we can embark on any.

We have an opportunity here to manage the development of the Northwest Territories' hydro resources in a controlled manner to the benefit of all residents. We have the benefit to enhance our social, cultural and environmental stewardship of territorial resources.

Mr. Speaker, keeping in mind the market demand of hydroelectric generation is as far-reaching as 75 years, we must do something soon, particular on the Taltson system. If we do not, I am concerned that Alberta might move ahead in the South Slave River, which could have tremendous negative impacts on our waters.

Speaking of Alberta, Mr. Speaker, Alberta currently generates over 90 percent of its electrical energy from non-renewable

resources such as coal and natural gas. The greenhouse gas emissions from these plants affect the climate and the environment of the Northwest Territories. Our hydroelectric generation is not just marketable for dollars but for carbon critics as well.

Mr. Speaker, the North American market, according to analysts, is growing, mainly for environmental reasons, but the demand is also growing, Mr. Speaker, largely because of increased use of technology which also demands huge amounts of electricity.

Mr. Speaker, there are numerous benefits for the Northwest Territories from hydro projects. We can replace high-cost polluting diesel generation with clean, reliable hydro. Expanded hydro will stabilize and lower electricity prices over the long term. Expanded hydro will provide new funding sources for programs and services. Expanded hydro will provide southern-based economies with alternate, clean sources of energy to replace gas or coal powered plants.

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. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, expanded hydro will provide southern-based economies with alternate, clean sources of energy to replace gas or coal-fire power plants and reduce greenhouse gas emission impacts. Expanded hydro will provide long-term employment opportunities in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have embarked on a good project here. I encourage the Minister and the government to continue the exploration of new, alternate energy technologies as well, such as solar-based initiatives.

We have an awful lot to offer the world from the Northwest Territories in terms of resources. I hope to see the government and aboriginal partners move forward with this as quickly as possible. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Hay River Community Health Board

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address an issue that is affecting a great number of Hay River residents, and ultimately all residents of Hay River.

The issue I refer to, Mr. Speaker, is the pressing matter of the Hay River Community Health Board and how health care in Hay River will be managed in the future as a result of recent changes announced by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Hay River Community Health Board has been in existence in one form or another for some 40 years. The health board employs over 175 people in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Hay River Community Health Board was transferred to the Town of Hay River from the Pentecostal Church on September 1, 1996. The transition from the Pentecostal Church to the Town of Hay River was seamless and resulted in no disruption to the health services to the residents of Hay River.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Hay River have some real concerns about the future of health care delivery in the town. One recommendation that has come forward and is being proposed is the creation of a new super board to be run out of Yellowknife.

This is very disconcerting to the employees in the region. I thought that this government was trying to get away from the big-brother-is-watching scenario. However, this does not appear to be the case.

The Hay River Community Health Board employees have been told that having one employer would reduce competition for staff and improve orientation training and clinical supervision.

Mr. Speaker, the employees of the Health Board are not in agreement with a super board for several reasons. One reason is recruitment and retention. Employees are very concerned that if recruitment is done out of Yellowknife, then the other smaller communities will just receive the leftovers, so to speak. In addition, Mr. Speaker, if clinical staff of health boards are reporting to the super board in Yellowknife and administration staff are reporting to their respective individual boards, this will result in fracturing the staff.

Mr. Speaker, I have had several meetings with the Hay River Community Health Board union and staff and they have told me, in no uncertain terms, that they are very unhappy with the proposed changes. Mr. Speaker, the 175 employees of the Hay River Community Health Board and their families represent a significant proportion of Hay River's population. I intend to protect the interests of these residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Positive Aspects of Sport and Recreation Programs

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 17th to the 23rd of next year will see the circumpolar world's major international sporting event taking place in Iqaluit, Nunavut and Nuuk, Greenland. I am referring, of course, to the Arctic Winter Games.

In this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we raise many questions regarding the future participation in those games. At this point, I would like to look at some of the positive aspects of sport and development in the Northwest Territories.

Physical and mental preparation for sporting events is a key to good health, Mr. Speaker. People who are physically active

have fewer health problems in later years. Let us all remember the 60-year old Swede and ParticipACTION.

Perhaps the broadest impact in the Arctic Winter Games is the 1200 or so athletes here in the Northwest Territories who will participate in regional playoffs and some 700 who will participate in territorial trials. These trials are commencing starting this month and they will be going through January. Regional trials in the Mackenzie district, Beaufort-Delta and Sahtu, South Slave and Yellowknife will see competition in 19 events in as many as 30 communities. Not only does this competition promote traditional sports like snowshoeing, Arctic sports, Dene games and dog mushing, but it encourages skill development in other sports like curling, skiing and speed skating. Officials, coaches and athletes all develop new skills and greater competencies. They make new friends and learn more about each other's regions and homes.

The Arctic Winter Games contributes to the cultural and artistic development of the performing and visual arts. This year, we will see 16 cultural performers from the Northwest Territories on the international stage at the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs is currently circulating a paper on sport and recreation. I believe we need to look at the broad value of sport and rec in the Northwest Territories and its positive impacts on health, social and community programs that this government delivers.

In this light, we need to look not so much at how we slice up the pie, but how can we make the pie bigger and spread the value of sport and recreation throughout the North. In the trials upcoming, for all the athletes and volunteers and for our hosts in Iqaluit and Nuuk, Mr. Speaker, I wish them every success over the coming four months of preparation. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Side Door Youth Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to acknowledge and thank those who have worked very hard for the last number of months to bring the dream of a youth drop-in centre in Yellowknife a reality. As we speak, the final touches are being applied to the old building that used to be known as the mine rescue building. The future home for Yellowknife youth, which will be known as the Side Door Youth Centre, started with very modest beginnings in the basement of the Anglican Church. Through the determination and energy of the executive director, Mr. Kevin Laframboise, and the dedicated board members led by Captain Al Hoeft, now what started as a wish will in short time become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, every time I go by the building, whether on feet or behind the wheels, my heart warms up to see with my very eyes what is possible when the community gets behind a good idea with committed people putting their energy together. How it is possible to turn an idea into a project well over a half million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I have also seen the big sign at the construction site indicating the sponsorships by Diavik and Nahanni Construction. This is yet another example of an important

corporate contribution being made by our resident corporations, as well an exemplary demonstration of what is possible when the corporate citizens partner with the community and the various levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by the City of Yellowknife, the GNWT and the federal government to make this project possible.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Range Lake and the city, I would like to recognize all those who have contributed to this project and to thank them and to let the people know that they are in need of a lot of little things, like coffee pots and computers and so on, to make the place more homelike. I would encourage everyone to make a contribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to say welcome to our visitor today. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Honourable Joe Handley, Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, in line with my Member's statement, this might seem a bit off-Minister, in a sense, but I am aware that the seniors have worked hard to come up with a plan for a seniors' complex and worked with this government to get to the point they are at.

The concern is the location. The location happens to fall within the Happy Valley Campsite, more traditionally known as Tent Town as the community was being built. There were people who initially stayed there before homes were built in Inuvik. They have approached the government to see if they could use a portion of the Happy Valley Campsite to build this complex on. There has been discussion between the seniors' group in Inuvik, the Housing Corporation and RWED, to a certain degree, and the Town of Inuvik.

The Town of Inuvik has given the seniors its support behind this initiative. I would like to ask if Minister Handley, as this has been addressed before in this House, has any further information with regard to the Happy Valley Campsite being used for a seniors' complex come up? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the seniors have been offered a nine-unit multiplex and they have agreed to that portion of it. They have also been offered a piece of land just on the east side of the campgrounds. I do not

believe that there has been any agreement on their part yet to that particular piece of land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The seniors are indeed aware of that and they are not satisfied with that. They want to be in the location that they were initially in when they started to build Inuvik. I would like to know, has the department been involved with the Housing Corporation or with the seniors in coming up with hopefully a satisfactory agreement as to the location that the seniors are looking at? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I appreciate the seniors' interest in having that specific piece of land. We have invested a fair bit of money into developing it as a campground and would like to come to some sort of compromise with the seniors. My understanding is that discussions are still ongoing and there has been no categorical no and no agreement on their part on the lands on the east side. However, I hope that we can arrive at a compromise that will ensure we do not have to rebuild the campground and at the same time satisfy what the seniors would like. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Creative solutions seem to be the theme today and I agree that hopefully they can come up with something. He said ongoing discussions. I am aware that Mrs. Allen has presented to the town council that they are not looking for the whole campsite. They are looking for a portion of it. Can the Minister inform me as to when they would sit down with the group to try and come to some understanding as to the location? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, Minister Allen is going up there in November to meet with them. We have advanced the seniors some money, \$15,000 I believe, to look at options. I hope that at that time, we will be able to have some closure to this long-standing issue. I cannot confirm that it would be closed then, but we are trying to resolve it as well and get on with the other unit for the seniors. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us whether his staff will be directly involved with those meetings with the seniors? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 214-14(4): Seniors' Complex in Happy Valley Campsite

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will ensure that our staff are at the meeting. Thank you.

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

Question 215-14(4): Repatriation of Disabled Northerners

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister if he can look at the repatriating of our disabled who are in the south and who are in care. I would like to ask him if he would look at trying to bring our relatives back to the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 215-14(4): Repatriation of Disabled Northerners

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of repatriation is a constant and ongoing issue for the department. I believe there are currently 27 children in care and 22 adults. Over the years, there have been repatriation initiatives. As I get my briefings in the coming weeks, that will be one of the issues I will look at to see what is possible, what the needs are and what the resources would be required to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 215-14(4): Repatriation of Disabled Northerners

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be willing to accompany me into Rae-Edzo to speak with families that do have children in care in the south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 215-14(4): Repatriation of Disabled Northerners

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to go to all the constituencies in the coming weeks and going into the North Slave is near the

top. When we look at the arrangements to do that, the dates and the times, I will be in contact with Mr. Lafferty to make sure we can take time to address that particular issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 215-14(4): Repatriation of Disabled Northerners

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can make available to us the expenditure costs for all our relatives that are in the south. Also, if they could do cost variations to tell us if we could have a facility in the North that would meet this southern care. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I thought there were two questions there, but Mr. Miltenberger, you may address them as you choose. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return to Question 215-14(4): Repatriation of Disabled Northerners

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the Member that the average cost per child is in the neighbourhood of \$100,000. It ranges for adults, depending on the nature of the disability and need, anywhere from about \$60,000 to \$200,000 to \$300,000. If the Member would like specific numbers, I can arrange to have that provided as well. Thank you.

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

Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today goes to the Minister of Finance, with regard to the changes that will possibly have to be made to the Liquor Act pertaining to gambling on licensed premises.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister may recall that there were some headline items in the early summer where some of the local establishments were banned from allowing raffle tickets to be sold in these licensed premises. I think we are all aware here about the necessity and importance of selling raffle tickets and buying them to raise money for all sorts of reasons. Since the Minister had indicated that he was directing his staff to review this and see how this can be rectified, I would like the Minister to advise this House as to the status of this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as the Member has noted, my department is looking at how to rectify this problem. They will be developing a proposal to amend the Liquor Act to allow limited forms of gambling in liquor establishments. These limited forms of gambling, such as raffles, meat raffles, would be conducted by service clubs or charitable organizations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for confirming what he has already indicated and something I have already known. The Minister indicated in his letter to us that he was looking at legislative change but that he would have it available for the public by the fall, by the September session. We are two days before the end of session and we have not seen anything. I was wondering if he could give us a clearer idea as to his time line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, given the workload of the department, I do not believe we will be able to have the proposal for Members to review during this session. However, I can assure the Member that we are working on it. We realize the problem it has created and the inconsistency between the Lotteries Act and the Liquor Act. We are doing what we can to resolve it and resolve it in a way that is fair to everybody. No, we will probably not have it during this sitting. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the workload of everybody here but I think the serious question that remains is the fact that under the Liquor Act right now, there is a question as to whether or not gambling is allowed. However, I understand that it is being allowed. We have a question as to whether or not it is an illegal act. Could the Minister comment on his opinion on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps, Ms. Lee, you would be advised to rephrase your question, rather than ask the Minister his opinion? Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, I am not asking for his opinion, rather what is he doing with the situation where people may be engaged in illegal gambling in these premises, since it is not allowed under the act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. There has been a long-standing practice where service clubs have allowed gambling in their premises. That has been in the form of Nevada tickets and meat raffles, as well as other sorts of raffles. This has been going on for many years.

Technically, it is a violation of the Liquor Act. We recognize it has been going on. There is not any great damage that has been done. We are working on resolving this issue to ensure that all establishments are operating within the law.

I was hoping to have a proposal ready for this sitting. I do not have it now but I assure you that we are working on it. Basically, the proposal we are putting forward, as I mentioned, is to allow limited gambling. I think that is satisfactory with the establishment owners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the Minister understands. I understand the situation here as well as he does and I get the feeling the Minister wants to make it possible for limited gambling to take place but the fact is that right now, gambling is not allowed under the Liquor Act. He is condoning illegal activities taking place in these premises. Is he not concerned about that as the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return to Question 216-14(4): Gambling in Licensed Premises

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I certainly have concerns about it and if I receive complaints about it, then I will deal with it. In the meantime, we have operators who are complying with one act, the Lotteries Act, but in so doing, may not be complying with the Liquor Act. It is an inconsistency. It is a weakness in our legislation. We have to fix it as quickly as we can and my department is doing everything they can to get this resolved as quickly as we can.

In the meantime, I see no need to take any drastic action in terms of the way our liquor establishments are operating, unless someone raises a complaint with me. Thank you.

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

Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the operation of the Hay River Community Health Board has been viewed by many as a government experiment in local control. Our health board was allowed to maintain a greater degree of independence in areas of staff retention and governance. Many of my constituents feel strongly that this experiment was a great success and that the community of Hay River has been well served by the efficient operation of the locally-focussed board. Would the Minister please advise this House if he is in agreement with this assessment of the Hay River Community Health Board?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. I will pass the question on to the Minister of Health. Rather than an opinion, perhaps his department would have a position on it, rather than himself. Mr. Minister.

Return to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that the Hay River Health and Social Services Board has had a long and honourable history. It plays a key role in the delivery of services, especially in the South Slave. I accept that and I recognize that fact. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Hay River Community Health Board and the union representing its current employees, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, are both in agreement that a separate bargaining unit for employees has been an integral part of the board's ability to successfully meet the local needs and priorities of the community of Hay River. Is the Minister prepared to allow this status and relationship to continue so that the constituents can continue to receive the benefits from an arrangement that has worked so efficiently over the years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my statement today, the final plan to be tabled in 90 days has to have clear and concrete actions that have the support of Cabinet, MLAs, department, boards and the public. There is not going to be any sudden changes in direction, any draconian moves made. I am going to consult fully over the next few days and weeks with my colleagues and with the communities and such to make sure that what we do have as much support as we can garner. There are going to be no changes to the existing process until such a time as I believe there is a consensus to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that answer and I would just like to reconfirm. I think I heard the Minister say there will be no actions taken in the near future on any of the recommendations that have been put forward. I would just like a commitment from the Minister that he will come to Hay River and meet with the board and all parties involved to address these issues before any actions are taken on any of the proposals that have been put forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do commit to come to the community of Hay River and meet with the health board and the community leadership. We will have to sit down with the Member to look at a time. There are 30-some communities that I would like to visit. I would like to go to all the health boards. There are a number of those but I will definitely be in Hay River before the 90 days is up. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite hear the Minister say that all proposals that have been put forward will be put on hold until he has had such time to consult with the interested parties. Would he make that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 217-14(4): Hay River Community Health Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to restate, the final plan that I intend to table in 90 days has to have clear and concrete actions and the support of Cabinet, MLAs, the department, the boards and the public. So that plan has not been to Cabinet, does not exist in any kind of final form. There will be no changes to the systems until we can get that plan put together and agreed to and brought to this House and run by my colleagues and get the support we need to do the best things possible to reform the health care system. Thank you.

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

Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It concerns the area of modernizing our legislation for municipalities. I have learned, Mr. Speaker, that this government undertook that work way back in 1995 and by 1997, a number of amendments were acted on. The second phase of that review concerns a very large piece of work, known as the Municipal Statutes Amendment Act. The progress on that has not been as rapid. In fact, I think glacial might be the word for it, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise the House of the status of modernizing the Municipal Statutes Amendment Act? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the current status of that is presently it has gone back to Cabinet and will be forwarded to the Department of Justice for drafting. Mr. Speaker, the drafting may take as long as 12 to 18 months. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the time the act has been in progress, there has been consultation with the municipalities. Is it realistic now to suggest that we could be looking at a year-and-a-half, which in effect is perhaps the end of this Assembly, as an effective time frame? What is the hold-up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in my briefing this morning with the deputy minister and his colleagues, the apparent problem is with the resources, human resources, or the time the legal people can dedicate to this specific amendment. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Okay. One of the aspects that I am aware of that is costing this government money is the lack of modern language in the act as it refers to the liability in insurance coverage.

In discussions with city representatives here in Yellowknife, I have learned that the cost of simply not having good language may be as much as \$500,000 a year to the Assembly to cover this shortfall.

Given that we might be losing out on these resources from the outgoing side, does it not make sense that we bring in some resources to speed this process up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, that is the intention of the department, to see if we can secure more help in this area. Perhaps we can then have it move a little faster than we anticipate. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister be able to commit that he will go out to the municipalities to readdress this really quite disappointing delay and see if there is anything that those governments can do in partnership with us to help advance this? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 218-14(4): Modernizing Municipal Legislation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am prepared to go through the NWTAM to communicate back to the membership that we will try to pursue this and see if we can put more emphasis on that amendment. Thank you.

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

Question 219-14(4): Additional Law Enforcement Resources

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Justice. As our newest Minister for Health stated this morning, we know from past experience that along with development comes a social impact that must be planned for.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have all recognized that fact and we have seen an increase in nurses. We have seen an increase in social workers. As the crime rates have been on the increase lately, we have not seen an aspect that is very important in our smaller communities, the RCMP. We are starting to hear the complaints coming from the smaller communities, and I think right across the board, for that fact, that the RCMP are under-resourced.

I would like to ask the Minister if there is an increase in the resources coming down the tubes at some point. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 219-14(4): Additional Law Enforcement Resources

HON. JM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, currently, there are no new additional resources for policing, although I would like to qualify that by saying that the RCMP have put a document forward to the Department of Justice called the RCMP Report for the NWT in 2001 and Beyond. In that report, it considers additional resources are necessary to maintain existing services. We both argue that there is a need to increase the level of services that are out there. We are aware of that and there are concerns coming forward.

At this present time, like I said in my opening answer to you, there are no resources allocated from this department. However, the Department of Justice is reviewing this document

and will hopefully come forward with some plan of action here pretty soon. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 219-14(4): Additional Law Enforcement Resources

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that the Minister and the department is going to be reviewing the document that has been submitted. I would like to ask if he could tell us what has been the percentage of increase to the RCMP over the last ten years or so? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 219-14(4): Additional Law Enforcement Resources

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is kind of a detailed question so I will have to take the question as notice and get back to the Member on this one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I would like to ask the Minister if he can tell me what is the purpose of the Business Incentive Policy Interim Manufacturing Directive?

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

Return to Question 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Interim Manufacturing Directive was established in the light of the previous government. The purpose of it at that time was to provide some interim support to the manufacturers until such a time as the government was able to come up with a revised Business Incentive Program that at that time, the thinking was, would replace the directive. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from that answer, I would assume that this government does not agree with that policy because he said at that time, that things were going to change. What is the current government's purpose in having the Interim Manufacturing Directive?

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 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the current government having the Interim Manufacturing Directive is exactly the same as it was for the previous government; until we have a Business Incentive Policy that answers the response and the concerns of all sectors of our industry, then we will continue to have that interim policy in place.

As the Member knows, we are currently in the process of revisiting the Business Incentive Policy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that it is kind of a never-ending story. Can the Minister advise me, is the process to be recognized as a northern manufacturer onerous? What does it take to become recognized as a northern manufacturer?

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 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have a pretty broad definition of manufacturer. In some cases, it is very clear and certainly not an onerous task at all to be recognized as a northern manufacturer. In other areas, it may be less clear, depending on the amount of value added that the company is producing. If someone is simply bringing something in from the south and bolting it together here, they may not qualify. If someone is actually manufacturing something, whether it is trusses for roofs or wall panels, they might very easily be recognized. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a little bit puzzled by the Minister's response because I know of a business that has applied for recognition as a northern manufacturer that does, in fact, construct all their materials in the North. They have been denied. I was wondering if the Minister would table in this House the section of the policy that allows the senior management preference committee to deny a company, which actually manufactures something in the Northwest Territories, recognition as a northern manufacturer?

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 220-14(4): BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly I would be ready to table the whole policy and attempt to highlight the relevant section for the Member, if he wishes. Thank you.

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

Question 221-14(4): Criteria for Sole-Source Contracts

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Premier. It is about the concerns I have and have spoken about in the past with regard to sole-sourcing of contracts by this government. There are several criteria that have to be met when the government is going to sole-source any work, Mr. Speaker. One of those is that good services or construction are urgently required. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it has to be shown that a delay would be injurious to the public interest. So oftentimes when we as Members ask for rationale for sole-sourcing, particularly when it deals with southern firms, we are told the work was done urgently.

I wonder if the Premier would agree with me that it is not enough for departments to state that services were required urgently, but they should also be able to outline how a delay would have been injurious to the public interest. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 221-14(4): Criteria for Sole-Source Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is fair to suggest that when the government takes action with contracts that, as much as possible, we should provide detail to rationalize the decision we take. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 221-14(4): Criteria for Sole-Source Contracts

MR. BELL: Thank you. I agree detail should be provided but I just want his commitment that it is not enough to say that work was required urgently. That is not the criteria. The criteria is that work was required urgently and the delay would be injurious to the public interest. Would the Premier not agree that the delay being injurious to the public interest should be stipulated and shown? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 221-14(4): Criteria for Sole-Source Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and review the policies so I am able to answer the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The remaining question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question follows on the earlier question I had, but this time will be directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I am aware his department has been involved in this planning process. In fact, the plan was developed and talked to with the seniors' group in Inuvik, but it was unsatisfactory to them as the location was in quite a different spot. I had not been aware until recently that this is still an ongoing concern, so I would like to know from the Minister as to what state the plan is in at this time. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance gave a brief synopsis of where we were in this project. I would like to inform the Member as well as the House that we are continuing to discuss the logical site for the Seniors' Society. We did give them some initial monies to do some research on a probable site. We recommended a site east of the current Happy Valley Campground. It adjoins it. Also, to identify some seniors in need as well as looking at the overall operations and maintenance cost.

I am not certain exactly where they are at this moment but I am prepared to again meet with them on Thursday while I am in my constituency. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us, as this has been developing, the stage they are at? For example, is their work going to be funded this upcoming year? Is that in the plans? That requires some urgency. They have been working on it and been told that it has been moving ahead. It was identified as a nine-unit complex, so where is it in those plans?

If in fact it does go ahead, we all realize, again, everything is based on the approvals of this House, but they have been working to a certain goal here and would like to know, where are we in these plans? That ties into the fact of trying to get the land situation cleared up as soon as possible.

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

Further Return to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has been trying to lead a discussion to find a resolution to this site. That has been

held up because the proposed construction is in the year 2002-03. We hope we can get the seniors to agree to a site and we will begin the geotech work on a proposed site location. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us, since we know that it is a nine-unit complex, if there has already been a design, one that would take into consideration a footprint of the building? Also, if that is going to determine the location in certain instances? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The design concept was at least reviewed at one point. Whether it has been ongoing, I cannot answer, but I will have a definite answer come Thursday. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister did inform us he would be meeting with the seniors' group in Inuvik. We had the Minister of RWED confirm he would have his staff in attendance. Can we expect a result from this meeting as to something concrete, maybe a plan that will finalize the location? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 222-14(4): Plan for Seniors' Complex

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is our objective. I feel we have to begin to try to finalize some of the preliminary details. It is coming upon us fast.

I think there is a silver lining here in the fact that the location has a good view of the access to the Mackenzie Delta and the mountains, which the seniors wanted. We are prepared to help them take a look at some conceptual designs and drawings. Thank you.

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

Question 223-14(4): Sole-Source Contracting

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier and it is about sole-source contracting. One of the

other criteria, Mr. Speaker, that our government uses when determining that a sole-source contract should be awarded is that only one party is available and capable of performing the contract.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this would not be a valid reason for foregoing competition because obviously, if only one party is available and capable, they are going to win in a public tender.

Would the Premier agree that this criterion should only ever be used or invoked very selectively and only in the very rarest of circumstances? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The question is directed to the honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 223-14(4): Sole-Source Contracting

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated earlier that I will be reviewing the policies so I can better answer the Member's question, so I will take it as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The question has been taken as notice. It did touch fairly closely to the other one. We had a little difficulty with it. The honourable Premier is taking it as notice. Item 6, oral questions. 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. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 9-14(4): First Report of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause is pleased to present this, our first report, to update the Legislative Assembly on our activities to date.

Establishment of Special Committee

The special committee was established on November 16, 2000, during the Third Session. The terms of reference for the special committee were presented and adopted by the Legislative Assembly on March 7, 2001. This Assembly's vision, as outlined in [Towards a Better Tomorrow](#), served as a foundation for the terms of reference. Members of the special committee committed themselves to the following principles in carrying out our mandate:

1. the development of a system of governance with leaders working together cooperatively that recognizes and protects the rights of all residents, balancing individual citizen's rights and collective aboriginal rights;
2. to promote aboriginal and other northern leaders working together in support of a common vision and strong sense

of identity to ensure a strong foundation for a better future for all residents;

3. recognizes that aboriginal and public governments have unique, necessary and complementary roles to play in serving people of the Territories;
4. that aboriginal people must have greater self-determination over their social, cultural, economic and political destiny; and
5. the need for strong, effective aboriginal and public governments operating cooperatively.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Speaker, the special committee has recognized two major aspects to its work. The first being the requirement to address the sunset clause and the second relating to the implementation of self-government agreements in the Northwest Territories.

With respect to self-government, it is the role of the special committee to provide information to the general public and aboriginal governments and to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories that reflect new governance partnerships. Our recommendations may include changes to legislation, budgetary processes, policy and practices, or transitional measures to implement self-government.

Responsibilities of the special committee will require:

- the evaluation of existing statutes, legislation and negotiated agreements;
- investigation of how public government structures, processes, policies and practices will change;
- determination of immediate and long-term changes to the powers and authority of the GNWT; and
- a review of how the role of the Legislative Assembly will be impacted in the areas of legislation and budget arrangements.

Our first task as members of the special committee requires us to address the sunset clause. In a broad sense, the sunset clause is related to representation and its relationship to the establishment of aboriginal governments, as well as the responsibility for public government at the territorial level in the North. In preparing to seek public input into this aspect of our work, we felt it was important that the members have a complete understanding of what the sunset clause is and what impact it would have on the operation of public government in the Northwest Territories if it was not addressed.

What is the Sunset Clause?

The sunset clause is a clause in section 2 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act that sets out the general provisions respecting electoral districts in the Northwest Territories. The section states there are 19 electoral districts and that each electoral district is entitled to return one elected Member to the Legislative Assembly. The sunset clause reads: "This section and schedule A are repealed on the dissolution of the 14th Legislative Assembly." If this were to occur at the end

of the four-year term of this Assembly, there would no longer be any defined electoral districts, Members could not be elected to the Assembly and the Legislative Assembly would no longer exist.

It is also important to consider that it is the Legislative Assembly that authorizes the financial expenditures of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the provision of programs and services to northern residents.

In the unlikely event that the Legislative Assembly ceased to exist, all Assembly authority would be returned to the federally appointed Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Implementation of Self-Government

An ongoing task of the special committee is to continually review the implementation of self-government. At present, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the NWT and in the interests of all NWT residents, is engaged in negotiations, along with the Government of Canada, with seven aboriginal groups.

The implementation of self-government will see the emergence of new models of governance at the community, regional and territorial levels in the North. These new models of governance will include aboriginal governments, aboriginal and partnership governments, and community governments. These governance arrangements will necessitate intergovernmental relationships between federal, territorial and aboriginal governments. A territorial government will continue to represent the interests of all residents of territorial-wide matters.

In keeping with its mandate, the special committee receives updated information and briefings on the status of negotiations and proposed self-government models from representatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories. We will continue to review this information towards making recommendations to this Assembly concerning self-government implementation.

The special committee's mandate is not one that requires an extensive public hearing process. We have made it abundantly clear to all our aboriginal governments that the special committee is here to support and complement and not otherwise overlap or in any way interfere with self-government negotiations and the emergence of intergovernmental relationships in the North.

Our committee has had a number of meetings since we were established and we have been considering a number of important aspects of our responsibilities. We will continue to look at constitutional issues, the financing of self-government and the impact of related issues on the future operation of the Legislative Assembly and government.

Attending Assemblies

Mr. Speaker, as committee members, we felt compelled to listen to what aboriginal governments and leaders had to say and to hear first-hand what continues to be important to them in relation to their self-government negotiations. Wherever possible, special committee members made a concerted effort to attend as many summer assemblies as possible. Over the summer months, members of the special committee and staff attended several aboriginal assemblies held in locations throughout the North. I along with my co-chair, the Honourable

Jim Antoine, attended the majority of these gatherings, and committee members Mr. Bill Braden, Mr. Leon Lafferty and Mr. Paul Delorey also attended various events. Special committee members visited with the Deh Cho at Kakisa, the Dene Nation at Tulita, the Akaitcho at Detah, South Slave Metis Tribal Council in Fort Smith, Dogrib Treaty 11 Tribal Council in Wekweti, North Slave Metis Alliance at Old Fort Rae, and with the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Inuvik. Our attendance as members of the special committee was welcomed by the host organizations and we were able to hear first-hand their questions and concerns. Members were brought up to speed on the progress of respective land claims and self-government negotiations as well as many of the current issues facing aboriginal communities in the various regions.

At this time, the special committee is confident that self-government negotiations continue to progress. During the coming months, committee members will continue to observe and consider the impact of self-government implementation on the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Public Input on the Sunset Clause

Mr. Speaker, the special committee is committed to engaging in a dialogue with northern residents concerning the sunset clause. Over the next two weeks, an information brochure on the sunset clause will be mailed to all residents, an advertisement will be placed in northern newspapers and radio announcements, in our official languages, will advise residents of the information available to them. We look forward to receiving invitations to visit communities and to listen to what residents have to say about the sunset clause.

At this time, the special committee is considering two options for dealing with the sunset clause. The first option is to repeal or cancel the sunset clause. Existing electoral boundaries and elected representation would remain as is, with representatives elected to 19 electoral districts at the next general election. The second option is to extend the deadline of the clause and allow Members of the next Legislative Assembly to review the number of electoral districts in the North, recognizing that the progress of self-government negotiations may warrant future changes to the current system.

Written submissions dealing with the sunset clause are to be received by the special committee before December 30, 2001. The special committee will consider feedback from residents and make recommendations as to which of these options, or others, Northerners prefer for dealing with the sunset clause. Based on the feedback and comments from the residents, the committee will make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly during the session in February of 2002. The special committee encourages all residents to take the time to read the material that we have put together and look forward to community meetings on the sunset clause, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee will continue to do its work and looks forward to reporting on the sunset clause early next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the special committee.

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the First Report of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause be received by the Legislative Assembly and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. There is a motion on the floor. 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. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Committee Report 10-14(4): Report on Referred Items

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures has the honour of presenting its report on referred items commensurate to the House.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, this report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures addresses two outstanding items referred to the committee by the Speaker on two separate occasions.

Item 1

On May 11, 2000, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly referred, by letter, a number of issues to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for consideration. Specifically, one issue brought to the Speaker's attention by a Member dealt with a perceived need for a mechanism allowing for committees to make statements in the House related to the business of that committee. Specifically the Member's request noted that:

There should be an opportunity during routine Orders of the Day for standing committee chairs to make formal statements to the House on issues and items of interest to all Members and the public that are before the committee or fall within its mandate.

Item 2

Mr. Speaker, in addition, on June 7, 2001, the Speaker requested the committee consider and propose an amendment to Rule 85(2) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly to reflect the decision of the Board of Management to exercise its legislative authority and responsibility for the development and approval of the business plans and estimates of the Legislative Assembly and the statutory officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Background

Item 1

Mr. Speaker, the current Orders of the Day include the item "Reports of Standing and Special Committees" as the 11th item of business on a typical day in the House.

Under this item, the Chair or another member of the standing or special committee may report on any issue or subject matter that is before the committee or is under the terms of its mandate.

In discussing this issue during the meetings on June 6, 2000, November 1, 2000, January 12, 2001, March 1, 2001 and June 6, 2001, committee members noted that while the item was indeed on the order paper and committees were not unduly restricted in its use, its position on the orders did not allow it to be used as an effective public information tool as it occurs later in the day and is not televised.

There are practical limitations on the amount of television coverage each day. It generally ceases after oral question period. The majority of NWT residents in communities outside the capital receive their only exposure to the House through an hour and a half of these televised proceedings. Therefore, any House proceedings occurring after oral question period on a normal sitting day are not captured and transmitted to residents in the same fashion as those items on the order paper up to and including oral question period.

Item 2

Mr. Speaker, on May 24, 2001, the Board of Management, as outlined in Record of Decision BOM 96-14-2001, affirmed its responsibility for the development, review, approval, monitoring of and accountability for the business plans and estimates of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

Mr. Speaker, Rule 85(2)(c) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly currently states that:

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight shall ...consider the budgets and financial management...of any other boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any standing committee, including the office of the Legislative Assembly.

An amendment to this rule has been requested by the Speaker to effectively remove the responsibility for the review of the Legislative Assembly business plans and estimates, and those of its statutory officers, from the standing committee's mandate. It is the position of the board that by virtue of sections 41 and 58 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, that this is and has been the responsibility of the board.

There are options, Mr. Speaker.

Options

Item 1

Rules and Procedures committee members examine several options to address this issue:

Status Quo

The committee considered whether the best option would be to maintain the status quo and encourage committees to use existing opportunities through the House under "Reports of Standing and Special Committees", and outside the Chamber through various other means and media, to communicate their work to NWT residents.

Move Reports of Standing and Special Committees up the Order Paper

Mr. Speaker, if the item "Reports of Standing and Special Committees" were moved up the order paper to follow "Members' Statements", or at the very least, precede "Oral Questions", the impact of committee statements and reports would be greater through the increased exposure that television coverage would provide. In this manner, the public, particularly residents of small communities, would be better served, Mr. Speaker.

Choosing this option may have implications for the House in terms of traditional television coverage of oral question period. Consideration might then need to be given to instituting a time limit on committee reports, which does not currently exist, to minimize the impact on providing a televised oral question period. However, committees have often found it necessary to provide quite lengthy reports to the House on important matters that they have examined and unanimous consent may then have to be required to conclude reporting.

Generally, Mr. Speaker, all parliamentary jurisdictions provide for reporting by their committees. It occurs only once a sitting day, at most, and there is no distinction between committee statements and committee reports.

Recommend a New Item -- Standing Committee Statements

The committee could recommend to the House that the establishment of a new item on the order paper, entitled "Standing Committee Statements", to precede "Oral Questions". This item could be treated in much the same manner as "Ministers' Statements" with an overall time limit or like "Members' Statements" with a time limit for each statement and a limit of one statement per day for each committee.

Administratively and procedurally, there would also be a requirement to produce all Chair's statements as committee reports in writing, to be numbered accordingly. The approval of the text by the committee will also be necessary and no departure from the text would then be permitted.

Given the anticipated usage of such an item and the proposed time limits, this option would not be likely to impact significantly on television coverage of question period, Mr. Speaker.

No other parliamentary jurisdiction has, or contemplates having, such an item included in the routine order of business in the House.

In addition, committee members debated at length the procedural and practical dilemmas that this option could present in terms of the non-partisan nature of our consensus system of government. It was decided then that this would not be the preferred option to recommend to the Assembly.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Item 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures was of the opinion that for the purpose of enhancing the opportunities for standing and special committees to share their work with a wider audience, the Legislative Assembly should consider moving the item, "Reports of Standing and Special

Committees", up the order paper one day per week to follow "Members' Statements".

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended to provide that the item, "Reports of Standing and Special Committees", shall be listed as item 4 on the orders of the day on Thursdays.

Item 2

On the matter of amending the Rules of the Legislative Assembly respecting the authority and the responsibility of the Board of Management:

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that Rule 85(2)(c) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by deleting "including the office of the Legislative Assembly" after "responsibility of any standing committee."

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on Referred Items.

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 10-14(4) be moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. 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. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Committee Report 11-14(4): Progress Report on Plans and Priorities

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Progress Report on Plans and Priorities.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is a standing committee of the 14th Legislative Assembly that was established by motion at the first session of the 14th Assembly. Committee members met shortly after being appointed to develop a vision, mission and common set of goals. The Report on the Operational Planning Workshop and the Report on Priorities and Objectives Workshop were presented in the Legislative Assembly in February and March of 2000.

From the outset, committee members stated their commitment to making a positive contribution to the 14th Legislative Assembly and to continuing efforts to making government more open and transparent. Members felt that it was important to report to the Legislative Assembly and the public on the priority areas that were identified by the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight as evidence of their commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the fall of 2001 marks the halfway point of the 14th Legislative Assembly. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight would like to take this opportunity to report to the Legislative Assembly and the public on

committee activities and summarize the progress that has been made in the areas that members have identified as important early in the term.

The Strategic Planning Process

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is to:

- a) review issues with government-wide implications;
- b) conduct the overview of the budget and the fiscal framework;
- c) consider the budgets and financial management of boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any standing committee, including the office of the Legislative Assembly;
- d) examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the report of the Auditor General;
- e) review government reports on financial and performance results and program evaluation reports to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
- f) coordinate House business scheduling and planning in cooperation with appropriate Cabinet representatives; and
- g) consider any other matter referred by the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight held a two-day operational and planning session followed by a workshop to set priorities and objectives in February and March of 2000. As part of its operational approach, Members agreed on a vision, mission and value statement and set out priorities and objectives for the committee. These objectives were developed around issues that had government-wide implications and would therefore fall into the scope of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. In addition, it was agreed that the committee's objective was to be as open as possible to stakeholders and the general public. The committee has made every effort to ensure that this philosophy of openness has underscored all of its activities.

Government-wide issues were identified and articulated as nine goals or objectives:

1. To achieve progress on constitutional and electoral reform;
2. To advocate for the rights of the public and those needing a voice in dealing with government;
3. A public service that is representative of the population it serves and is treated fairly and managed effectively;
4. A more effective government organization, structure and operations;
5. Survival of official aboriginal languages;
6. A cohesive and current workers' compensation system and the associated governing authorities to meet the changing environments;

7. An energy strategy to address the shifting Northwest Territories environment and relevant outside influences;
8. A strategy for sharing control of and responsibility for northern resources;
9. To maximize the benefits of recreational activities and to foster the positive effect that recreation has on community health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight also has ongoing goals that are explicit in the mandate.

10. The comprehensive overview of the Northwest Territories budget and fiscal framework;
11. The consideration of budgets and the financial management of the NWT Workers' Compensation Board, the NWT Power Corporation and other similar government boards and agencies.
12. The examination of the Auditor General reports; and,
13. Coordination of House business scheduling of planning in cooperation with Cabinet.

Progress on Committee Priorities

Mr. Speaker, a summary of key efforts undertaken in support of each goal or objective is outlined below.

To Achieve Progress on Constitutional and Electoral Reform

Mr. Speaker, the sunset clause for electoral boundaries has imposed deadlines for this government. The committee recognized that Caucus has the lead but felt they could play a role in moving the process along. A Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause was established during the Third Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

The special committee now has responsibility for recommending a course of action to the Legislative Assembly.

To Advocate for the Rights of the Public and Those Needing a Voice in Dealing With Government

Mr. Speaker, the absence of human rights legislation and the potential for litigation dictated that action be taken to advance: 1) human rights legislation, 2) an ombudsman-like office to speak on behalf of children, and 3) access to information and protection of privacy legislation.

- 1) Human rights legislation: Committee advocated for the rights of the public by introducing Motion 15-14(2), Enactment of Human Rights Legislation that was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on March 31, 2000.

Cabinet has responded by undertaking consultation on a draft bill and has committed to introducing legislation in the fall of 2001.

- 2) Children's advocate: Committee has not undertaken any significant action in relation to this objective. However, the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services has told Members in the Assembly that the government is

moving toward establishing such an office. During a review of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002, in committee of the whole, June 11, 2001, Mrs. Groenewegen was asked if the government was moving towards instituting a child's advocate in the Northwest Territories. Mrs. Groenewegen replied, "Yes we are, and that is part of this funding allocations to do research and development of a proposal for a child advocate, so yes we are." (Hansard, June 11, 2001, page 147)

Mr. Speaker, the committee looks forward to hearing more on the government's proposal in this area.

- 3) Access to information and protection of privacy legislation: Committee advocated for the rights of the public to a more open and transparent government by reviewing the Annual Report and Recommendations of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner, and presented the Report on the Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy' Commissioner's Report, 1999-2000, in the Legislative Assembly. This marks the first time that a standing committee reviewed the annual report and considered the commissioner's recommendations. In keeping with the committee's philosophy of openness and public involvement, meetings were open to the public. Committee Report 2-14(4) was read in the House on October 4, 2001. The government's response to the committee's report on recommendations is pending.

Mr. Speaker, future access to information and protection of privacy annual reports will automatically be referred to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

A Public Service that is Representative of the Population it Serves and is Treated Fairly and Managed Effectively

Mr. Speaker, committee researched the advantages and disadvantages of public service commissions in other jurisdictions. Efforts to call attention to the poor affirmative action results, hiring practices and government-wide human resources management practices included a theme approach for Members' statements and question period culminating in passage of Motion 5-14(3), Establishment of a Public Services Commission. The Executive Council commissioned the Human Resources Management Study, otherwise known as the Thornton report, in response to the motion and transmitted the report to committee.

Although the government has not formally responded to the recommendations of the Thornton report, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight reported to the Legislative Assembly on June 12, 2001, with a preliminary Committee Report 4-14(4), which included recommendations for a process to continue to work with the government to achieve a professional public service.

Since the committee report was presented, there have been ongoing discussions between the committee and the government and the committee is hopeful that an agreement on the process to move this forward will soon be reached.

A More Effective Government Organization, Structure and Operations

Mr. Speaker, the committee had anticipated receiving the programs and functional review concerning departments, boards and agencies and looked forward to assessing the effectiveness and efficiency related to service delivery. Of particular interest were the organizational structure of health and social services boards, education councils, and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services commissioned the Cuff report to examine the role and structure of both the department and the boards. The Cuff report is presently before the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Motion 14-14(2), Request for a Comprehensive Audit of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, was defeated in the Legislative Assembly.

The committee was offered a briefing on regional reorganization by letter in June. To date, however, the government has advised us that they are not ready to actually deliver the briefing.

Survival of Official Aboriginal Languages

Mr. Speaker, the Official Languages Act called for a mandatory review every ten years with one due during the 14th Legislative Assembly. A Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act has been established. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight will continue to review the annual reports of the Languages Commissioner.

A Cohesive and Current Workers' Compensation System and the Associated Governing Authorities to Meet the Changing Environments

Mr. Speaker, the division of the Northwest Territories and outdated legislation dictated the need to review the workers' compensation system over the life of the 14th Assembly. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight advocated for such a review and the Minister responsible for the board responded by making a commitment to conduct public hearings and prepare appropriate legislation for introduction and passage during the life of this Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight looks forward to reviewing the results of the panel's hearings and to new updated legislation being introduced.

An Energy Strategy to Address the Shifting NWT Environment and Relevant Outside Influences

Mr. Speaker, the committee urged the Executive Council to develop a comprehensive energy strategy by leading a campaign to call attention to high cost of energy, greenhouse gas emissions and the need for alternative energy options.

Committee members noted that previous Assemblies had called for the government to develop a strategy in view of significant energy costs in the Northwest Territories and the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions. Through its efforts to heighten awareness and draw attention to energy issues and concerns, committee was successful in having the Legislative Assembly adopt a motion

calling for the development of a comprehensive energy strategy.

The government has responded with the development of an Energy Secretariat in June of 2001 and the announcement of a special advisor to the Premier to head up the secretariat.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is generally supportive of government's exploration of hydroelectric potential both as an alternative to fossil fuel consumption and as a revenue source.

A Strategy for Sharing Control of and Responsibility for Northern Resources

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight supports the government in its approach to resource revenue sharing and the work of the Intergovernmental Forum. The committee will continue to participate and represent the public interest in future discussions.

To Maximize the Benefits of Recreational Activities and to Foster the Possible Effect That Recreation has on Community Health and Well-being

Mr. Speaker, committee members investigated the distribution of lottery profits and the effectiveness and coordination of sports organizations in contributing positively to the social problems in communities. Through a series of briefings and presentations by various sports organizations, committee members became better acquainted with the roles of each of the organizations.

Although members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight remain interested in this issue, the Standing Committee on Social Programs assumes the lead.

Other Activities

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight dealt with several other issues as they arose and urged the government to take action accordingly. Here are a few of the highlights of these activities:

The committee lobbied the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment to overturn the decision to assess federal fuel rebates as income for social assistance recipients.

- The Minister reversed the decision and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment issues rebates to approximately 320 families.

The committee urged the Executive Council to improve literacy levels in the Northwest Territories and introduced a motion adopted by the Legislative Assembly to develop a comprehensive literacy strategy.

- The government responded with Towards Literacy, A Strategy Framework which proposes to provide \$2.4 million annually.

The committee urged the Premier to set the example for prudent financial management by reducing the interim budget for the Department of Executive by \$100,000 in fiscal year 2000-01.

- The Premier instructed the Minister of Finance to bring forward the appropriate motion to reduce the amount of the interim appropriation by \$100,000.

The committee worked to have the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment reinvest \$1 million identified in departmental savings and income support programs in fiscal year 2000-01.

- Seven-hundred thousand dollars was reinvested in the program.

The committee advocated on behalf of surviving spouses who remarried prior to April 17, 1985, by urging the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board to negotiate a lump sum settlement.

- Mr. Speaker, a negotiated settlement was reached with five identified surviving spouses and the Minister brought forward the necessary legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to seek your consent to have the deputy chair of the committee, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, continue with the reading of the committee report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. There are no disagreements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oversight and Review of Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight presented its Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly for 1999 on June 5, 2001. The report included a follow-up to the Review of the 1997 and 1998 Auditor General's Report. The committee noted that the government is expected to follow up on all initial and subsequent recommendations contained in the report.

The committee would like to see more timely tabling of the public accounts and will work with the Executive Council to achieve this goal.

Conduct the Overview of the Budget and Fiscal Framework

Mr. Speaker, this role is intended to improve the business planning and expenditure management information provided to the Legislative Assembly. The committee has recommended a sharpened focus on results, increased transparency on information and a process for public involvement in preparation of the business plans.

Other Matters

Openness and Public Involvement

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is committed to the government and is more open to stakeholders and to the general public. In pursuit of this objective, the committee looks for opportunities to open meetings to the public. In addition, internal committee documents are often appended to committee reports when the issue is ready for presentation in the Legislative Assembly to allow the public to better understand the background leading to

recommendations. During this Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's Report on the Business Plans has been tabled for the first time along with the Committee Report on the Main Estimates.

Theme Days

In the past two years, committee members used "theme days" as a way of working together to publicize, heighten awareness, and bring focus to issues of public concern. During the time allotted for Members' statements and during question period, Members would focus on a particular issue. The rules of the Legislative Assembly allow for a period of time for Members of the Legislative Assembly to make a two-and-a-half minute statement on any matter.

Question period is typically one of the most publicized parts of the Assembly's proceedings and it provides an opportunity for Members of the Legislative Assembly to call attention to public issues. During question period, MLAs ask Ministers questions about government activity in order to seek out information. The responses are a way of making information about the government's activities public.

Members prepared several theme days on important issues, including:

- Student Financial Assistance;
- Health and Social Programs;
- Greenhouse Gas and Resource Development;
- Human Resources and Public Service Commission;
- Literacy;
- Water Quality;
- FAS/FAE; and
- High Cost of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, water quality, for example, was a concern for committee members for a variety of reasons, including contaminated drinking water in communities, inadequate and unsafe sources of water supply, aging municipal water systems and a drastic increase in insurance rates for municipalities. Members made statements and raised questions on water supply, quality, training and certification, water quality standards and environmental concerns.

As a result, the government has taken steps to address many issues raised including an examination of municipal systems and standards.

Next Steps

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met on September 11, 2001, to review the work undertaken to date and to plan for the next 15 months of business. Members reviewed the vision statement and reaffirmed that:

Our vision is to be responsive and accountable to the public by acting with integrity to contribute to the

achievement of the 14th Legislative Assembly's vision.

The mission statement was revised to better reflect the proactive role of the committee, not merely a role in which committee responds to government initiatives. The committee agreed that:

Our mission will be to take purposeful action to support, question or oppose government initiatives and to hold government accountable; we will also propose that government take action where appropriate and in the public interest.

Within the context of the revised mission statement, Members revised the goals and priorities of the committee. They are:

- To advocate for the rights of the public in those needing a voice in dealings with government;
- To have a public service that is representative of the population served; that is treated fairly and managed effectively;
- To work toward effective government organization, structure and operations;
- To see a cohesive and current workers' compensation system and governing authorities to meet the changing environment;
- To develop an energy strategy to address the changing Northwest Territories environment and outside influences;
- To see a strategy for sharing control of resources including non-renewable resource development and environmental impacts and liabilities of development;
- To develop a diversified long-term fiscal outlook for the GNWT;
- To advocate for adequate housing for residents;
- To advocate for reduced cost of living for residents; and
- To support the development of prevention measures and promote awareness of the detrimental effects of FAS/FAE.

Mr. Speaker, ongoing goals that are explicitly included in our mandate were revised to reflect the recommendation that the annual reports of several statutory officers be referred to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. They are:

- Conduct the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
- Consider budgets and financial management of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and non-assigned boards and agencies;
- Examine Auditor General reports;
- Coordinate House business scheduling and planning with Cabinet; and

- Review, as necessary and appropriate, annual reports of statutory officers of the Legislative Assembly including the Commissioner of Official Languages; the Conflict of Interest Commissioner; and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is a non-partisan, consensus system of government. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight allows Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly a mechanism to scrutinize the policies, programs and spending of the government. Members of this committee do not treat this responsibility lightly and we will continue to advocate on behalf of the public. We will urge consultation and collaboration as a fundamental theme to guide each of the priority areas.

Members believe that residents want this government to move forward toward achieving a better tomorrow. We also believe that residents want this government to do so in a manner that is fiscally responsible, prudent and in the public interest. We will urge government to develop budgets and strategic investments that promote a strong, northern economy and secure our financial future.

As an integral part of a non-partisan consensus system of government, members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight will continue to make a sincere and determined effort to work with the government to succeed in achieving a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's Progress Report on Plans and Priorities.

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 11-14(4) be received and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. 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. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Allen.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you, colleagues. I would like to personally recognize Julia Mott of First Air, who is a significant sponsor of the Delta dances this past weekend. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have four items to table.

Tabled Document 64-14(4): Proposed Human Rights Act

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Proposed Human Rights Act.

Tabled Document 65-14(4): Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value: Work in Progress and Issues

I also wish to table the following document entitled Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value: Work in Progress and Issues.

Tabled Document 66-14(4): Victims Assistance Committee Eleventh Annual Report, April 1999 - March 2000

I also wish to table the following document entitled Victims Assistance Committee of the NWT Eleventh Annual Report, April 1999 to March 2000.

Tabled Document 67-14(4): Victims Assistance Committee Twelfth Annual Report, April 2000 - March 2001

I also wish to table the following document entitled Victims Assistance Committee of the NWT Twelfth Annual Report, April 2000 to March 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Antoine. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Tabled Document 68-14(4): Letters of Support for Premier Kakfwi

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table letters of support for the Premier enclosed in the document here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Tabled Document 69-14(4): Letter From Conflict of Interest Commissioner Regarding the Report of the Special Committee on Conflict Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table three documents. One is a letter from the office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, dated October 24th.

Tabled Document 70-14(4): Comments by Charles McGee, Solicitor for John Bayly Regarding the Report of the Special Committee on Conflict Process

The second one is comments by Mr. Charles McGee, who is a solicitor for Mr. John Bayly, with respect to the Report of the Special Committee on Conflict Process.

Tabled Document 71-14(4): Comments by Sarah Kay, Solicitor for Lynda Sorensen Regarding the Report of the Special Committee on Conflict Process

The third letter is comments written by Ms. Sarah Kay, who is the solicitor for Mrs. Lynda Sorensen, dated October 28th, which is a comment on the special committee report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 13, tabling of documents.

Tabled Document 72-14(4): Languages Commissioner's 2000-2001 Annual Report

In accordance with section 23 of the Official Languages Act, I wish to table the English and French Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner for the fiscal year 2000-2001.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 15-14(4): Appointment to the Board of Management and Standing Committees

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the Legislative Assembly approves the following appointments:

- To the Standing Committee on Social Programs, the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen, and the Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden;
- To the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod; and
- To the Board of Management, the Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty, as a full member and the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee, as an alternate member.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Nitah, your motion.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 15-14(4): Appointment to the Board of Management and Standing Committees (Carried)

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS there are a number of vacancies on standing committees and the Board of Management due to the appointment of the honourable Member for Thebacha to the Executive Council and the resignation of the Member for Deh Cho from the Standing Committee on Social Programs;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the Legislative Assembly approves the following appointments:

- To the Standing Committee on Social Programs, the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen, and the Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden;
- To the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod; and
- To the Board of Management, the Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty, as a full member and the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee, as an alternate member.

Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. 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. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 8, 9, 10, 12, 14; Tabled Documents 42-14(4), 51-14(4); Committee Report 7-14(4) and Committee Report 8-14(4), with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I would like to call committee of the whole to order. We have a number of issues to consider in committee. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we initially commence with Committee Report 8 and see if we cannot wrap that up and then move into consideration of Bill 14, followed by Bill 8. Then we will see how much time is left, whether or not we keep going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. We will take a short break and come back. Thank you.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the committee of the whole back to order. We are reviewing Committee Report 8-14(4). General comments. Mrs. Groenewegen, you were up last. Did you complete your general comments or did you want to make more general comments?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I do not have any more comments for right now, Mr. Chairman. If I have more time allotted later, depending on what is said, I might. I do not have any further comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to seek committee's approval on the agenda to consider a motion regarding a supplementary pension plan, so I would just request that you recognize me at an appropriate time during committee of the whole. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. A more appropriate time would probably be when the committee gets around to dealing with the report and the independent commission on Members' compensation. There has been no wish of the committee so far to deal with this issue. We are on general comments on Committee Report 8-14(4). Any more general comments? Does the committee agree that Committee Report 8-14(4) is concluded?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will move on to Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No 2, 2001-2002. Mr. Handley, do you have any opening remarks?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, requests authority for operations expenditure appropriations of \$8,364,500 and capital investment appropriations of \$1,254,000. These requirements are within the estimated supplementary reserves. Major items included in the operations expenditure requests are as follows:

- 1) A special warrant was approved for \$1 million to undertake research into hydroelectrical potential.
- 2) \$1.5 million for forced growth in a domestic power subsidy program.
- 3) \$2.7 million for various departments for forced growth and expenditures resulting from significant increases to the cost of heating fuel and power in the Northwest Territories.
- 4) \$600,000 for the establishment of the Energy Secretariat.
- 5) \$550,000 for aboriginal governments participation in the Intergovernmental Forum discussions.

The request for additional capital investment includes \$834,000 for the Department of Justice to complete the Inuvik Young Offenders' Facility Project. Of this amount, \$234,000 will be financed by advancing the current approved cash flow for the project.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Handley, would you be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, I will, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses in. Mr. Handley, we could proceed with general comments from the committee while waiting for your witnesses, or we could take a break to wait for your witnesses, whichever you would prefer. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to proceed. I am sure they are on their way and not far along outside. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are dealing with Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002. General comments. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in this particular supplementary appropriation, there are a number of areas and departments that have addressed some of their increases in the area of higher costs of energy and fuel for departments specifically. I would like some information as we go through this because it does go across pretty well all departments that have put in for increases. There are examples of the amount of increase they are looking for and I will question when they get to the specific areas how they came up with their numbers.

Mr. Chairman, I say this because I am aware that in the previous budget, the government did include increases to departments to cover increased energy cost, fuel cost being one of the main areas. We have heard the Minister in this House state a number of times how, in fact, the fuel costs have been dropping. So I question at this time in our fiscal plan or in the year, when we are just getting into the beginning of the winter season, that we are already putting in for higher costs of heating fuel when I do not think we have actually entered into that season. Is this going ahead and guesstimating we will be in some problems here?

Tied to that, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that through POL -- the Public Works department, petroleum products division -- in a number of communities, they are on a system where the prices are fixed because the contract is let over a number of years and they do not change, that I am aware of. The only changes that would come out of those communities would be one that is imposed by this government to try to make up any shortfall that would be seen in their revolving fund, which has been in a number of years previous, they have gone up a number of times to try to make up that difference.

Specifically to this supplementary appropriation, again a number of departments have put in for forced growth or are in that area of requiring new dollars. Hopefully, we will have some explanation as we go through the specifics here. I find it is hard at this time, unless they can come up with some reasons as to why at this time of year they are going for an increase in heating supplies, fuel particularly.

Part of the areas they have come back with for information is it is an increase in energy costs as well. Again, knowing that in the smaller communities, fuel is purchased in bulk and locked in for a number of years, I find it hard to try to put the numbers together as to why we are having to deal with each of these at this point. Why would they not be coming in closer to the end of this fiscal year in that sense? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, since the budget was prepared for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, they are having a number of changes that have resulted in increased costs. Let me say, first of all, there is the fuel rate rider of ten cents that was brought in this spring, the spring of 2001, well after the budget was prepared.

As well, there were fuel price increases that impacted us during the 2000-2001 year that occurred after we had prepared the main estimates and the budgets for this year. So what we are doing here is we have to go back to the time late last year or about a year ago and look at what impacts we have faced.

I should also have mentioned, Mr. Chairman, that with many of the communities being supplied through the winter road system, some are supplied by barge, the POL buys their fuel once a year. Their fuel prices can impact on the cost of delivering the fuel, so that has to be added in as well.

There is also the issue around the retail price stabilization fund, which has seen a deficit of about \$4 million. That fund is meant to operate at a cost-neutral basis. So when we have a deficit of \$4 million, we have to somehow try to bring that back to a more neutral position.

So, Mr. Chairman, there were a number of things that happened too late in the year after we had prepared or, in some cases, approved our budget that have impacted departments. We have had to come back for the supplementary money to enable these departments to reap their costs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Handley, could you, for the record, introduce your witness as well?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me is Lew Voytilla, secretary to Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am aware that, for example, in January 2000, speaking of this retail price stabilization fund, communities have their petroleum products delivered by Public Works and Services through this multi-year contract, increased by ten cents and then another 15 cents per litre in September of 2000. That again was the previous fiscal year and these business plans were being put together. That would have been the time they were being put together for this fiscal year and the price increases at that time were rather high.

I believe they were addressed as it was already targeted as an area of high cost and there was relief for high fuel costs that

was put forward. A number of departments had put in for that and addressed that.

So during this fiscal year, during the business plans that were put head, we have seen a reduction in communities that are impacted by, as they call it, "rack price." There would be some immediate changes, either up or down.

However, those communities that are on the petroleum products contract that is put forward by Public Works and Services, would those not be fairly stable besides the specific areas the Minister mentioned, where some communities have it trucked in? Now that can be a whole number of communities, can it not? Why would it not be broken down in those areas or the communities that saw specific increases? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the rack price is known well in advance. We know what the price is. That is the price that is paid, not considering the transportation of that product. So even though we know the rack price, the delivery price also goes up. I believe it was something like seven cents a litre increase in the delivery price on top of the rack price. We knew about that too late to build it into last year's main estimates.

We did catch a number of rate increases that we were able to build into the budget but we were not able to build all of them in there. So that is only one. Of course, the fuel rate rider of ten cents has to be added in, which would be the other big component. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Further, Mr. Roland?

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I recall in the Finance Minister's budget address made in this House, Thursday, February 15, 2001, there were references to a number of times where the budget -- I refer to page 1014 of Hansard, February 15, 2001:

In fact, this budget includes almost \$1 million in additional funding to the Housing Corporation to pay the increased fuel cost for public housing and \$1 million to maintain the power subsidy program.

Again, a little further down there, this still talks about the one-time fuel rebate to eligible households, so that is outside of what we see here. Again, there were enough numbers to address concerns in the area that would deal with housing, for example, or power, that the government saw that they needed to increase it. It was addressed at that time. Have we seen, since this was put into place, such an increase that all departments have had to address this concern? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. Last year we were able to add in what we knew. In the case of the Housing Corporation, it was a bit under \$1 million that was built into the budget.

In total for the current fiscal year, 2001-2002, we were able to have approval for almost \$1.7 million in fuel price increases. In addition to that though, we had other increases we were not

able to capture within that time frame. The total amount that we need in addition to the \$1.7 million that was included in the plan was roughly \$910,000 for the health and social services boards. That was in supp 1. For the 2001, supp 2, we are looking at another \$2.74 million, a total amount of \$5,326,000 for fuel and energy price increases. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Any further general comments? What is the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go to our grey binders, tab 14. We will go to detail. Mr. Handley, I might just bring to your attention that the pages on this detail of this bill are not numbered so it makes it a little hard to follow, if you could make a note of that. We will go to Legislative Assembly, operations expense, expenditures, not previously authorized, office of the Clerk, \$19,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister inform us as to what portion of the year this would cover?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, it covers the fiscal year from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002. The 2001-2002 fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you. I think if you checked in Hansard, I asked for what portion of the year. Are you actually asking for money you have not spent yet? Is that what I am to take by his response? His response talks about March, 2002. We are still in November, 2001. Is he in a money-grab situation here and counting on this in every department, putting in a little pot here? Let us get some specifics here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, certainly. We are requesting funding to balance our budget for the 2001-2002 year. We had a base for the Legislative Assembly of \$42,000. Our estimates are that we need \$19,000 more for a total of \$61,000 for the fuel costs for the fiscal year. Yes, it is not just up to today. Power as well as fuel. We do that. We have to do that. We cannot exceed the appropriation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess one can say that you know for sure, in this specific area, you are going to fall short on funding? We know that for a fact and that is why we are calling for \$19,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I cannot say I know specifically that we are going to spend \$19,000 exactly more than what is in the budget for this year but that is our estimate of what is needed to be able to balance our budget this year. It

is the best we can do. We do not have any authority to overspend so this has to be an estimate to finish up the fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So this request, and again, this will be a current theme throughout this one, because a number of departments have asked for an increase in this area, so in fact, we will, in this specific area, to provide funding for forced growth and expenditures resulting from significant increases to the cost of heating fuel in the Northwest Territories.

Seeing that and tying it to the Minister's own comments in this House about fuel prices dropping when Members raised the concern about some of the higher costs, how does that tie together? You passed this budget in April of 2001 and the season was just starting to warm up at that point. Now we are just getting to the colder months and in fact, the prices have dropped.

On one hand, we are asking for more money. The Minister stated in the House that fuel prices have dropped. What specific area we are seeing the demand in here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are two pieces to this. One is there are rate increases that we know have come into place since we prepared the budget. The fuel rate rider, for example, was ten cents. That came into effect. We know we can include that in. We know that is a new expense.

Then as we prepared this, looked forward late this summer to how we are going to balance out the rest of the year, we had to do projections and figure out what our best estimate was of what is needed in order to finish out the year, including both the known expenses or increased costs and the projected ones. The figures that appear in here are our best estimates at this time of what is needed.

If fuel prices continue to drop, and there is no way of predicting that will happen, but if they did continue to drop, then we may end up with surpluses in here. If the fuel prices suddenly were to skyrocket again, we could end up being short again. Mr. Chairman, this is our best estimate at this time of what is needed to finish out the fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the Minister a couple of times now has referenced the fuel rate rider. I believe that is through the [Power Corporation](#). In fact, this is not to do with the price of fuel or a department purchasing fuel through a supplier. It is in fact through the [Power Corporation](#). Is that an accurate interpretation, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it is really all of it. Some of it is through POL, or communities serviced by POL. Some of it will be non-POL communities. It is a combination of

all of those. This is the interim rate rider. It is not a final one we are dealing with but again, it is our best information on the change we have to accommodate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, office of the Clerk, \$19,000.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, \$19,000.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go on to Executive, operations expenditures, not previously authorized. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions on this \$1.4 million. The first has to do with the \$250,000 identified for development of a Social Agenda. My first question has to do with the placing of this working group under the Cabinet Secretariat in the Executive. I was just wondering why something that is sort of tied to the social envelope, as this would appear to be, would not have as its lead either Health and Social Services or Education, Culture and Employment, or perhaps even Justice or Housing, but one of the social envelope departments instead of the Executive?

One of the reasons for the concern is that the way our system is set up now when we are reviewing budgets or activities, the Department of the Executive is reviewed by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, whereas social program issues are reviewed by the Standing Committee on Social Programs. With this placement, it means that the Social Programs Committee is somewhat out of the loop in the consideration of what might be undertaken here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is placed in the Executive because it is the devolvement of broad social policy through a number of GNWT departments, including those in the social envelope -- the territorial Association of Municipalities, non-government organizations, the federal government, aboriginal governments. It is a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The role of the Executive is to provide that sort of broad policy direction. I think at this time, because it is much broader than just a government department, it is appropriately placed in the Executive. I agree with the Member that because it is with the Executive it did not go through the regular review by AOC.

In terms of it being placed in the Executive, I think that is where it is appropriately placed at this time because of the broad spectrum of stakeholders involved. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of reviewing the budget and the programs and where issues are heading I think is crucial. In our system, we have assigned Members of the Assembly to committees because it helps Members to specialize and to become more aware. For instance, on social programs. Members of the Social Programs Committee have become more aware of social issues and have spent more time examining what alternatives and options might be. Other

Members have sought membership on the Governance and Economic Development Committee, perhaps because their interests lie in a different area, with a focus on economic development or a focus on monetary issues.

It seems to me a little backwards to have this under the wings of a department that does not therefore come automatically for examination before the Social Programs Committee.

I have to say that I have not been persuaded by the Minister on his argument that it best resides in the Executive. I think we have to look for some way to make sure that in fact, there is some relationship set up with the Members who are on the Social Programs Committee, rather than just on GED. I think otherwise, you are missing some potentially valuable input. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the supp of course goes through AOC, but in the longer term, then the Executive is through GED. I still think it is appropriately placed there given the number of agencies that are involved in this exercise. I think we are certainly open to working with the committees and with the Members to try to ensure that the Social Programs Committee has an opportunity to review this initiative as it moves along. I agree with the Member on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that as part of the funding allocated under the \$250,000, \$90,000 has been allocated for aboriginal governments and NGO representatives. Is the NWT Association of Municipalities considered an NGO and will it qualify for some of that \$90,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I cannot say with certainty, but I expect that they would be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Did you have more to add, Mr. Handley?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: No, only to say that I can find that out. I expect they are eligible for some funding support but I cannot say that with certainty.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister agree to make sure that information is provided to the House before it comes time for us to conclude this item today?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, we will find out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the same concern about the placement of the Energy Secretariat here, not in terms of developing a strategy, because I do think that perhaps in developing a strategy, this might be appropriate for it.

However, I notice that we have here \$45,000 allocated of the \$600,000 for demonstration projects. I am bit concerned that the policy shop is now undertaking activities. That concerns me somewhat. I am not convinced that activities like that should be undertaken in the Executive. It may be appropriate to have a policy development area there but how do we justify demonstration projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, in following up on the comments from Members when we reviewed this with AOC, we are looking at how to structure our energy initiatives in a broader context. We are dealing with that.

In terms of the demonstration projects on energy technology, I believe that this was, as the budget was broken up, an amount of money that was set aside with the intention of being able to either assess some new technology or in fact, in some cases, to even do some demonstration on it to ensure that it is working before we move too far along in a policy that takes us in a particular direction.

I do not know specifically what the demonstration might be, whether it is on solar panels or wind technology or whatever it may be, but this is identified as an amount of money to enable us to do that before making policy statements in specific directions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my concern remains. I am pleased to hear though the Minister commit to examining the placement of all the energy issues and seeing whether or not there might be a better place for them by combining them within government. I look forward to hearing further discussion about that. In the meantime, as part of the \$600,000 we have identified, \$100,000 for consultation and \$80,000 for consensus building, can he define for us what the difference is between the two? Where does consultation stop and consensus building begin? Is there a clear understanding of what the difference is between those two items?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, first of all, in terms of the consultation, the consultation as I understand it, as it was explained to me, is to engage stakeholders in a broad consultation on the energy initiative as it is. That was broken out at three levels. There was the Premier, Executive Council, MLAs at the first level. The second level being departments and crown corporations. The third level being the public. So money identified there was to build the agreement on the overall exercise.

When we came to consensus building, consensus building was built around specific focus groups that would deal with very specific topics or areas within the broad energy exercise. These would deal with very specific tasks that they would be reviewing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We will go to Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I have several questions, Mr. Chairman, on this page. The first \$250,000, I am wondering

about the community consultations, the meeting expenses and the print services. I am wondering if the Minister can give us some sort of breakdown as to whether or not these were competitive bid situations or sole-sources and whether or not they were northern or southern contractors that were used in those situations, the \$75,000, \$50,000 and \$35,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not have specific information that any of it went south but our understanding is that all of it -- if not all, then practically all of it is northern. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Okay. I will accept the Minister's suggestion that practically all of it was northern contractors. I assume it was facilitators and those kinds of things that were used to do community consultations. Can the Minister indicate if the majority of this was competitive bid situations or sole-sourced?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how much of it was sole-sourced or how much went to a tendered process. I can say with certainty, given the nature of the tasks, that this is money that was spent in the North. A breakout of tendered versus sole-sources, I do not know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I can appreciate the Minister may not have that information handy. Would he commit to providing me a breakdown for the community consultations, meeting expenses and printing services as to whether or not this was sole-sourced or competitive bid, and whether or not it was northern or southern firms used? I would like to have that information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we can provide that information. I heard Mr. Dent asking if we could do it before we approve the supp. The answer is likely no. I do not know if they could pull that kind of detail together that quickly but we will certainly undertake to provide it. If we can do it before the supp is approved, then we will. That is a lot of detail to try to dig back on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. The next \$600,000 that went into the Energy Secretariat, we look at the consultation for \$100,000; the consensus building for \$80,000; research and analysis, \$50,000; development of the database, \$25,000; the demonstration products, \$45,000. Can the Minister tell me if this money was again a situation where we hired consultants out of government or was this all in-house work? I assume since it is broken out in dollar amounts that it was not in-house but I would like confirmation of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, by far most of it would be in-house. I expect there were some facilitators who were hired or are being hired to, for example, lead us through the

consultation process or the consensus building process. Again, I am basically certain that we would not be using southern people here. If we are using facilitators for workshops, I do not know whether these were tendered or whether they were sole-sourced.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Will the Minister commit to getting me information on the consultation, consensus building, research and analysis, development of the database and demonstration projects, and specifically indicate whether the money was spent in-house or was tendered out to consultants? Second, whether it was southern or northern? Thirdly, whether or not it was a competitive bid situation or sole-source situation in all cases? Would the Minister provide that information for me? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes, we will provide that information for the money that has been spent and what the projections are for the balance of the year in the breakdown that the Member is asking for. Again, it is a fair bit of detail but we will do it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister for that. In addition, the \$550,000 that is being contributed to aboriginal governments for participation in the IGF process. It was my understanding that the money we were providing was also being matched by the federal government. I am not sure if that was how the process was to go. My understanding is that this would be split in half, the expense here. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate that and if we have assurance from the federal government or evidence that the federal government has already contributed \$550,000 additional dollars to the aboriginal governments as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This money was cost-shared, or matched by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government. Exactly how the aboriginal organizations have spent the money, I cannot say with absolute certainty. I can tell you that by far, again, most of it was for participation by members. It was for the cost of holding meetings. There were some staff costs that were involved and there were some professional, legal, technical expertise that were contracted but again, I do not know who the aboriginal groups would have contracted and exactly whether they were northern or southern or how they would have contracted those services.

The balance of it is for office and office equipment. Again, the majority of it would be northern spent for sure. The biggest piece is for members' participation, not for consultation or hiring of consultants. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I appreciate that. In this situation, I am not concerned with how the aboriginal governments are spending this money that we are giving them. I am only concerned that we can verify that the federal government is also contributing an additional and equivalent \$550,000 I guess my question is how do we verify that the feds put in \$550,000?

Do we have an accounting in speaking with the aboriginal governments and are the aboriginal governments verifying that the feds have contributed this money specifically for their participation in IGF?

I do know that they get money from the federal government. Is the federal government able to say "We give you this amount of money a year. You call it whatever you want but we are saying some of it is for the IGF process?"

I want to make sure that the federal government actually contributed an additional, over and above what they normally would have, \$550,000 and we are now matching that. Can we verify that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes, we can verify that there is an agreement between the federal government and the GNWT to cost share this money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I know this is getting specific here and we do have a cost-sharing agreement. Everyone is aware of the agreement and our government is aware it exists. I am wondering if we have assurance that additional monies were spent by the federal government in this area. It would be very easy for the federal government to insist that they are already funding over and above this amount of money and to just say "We are not going to identify specifically their one-third share." How do we verify that additional monies actually came forward for Intergovernmental Forum participation from the federal government? I wonder how we know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we do not provide our share of money until the federal government provides their share. The first \$1 million that was needed in this exercise was funded one-third by the GNWT, two-thirds by the federal government. That is confirmed in an agreement. I am not clear on the other \$580,000 that is required, exactly what the funding ratio was between the federal government and ourselves, but I can assure you we do not commit our money until the federal government has committed theirs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. Well, as we pass this supplementary appropriation, we will have committed this money. I would like assurance from the Minister that he will get back to me and indicate that he has verified an additional amount of money was spent by the federal government that matches this, based on whatever the agreement is, if it is one-thirds, two-thirds, whatever. I would just like him to indicate that he has seen this money and is aware that the aboriginal governments received it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it will be, not the amount that is spent, but the amount that is committed. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question and a comment on the \$1 million special warrant under hydroelectric potential, and I wonder if it is okay for me to speak on that. It is not on any page.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The Chair is going to call a short break here.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the committee of the whole back to order. We are on Executive, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, Cabinet Secretariat, \$1,400,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will have to defer until the next item.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of things I would like to explore here. The first item listed under the Executive is a reference to the development of a Social Agenda for the NWT for \$250,000. I guess in line with statements that we have heard from Mr. Miltenberger, the newly designated Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, is this in a sense a new study?

The Minister is on record as saying there will be no more new studies within that branch and enough work has been done already to lay the groundwork for where we want to go. I wanted to ask the Minister in that context, is this item, the establishment of a working group tasked with the development of a social agenda, is it in effect a new study or is it actually going to deliver on something that is relevant in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is not a new study. This is a task that was set up following the Social Agenda Conference in Hay River in June. It is partway through its exercise. It is more than a study. It is more of a consensus building exercise that involves most of the agencies that have a mandate in this area. I would not call it a new study and in fact, it is not really a study. It is more of a consensus building and a follow-up to the conference that was held in June. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, could we get a bit more of an explanation of what the outcome will be of their work? What are we going to see that is tangible and that will really make a difference for the people of the NWT on the Social Agenda? What are the deliverables? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the working group is tasked with developing an NWT Social Agenda. It will contain a vision statement, a guiding principle, goals and a set of

concrete measurable recommendations for following up on the outcomes from the Hay River conference. That draft NWT Social Agenda, which is broader than just the Department of Health and Social Services, will be presented to the Premier and to the Minister's Committee on Social Agenda in time for it to be considered by the Intergovernmental Forum in February of 2002. They will come up with a very specific Social Agenda document. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, by February of next year -- that is barely four months from now, Mr. Chairman, with the Christmas season in the midst of that. Is it realistic, Mr. Chairman, to anticipate that this group of 20 people with very broad representation can achieve that in such a relatively short period of time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister responsible for this, the Premier, has certainly felt that it is possible to achieve this task by February. They are also having four meetings between the time when the committee was struck and February. I think it can be done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: So, Mr. Chairman, this is a one-time allotment. The work will be concluded within this current fiscal year and this will not be something that will be extended? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is the plan. I would not want to say with absolute certainty that it will be done in February. There could be some slippage, but it is a one-time exercise aimed at building consensus and the intention is to complete it by February. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I think somewhat related to that issue of time are the other items that are listed in here. I know we have not got to detail on some of these other projects yet but we have mentioned the hydro project, continuing funding to aboriginal governments, the establishment of the Energy Secretariat. In all, under this department, Mr. Chairman, the supplementary requests, by my addition, \$3.3 million. That is a tremendous amount of work and consultation in a relatively short period of time. I would venture to say that it also involves the time and the attention of a relatively few number of people, as a lot of them are fairly high level consultations.

I guess I question the viability of dedicating this amount of money within the next five months. Is it really realistic this can all be spent and put to good use? Or are some of these numbers, some of these projects perhaps overblown, the expectations are just too high for what can really be achieved in this short period of time?

To bring this down to a question, Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us a snapshot under each of these specific areas here, the Energy Secretariat, the hydro unit, the aboriginal initiatives -- can these all be expended in this period of time or are there still a lot of things out there that still need to be designed? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no. We believe that it is doable to achieve this before the end of the current fiscal year or within the time frames that have been set for each of the exercises. There could be some slippage in some of them but we do not believe that has to be great.

A lot of these have quite a bit of the work done already. For example, the Energy Secretariat has been staffed for some months now. The same with the hydro unit. A lot of work was done early in the spring and early summer, so a lot of that has already been achieved. The same with the work on the Social Agenda, some of that has been done.

Mr. Chairman, I might take this opportunity to just answer a question that was asked earlier on the money for the Social Agenda Working Group. The question essentially was whether any of the \$250,000 would be used to pay participation costs of the Association of Municipalities. The answer of that is that the participating costs for the Association of Municipalities will be covered by the Executive, the same as the support that is given to aboriginal groups and other NGOs, so yes, the Association of Municipalities is eligible for participation costs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the \$550,000 requested to provide contribution to the aboriginal governments in order for them to participate, there is an allotment suggested of \$100,000 for the Northwest Territories Economic Development Advisory Forum. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status of the creation or the formation of that group? Is it ready to go to work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Aboriginal Summit has done some work in pulling together a terms of reference for the Economic Development Advisory Forum. There recently was a call for nominations that closed a week before last, I believe. It was a call by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. I expect that within a couple of weeks, we will see the Economic Development Advisory Forum established. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We will go to Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier when I was asking the Minister about the difference between consultation and consensus building -- this is under the \$600,000 for the Energy Secretariat -- the Minister said that there would be some very specific tasks that might be considered in consensus building. I was wondering if we could get a bit of an idea, can we get some sense of what some of those specific tasks might be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, some of the consensus focus groups that would be established under the consensus building will include, and I do not know that these are all finalized yet, but these are the ones that are being contemplated: one on hydroelectricity, one on wind, one on solar, one on industry use, one on biomass, another one on conservation practices and another one on regulation and policies. That was the original list that was drawn up.

Whether that is still the one that is being used -- I notice that there are six there. I know that we already have one on hydroelectricity so I would assume that would not be included in the seven that I just mentioned. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How is the membership of these focus groups being established? Do we have any idea yet who will be involved in selecting the members or who will be among the members?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman I do not know exactly how or if it has been determined, how the focus groups will be structured and who would be invited to participate. I am assuming that the staff at the Energy Secretariat would be given advice on the selection of the membership.

There is one focus group on wind energy, as an example. That one will include the Energy Secretariat staff themselves, a representation from Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, someone from the Power Corporation, someone from ARCAN and then for this particular one for February, 2002, representation from the communities in the Beaufort region as well as the Inuvialuit Development Corporation.

Each one of them will be different, but I think that the intention by the Energy Secretariat is to select representatives who either have an interest in it or are in a situation where they would be able to provide input or benefit for the meetings. There is a different makeup on the different focus groups. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. The Chair is going to steal a couple of seconds of your time, Mr. Dent, and recognize Dave and Kathy Purchase in the gallery. Welcome to the Legislature.

-- Applause

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the intent then to have a broad cross-section of society or is it to look for people with expertise in these areas and try and take the leadership role in getting the ideas out to the public? What exactly is the purpose of the focus groups?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: The focus groups are meant to help define a mandate and outline and identifying coordination and other policy development issues around each of the focus

areas. There will be a level of expertise that is required and again, it differs depending on the topic of the focus group.

As I understand it, it is meant to have some level of expertise that can provide the government and Energy Secretariat with direction. It is not an educative function or purpose.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. De lorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the work has been done in the smaller focus groups then, if we are building consensus, is the idea then to try and evolve the broader spectrum of our society to get some buy-in from the general public that are seen to be useful? If so, how is that going to happen?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the focus groups will complete a lot of their work by about April, 2002, according to the schedule they laid out. Then, starting in May going through June, July, August, all of next summer, the findings from the focus groups would be used to draft strategies in the various areas. They would be reviewed by deputy ministers, reviewed by Cabinet, reviewed by standing committees and eventually with the Legislative Assembly as well as with the aboriginal assemblies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could move down to \$550,000, that is related to the Intergovernmental Forum. One of the parts of that is devolution and governance structures, \$200,000. I would have to question, if we are talking about governance structures at the Intergovernmental Forum, is that the same thing as constitutional development?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would not say it is the same as constitutional development. I think it is a piece of constitutional development and is certainly very closely related to the work on constitutional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it the intention that constitutional development would now be discussed through or at the Intergovernmental Forum? Is that the process under which constitutional development in the Northwest Territories is being undertaken?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would characterize it more as capacity building than getting into constitutional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am going to have to ask the Minister to provide me with some definition then of what he means by capacity building. When I look at this and see governance structures in one area and we are talking about \$200,000, and political accord, another \$50,000, it looks to me awfully close to constitutional development. I just need to have some better understanding of whether or not we are in fact talking about constitutional development here at the

Intergovernmental Forum or if there is going to be another process for constitutional development in the Northwest Territories?

I just do not know how to tell my constituents what the process is about if it is not, from what I have heard and seen, about constitutional development I guess, but I have not heard that sort of announcement yet being made here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we have an agreement between our government, aboriginal governments, and the federal government to look at devolution and resource revenue sharing.

If I can use an example, a lot of the discussion and negotiations, if I can call it that, on this will deal with issues like how do we deal with oil and gas development? How do we share resource revenues in that area?

It is developing a capacity with the aboriginal governments, the other partners in here. It is also dealing with some very specific tasks that have to be dealt with through the three governments. It is essentially setting up a management regime. I do not see it as being constitutional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Did you have something further you wanted to add, Mr. Handley?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We will go to Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just some clarification. I am looking to ask questions on FMBS, directorate, \$1 million, hydro initiative. Are we there yet? Then you can put me back on the list until we get there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We are on Executive, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, Cabinet Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I along with some other Members have some concern with the funding and where it is being spent. In this area, we look at the Social Agenda. That was a move that surprised members of the Governance and Economic Development Committee when we heard that this is in fact now in the Executive.

We have heard a number of explanations, but it still does not seem to fit in that area in light of the programs we would be involved with in the Governance and Economic Development Committee. Maybe it belongs better as Regular Members in AOC, so I do not know where that would fall under, putting monies with certain departments.

As well as the Energy Secretariat, Mr. Chairman, it lines up with other energy initiatives and there is quite a list of them. When we look at initiatives by this government, whether it is Arctic Energy Alliance or if it is the next section, the hydro initiative, as well as within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the Housing Corporation, there are a number of energy areas within departments.

As Mr. Dent just raised, in the area of participation with different groups in the Intergovernmental Forum, when we talk about governance structures, that, Mr. Chairman, is fairly significant in the fact that previous governments of the Assembly have tried to work and deal with that issue on its own in the area of constitutional development. Here we see it at a table that is removed, in a sense, from this Assembly. All we would be receiving is updates.

At some point, it is going to have to come back to the people in this Assembly for ratification, so hopefully that is being reviewed. In fact, again, when you tie it to another initiative, we have a special committee out there on the sunset clause and self-government, as well as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which deals with a lot of the groups as well. We seem to be spreading ourselves all over the place in the sense of covering all the bases and trying to do everything at once, from a number of different areas.

That concerns me, Mr. Chairman. When we look at that in the area of program dollars, as I see it, in the Social Agenda. For example, under the Energy Strategy, demonstration project in innovations of energy technology, you would think that would fall under a number of other areas within this government and not in this Cabinet Secretariat.

There are concerns here. I would like to know from the Minister if this is in fact going to be an ongoing process from within this government and Cabinet as they look for places to stick different programs. Is this a trend that we are starting to see here, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like to refer this to the Premier, because it is a very broad question in terms of the direction of government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. The question has been referred to the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had a discussion with some members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight earlier today. They had said they were concerned about having the Energy Secretariat by itself in the Department of the Executive and seeing different elements of initiatives and interests within the government in different departments. I will look at making an announcement to address that we will specifically look at moving the Energy Secretariat out of the Department of the Executive. That will be done within the next couple of days.

The money that is put into the Department of the Executive and that is actually earmarked for the different departments involved with the Social Agenda was actually done at the request and on the advice of the deputy ministers, who have been meeting on this initiative and looking at how to coordinate. I have been advised by my deputy minister of the Executive that it is for accountability and coordination that it is done through the Department of the Executive.

As we give out the money to the departments, it will be ensuring that it is spent the way that they have committed to spend it in the overall work plan that is developed for the Social Agenda.

It is felt that if we just earmarked this money specifically to each department, we will not have the same sense of ensuring coordination and accountability. That was the intent. We just hold the money and we ensure that the different departments keep the commitments they make to coordinate and spend the money as they originally committed to do.

The third point raised by Mr. Dent with regard to government structures and how that money is spent, it is separate in the sense that we are not going to spend a lot of time talking about constitutional thoughts and thinking. As I understand it, this is specifically to help the aboriginal governments address what their governing structural requirements will be as we deal specifically with revenue sharing and devolution. As we receive money, as we prepare to receive revenue sharing and as we prepare to have transfer of further powers from Ottawa, they have some capacity building to address very specific needs. That is what I understand that money to be. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the idea of pulling the Energy Secretariat and putting it in another area would be news, and to see where it would go would be interesting as well. One of the areas, and again it goes to the \$550,000, devolution of government structures of \$250,000.

I can understand the devolution portion, but one thing I have a concern with is, and again it goes back to the self-government and land claims tables. If we use Nunavut as an example, we tried to ensure that the federal government would pay their portion when it came to the development of Nunavut and so on. Is there a plan in the sense of ensuring that the federal government will reimburse our government in this section or is it a good-will gesture, so to speak, from this government? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, referring to this \$550,000 -- or the \$330,000 basically is what it is, for the Intergovernmental Forum, that is a GNWT contribution. We have a stake in this. We are a partner in this. We are not expecting that the federal government would pay us back that amount of money. We do have a clear understanding though that any incremental costs that occur as we get into self-government, but that is a different matter, that would be picked up by the federal government. This money is our investment in the exercise. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this the nature of the work, that this style is considered very preliminary in the sense that it is not considered to be incremental costs? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think there are two things. One is, as we have said and as the Premier has explained as well, that part of it is helping aboriginal governments establish their capacity and their structure, how

they are going to deal with devolution and resource revenue sharing. Part of it as well is helping us to understand what our relationship is with them on those two areas of devolution and resource revenue sharing. Certainly this is considered to be money that is being invested by this government in achieving the devolution, revenue resource sharing and the establishment of some sort of management regime to manage those initiatives. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on Executive, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, Cabinet Secretariat, \$1,400,000. Agreed?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed. We will go to Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. In the area of the directorate, the \$800,000 for research, I am wondering if the Minister can indicate how much of that has been spent to date and whether the majority of that has gone to southern or northern firms, and whether primarily it was sole-sourced or competitively bid? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, approximately \$600,000 has been spent. I will ask Mr. Voytilla to give us the breakdown of those expenditures. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The spending to date, and I would note that this is a special warrant because this work was urgently required, has been to Capital West Partners, \$59,000 for economic feasibility studies; to a consultant in Fort Smith, Mr. Francois Paulette, to assist us in our work with the South Slave leadership on the hydro project; to Mr. Norm Olson, to work with us on the transmission line issues, \$7,000; to Mr. Peter Lougheed, to assist us with the overall strategic planning and interprovincial issues that are associated with hydro development, about \$16,000; to McLennan Ross, a local legal firm here, to work with us on the regulatory, taxation and corporate structuring aspects of hydro development, most of it specific to the potential for Talton River development, which was part of the recommendations in the initial electrical review report. That is about \$140,000. Most of that work was undertaken by their southern offices who have the taxation and the corporate structuring and legal expertise necessary to do the work.

There was money paid to Snowman Communications, about \$70,000, with respect to the development of communications strategy and materials. There was \$5,900 paid to the Manitoba Trade and Investments for the Government of the Northwest Territories share of the east-west transmission study grid, which was a joint interprovincial study that all the provinces and territories participated in.

There was \$100,000 paid to Mr. Dave Morrison and Associates, who was one of the consultants who worked on the initial electrical review. This was to complete the public consultation and the resulting restructuring or adjustments to their recommendations on the electrical review study and to

further the work on the hydro research. To Mr. Jim Robertson, about \$90,000 for additional work on both the electrical review study and the hydro work. Mr. Fred Abbott, \$43,000 for further work on the electrical review recommendations and on the hydro financing.

Those are some of the contracts that have been raised. Many of them are northern. Some of them are southern because of the type of expertise that was required on the project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. Mr. Voytilla listed off quite a number of contracts and some \$600,000 worth of work. I am wondering if the Minister can indicate if there is any of it that was not sole-sourced?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe that all of this was sole-sourced. I might add that we contracted with Mr. Robertson as a follow-up to the work that he had done on the electrical generation study.

The information and the advice we needed was very technical. As Mr. Voytilla has pointed out, a lot of it -- in fact, most of it is not available in the Northwest Territories. We relied on Mr. Robertson's expertise to give us advice on where we could turn for the best advice. We were also committed to reviewing hydro potential at all of the aboriginal assemblies over the summer. We were working in a fairly tight time frame to get good advice before we went out and did presentations to aboriginal communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: This is why I did get into the criteria earlier in question period to the Premier and wanted to talk about the criteria for sole-sourcing. It can be urgently required, but it also has to be injurious to the public interest, whatever that means. I suppose this is all very subjective. We could suggest that just about everything that we do is urgent.

In any case, I do not want to go through all of these contracts. I just want to maybe pick one and have the Minister give me an example as to the criteria used. What is the sole-source explanation for using McLennan Ross as the barristers and solicitors for the \$140,000 worth of work? If the Minister could give me detail on the sole-source explanation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we are confident that these sole-sourced contracts fit within the intent of the sole-sourcing guidelines. First of all, on the urgency one, we had an opportunity last summer. We continue to have that opportunity, I believe, to take advantage of the energy crisis that is being faced in North America, both on electrical and also on the gas.

In this case, we were looking at the hydroelectric potential of the North. There is a federal energy reference committee that is doing work. We wanted to ensure that the rest of Canada knew that we had this huge potential here worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

So in terms of urgency, I believe that there was an urgency and certainly a public interest in having good work done urgently.

In terms of capability, we went to the best sources of information. We had to get answers very quickly. Some of the specific work that we were looking at, for example, the Taltson work, was deemed to be urgent by the South Slave leadership. It was not only us but some of the leadership who are looking at these issues felt that there was an urgency to carry on with this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I am aware that by our legislation or by our policies, you do not have to meet all of the criteria for sole-sourcing. However, I would argue that it is very suggestive. If I heard Mr. Voytilla right in explaining what the sole-source award to McLennan Ross, I think he said that they do have the taxation and corporate structuring expertise required in their corporate offices in the south and the expertise is not available in the Northwest Territories. Even if we concede that the expertise is not available in the Northwest Territories, there are other law firms who are partnered with southern affiliates who certainly could provide this corporate structure and taxation advice. There are other law firms who have staffed offices in Yellowknife and who could have been contacted urgently.

I cannot see why this would not have gone out to a competitive situation. I cannot image that this was required so urgently that a week or two weeks to go out for bids would have derailed the whole process, especially when I just do not see that there is any argument. The argument that these folks are the only folks that have access to this corporate knowledge somewhere in their organization I do not think holds water, Mr. Chairman. I think a lot of other law firms are partnered up or do have this expertise internally, even if it is located in the south. Could the Minister speak to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I cannot argue about the contacts that other law firms in the Northwest Territories may have. I can say that McLennan Ross do have a southern branch of their office, they certainly have a Yellowknife office, which has acknowledged expertise in corporate tax and corporate structuring. There was an urgency, as I said earlier, to get this done. I do not think that it was a matter of a week or two. I think if we start going into tendering or even call for proposals, we are probably looking at something closer to two months instead of two weeks in order to get this resolved.

We did want to get to all of the aboriginal assemblies, so we were working on a tight time frame. I am sure that if we were to put it out to a tender, the Member is probably right. Others would either have or would make arrangements to find that corporate tax, corporate structuring expertise but again, this was someone we were familiar with, someone who is very capable of doing the job and was referred to us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roland): Thank you Mr. Handley. The Chair is going to recognize the clock. Mr. Braden, you can kick things off tomorrow when we resume on this item. The Chair will rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your witness.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of 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 Committee Report 814(4) and Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002, and would like to report progress. Committee Report 8-14(4) has been concluded. 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 North Slave seconds the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings tomorrow 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 the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 6, 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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
 - Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act

- Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act
- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act
- Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002
- TD 42-14(4), Report of the Independent Commission on MLA Compensation
- TD 51-14(4), Investing in Roads for People and the Economy: A Highway Strategy for the Northwest Territories
- CR 7-14(4), Report on Modernizing Our Electoral System: the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Election of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, 1999

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

