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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Friday, March 1, 2002

Members Present

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Good morning, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions.

-- Interjection

I called and no one responded for Members' statements. Are there any Members' statements? Would you please put your hand up then if you have a Member's statement? The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement on Replacement of Inuvik's Aurora Campus Student Residence**

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago in this House I raised the issue about the Aurora campus student residence construction. The Minister of Education committed to working with the groups in the community to look at alternative methods of building a student campus. He did put some qualifiers on it, but I would like to confirm with the Minister today, in fact, that he would be willing to do that, as I have contacted groups back in Inuvik and they are willing to discuss with the department alternative ways of having the student residence built. I would just like to see if we can get that started, as we are in the process of the campus coming up this summer when construction is to begin. During question period, I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Alcohol Consumption During Sporting Events

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make my statement today under the broad subject of celebration. Earlier in this session, I heard colleagues debating the merits of granting special liquor licences to open bars and pubs to celebrate the Olympic hockey game, which happened to fall on a Sunday. This in turn led to a debate over whether communities should set the rules for themselves on Sunday bar openings.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to respectfully point out the irony of what it was that people wanted to celebrate. To be an athlete of Olympian quality takes years of discipline and training to ensure that you have reached the peak of performance in your sport. We admire and revere these people

who have resisted the temptations of self-indulgence and excess in eating and drinking, and how do people celebrate? Well, some of them sit on their couch or on a bar stool, eat junk food, smoke and drink beer. Would it not make more sense to emulate the accomplishments of these athletes to maybe go out and run ten kilometres? Or if you have to drink, do it at home with neighbours and friends, but let us not open the door to taking away the one day that people who probably need it the most could spend at home.

I do not think we need any more bar time to celebrate anything. I think we should celebrate the one day bars are closed, and there is a hope that people who are inclined to spend too much time at the bar might stay at home and celebrate a day of rest with their family and friends.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Because if the bars are open, people will come. I lived in a condo tower in downtown Yellowknife across from a certain drinking establishment for the first year I was here, and it did not matter, rain or shine, 40 below, whatever the conditions, the noise that rose up from that street was unbelievable. Maybe child protection workers in Yellowknife could tell us how many kids were left home alone. Maybe we will never know. How much money, which could have been spent on food and clothing, got sucked up by these businesses on the six days of the week they are open?

As for not being featured on national television like so many other partying bar patrons across the country, I think the rest of Canada knows very well that Northerners can consume our share of booze with the best of them. Call me square, call me middle-aged, but I have never understood what drinking had to do with celebrating anything.

Mr. Speaker, I think I as am fun-loving and like celebrations as much if not more than the next person. I am pleased to announce that you do not have to drink to have fun. If you can live without it, why not do so? If you cannot live without it, that is another good reason not to drink. I hope that bars are never opened on Sundays for Grey Cups, Super Bowl, or even Olympic gold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Child Apprehension

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today deals with the Family Law Act and the Child Protection Act, and the whole idea of having our children taken and put into custody, taken away from our communities and

our homes. There is a process that we have in place. I think this government is at a position of being a police officer, judge, jury and prosecutor by not allowing due process.

I for one feel that there are things happening out there that this government has to seriously take a good look at. In the case at hand, which Members of this side of the House are aware of, there are people who have delivered their babies at Stanton Hospital and had them apprehended immediately after birth.

I feel that is unjust. It is cruel to not only the mother but mental cruelty in the concept of what is going on.

I had to deal with many cases in my constituency where children have been taken away from their parents. All parents are not perfect. All parents do not have the ability or the lifestyle of having to live in a rich family environment. A lot of people live on social assistance. Is that a crime?

I think as a government and as a people, we have to help the people who need help, not use the system to prosecute people, or make people have to prove themselves in front of a court.

For First Nations people and for First Nations governments, they were supposed to be involved in the process of ensuring they were going to be informed of what is happening with aboriginal children when they are being apprehended or taken away from their families or taken away from their communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is happening today. There is no due process. I for one feel that this government and the Minister responsible have to take some action. I think this issue should be debated in this House. We should do a thorough review with regard to the Family Law and Child Protection Act to see if it is really working. Is it doing what we encompass it to do?

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on this urgent matter.

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

Member's Statement on High Rates of Cancer Diagnosis in the Dogrib Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last two years, we have lost so many people to cancer in my region, Mr. Speaker. People are very concerned about what might be causing this disease. As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, this is very distressing to our communities and their families. By the time they are diagnosed with cancer, it is too late, Mr. Speaker. You have to wonder if it is a lack of access to diagnostic equipment or the way the communities deal with patients or is it the lack of nurses, doctors or facilities? I will have questions for the Minister of Health on this subject, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Market Disruption Caused by Government Lending Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a statement to highlight some of the things I have learned about the way our government spends money on

lending programs, in particular, the NWT Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, through the review of the budget of RWED, I learned that there is no real strong criteria on how our government lends money to businesses. I have also learned that market disruption is not really an important factor when considering government lending money to private businesses. I have a real problem with that, Mr. Speaker, because as I stated in committee of the whole, we are hearing constantly in this House about the lack of money to small communities to create economic development projects and create job opportunities. I have also indicated that in my travels with the special committee, I have learned there are a lot of small communities in the Territories where there are no viable businesses to serve coffee, or a gathering place. For example, in places like Tsiigehtchic and Aklavik, when we were there with the special committee, there was no place a visitor could go to have a snack or coffee or anything.

I think it is government's role to support a business like that in small communities. I do not think it is government's role to spend taxpayer's money to give loans to businesses in communities like Yellowknife, or communities with competition in the market, to give them money when they could not get the money from the bank, not to create new business opportunities or new jobs, but to replace something that is already in existence. You could apply to open a restaurant or another coffee shop or whatever you want. How is that creating new jobs? How is that creating new business opportunities where one did not exist? How is that creating a fair competition if someone could go and get a business loan from the government and they are allowed to compete with other people, who have put their sweat equity, mortgaged their house and whatever savings they scraped together to start that business? There is something very unjust out there about this. I urge the Minister and the government to review this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on 19th Annual K'amba Carnival

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know it is tough to imagine that winter is just about behind us with the cold weather we are experiencing and that spring is just around the corner. However, a sure sign of spring is the carnivals that we start to see at this time of the year. Today, I want to congratulate the community of the Hay River Reserve, who celebrated the opening of the 19th Annual K'amba Carnival yesterday.

Every year, the reserve is the first community to celebrate their carnival. It is probably the only one in the North that is alcohol and drug free.

-- Applause

I am proud to say they are not campaigning for the bars to be open on Sunday. This is a family-based function and it is held in a dry community. I would remind all of the visitors who are planning to attend the reserve of that fact.

Mr. Speaker, the K'amba Carnival is for both young and old. They have a long list of events, from dog races and talents shows to bingo and the queen and princess contest. Today, I want to thank all of the people who entered the queen and princess contest. They are; Savana Fabien, Patricia Abel, Talitha Bughhins, Cheryl Fabien, Alison Minoza, Alexia Martel, Josie Tourangeau, and Rosalie Martel. These girls are all out pounding the pavement -- Mr. Speaker, I guess pounding the gravel, in this case -- in hopes of ticket sales. The winners were the ones who sold the most tickets. This year's winners are Rosalie Martel who, by the way, was a page for us earlier this last year. Rosalie Martel is the winner for the 2002 K'amba Carnival queen contest, and Cheryl Fabian for the princess. I want to congratulate them both.

Mr. Speaker, during this event, we get to see the towns of many of our fellow Northerners. This year, as part of the opening ceremonies at the K'amba Carnival last night, the people of the Hay River Reserve and Kat'Odeeché First Nations pay tribute to Kole Crook.

Every year, the carnival symbolizes the changing of seasons, and it is time to rejoice the end of a cold, dark winter and to welcome the coming spring. Every year, the K'amba Carnival has been growing bigger and bigger. I believe it is the second largest carnival in the North now. Diane Tourangeau and the K'amba Carnival committee have been working for many months to make this event happen. I want to congratulate them for making this an enjoyable and memorable event. I want to thank the community and wish them a wonderful and safe celebration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Status of the Giant Mine Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement is about the status of the Giant Mine cleanup. Earlier this week my colleague from Great Slave, Mr. Braden, spoke in the House about the statement of the cleanup, or rather, the lack of cleanup, of the arsenic trioxide currently stored in the underground caverns at the mine. Mr. Speaker, residents attended public meetings in N'dilo and Yellowknife hosted by DIAND. Those residents had the opportunity to hear what they are proposing as options we should consider with respect to the arsenic trioxide problem at Giant.

Mr. Speaker, there have been meetings and information sessions hosted by DIAND on this issue, and yet it is becoming clear that we are no further now to finding a solution. We now hear that some of the options DIAND proposed in the past are no longer viable, and perhaps the best option on the table is to leave the arsenic where it is. DIAND has suggested that by June of this year, the federal government will determine a course of action to deal with this problem. One of the major obstacles seems to be that it is going to cost money to clean this up, and, Mr. Speaker, let us be clear it is a lot of money.

DIAND representatives have admitted that some of the options would be far too costly. Of particular concern to me is the statement reportedly made at a public meeting in Yellowknife, in which a DIAND representative suggested that Yellowknife has to deal with the arsenic, as this is where it came from. I

sure hope he did not mean to suggest that Yellowknife residents have to come up with the solution, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. BELL: The federal government is ultimately responsible for the mine site cleanup and we must ensure they do what is right for the residents of the NWT and for the environment. The federal government is who we must hold accountable and who we also hold responsible. I hear environmental agencies, local governments, aboriginal organizations and community citizens voicing concerns and fears regarding the inaction of the federal government, but I am not hearing this government, Mr. Speaker. I am not hearing the Government of the Northwest Territories. Where are we on this? Why are we not making our case to the federal government? Or do we even have one?

I think the people of the Northwest Territories have every right to know what this government is doing to resolve this impending environmental disaster.

Later today, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking this government, specifically the Minister responsible for RWED, what is being done to address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Oral Question 25-14(5): Human Resource Management Policy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to an Oral Question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on February 20, 2002, regarding the Human Resource Management Policy. Mrs. Groenewegen directed her question to the Deputy Premier. However, this question deals with matters for which I am responsible and therefore it is proper that I respond.

As Minister responsible for the public service, I have the sole authority and responsibility to manage and direct the public service in a manner consistent with the Public Service Act. Many of the authorities have been delegated to deputy ministers. This is outlined further in a letter to Mr. Bell tabled in the House on February 26, 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. I am hoping that as I travel home today, I will have some good news to bear as to when a meeting might be set up between the groups in the community around possible alternative methods of building a student campus. I would like to know from the Minister, when will he be

able to have representatives of his department contact the groups in Inuvik? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have my officials contact the Inuvik officials immediately. I would also like to state that I am going to be in the Delta, Inuvik specifically, around March 20th to 21st, somewhere around then. I would certainly like to meet with whomever I can on this subject. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear the Minister will have someone making contact immediately. Will the discussions be open so that they can put proposals on the table as to alternative construction methods? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be open to any possibilities or ideas. What has to always be respected, of course, is our process for capital planning, but I will certainly take into consideration any possibilities that may be feasible for us to consider. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the possibilities of what is being considered feasible, I hope the Minister and his department will take into account the fact that this campus and residence have been on the books for quite some time. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did address the whole issue of the immediate need, and there was an immediate need for accommodation in Inuvik, and we have opened up the row housing, or are in the process of opening up some units now. It was critical that we do that, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I am aware that there has been a desire to have a residence attached to the college, but there are

challenges, of course, for us all the time with the amount and availability of capital funding. Certainly I will keep an open mind to possibilities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, just for the fact, as the Minister prepares for this and the department goes there, there are no preconceptions as to time lines. The other day, the Minister stated something about 10 years that these interim arrangements might be working. I would like to have the Minister confirm in fact that feasibility and consideration will be given to the options put forward even if they come up sooner, as long as they can meet this government's requirements for cash flow. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 113-14(5): Aurora College Campus and Residence

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Respecting the process that we use, I have to always consider the capital planning process and so forth, but I am looking forward to meeting in the Delta. I have been asked to go to the leadership meeting in Inuvik midway through the month. I am looking forward to that because I was not able to go the last time. The Premier had asked me to attend a meeting in Calgary and I had missed that meeting, Mr. Speaker. It would have been an opportunity to discuss this matter. I am looking forward to going. Thank you.

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

Question 114-14(5): Incidence of Cancer in the North Slave

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement today, I mentioned the many people in my communities who are either sick or have died from cancer in the past few years. Mr. Speaker, by the time they are diagnosed, it is too late. I would like to ask the Minister if his department could find out why so many people from my communities are sick or are dying of cancer? 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 114-14(5): Incidence of Cancer in the North Slave

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will make the commitment that we will get the statistics we have from the Member's region and riding and look at the cancer rates and the other issues that he has raised to try and determine the cause. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 114-14(5): Incidence of Cancer in the North Slave

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Using the services of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, I see the care they give to the patients and how professional they are in their work. I would like to ask the Minister if the diagnostic equipment at Stanton is so booked up that we are not diagnosing our patients in time. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 114-14(5): Incidence of Cancer in the North Slave

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whether there are waiting lists and what length of waiting lists there are for use of the specialized diagnostic equipment, I do not know. I will find out what the waiting lists are and how long they are. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 114-14(5): Incidence of Cancer in the North Slave

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister when he would be getting back to me with the information we are looking for? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 114-14(5): Incidence of Cancer in the North Slave

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will commit to get back to the Member with the information we have before the end of next week.

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

Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today goes to the Minister of [Education, Culture and Employment](#). In the budget address that was presented earlier this session, on page 17, it speaks about the extra money that is being made available for student support funding, which will be increased to 15 percent of school contributions. May I ask the Minister how the department sees this extra money being spent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were two aspects to the funding increases for school support. One was for the pupil-teacher ratio, and we are on target with that at 16.5:1. We brought it down from 18:1. Next year it will go to

16:1. Additionally, we decided we would increase funding for student support. That would increase from 8 percent to 15 percent. That is being done this year to increase to 15 percent. That is support in the classroom for special needs and student support areas. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Specifically to the increased funding for student support money, may I ask the Minister as to whether or not there were any guidelines, accountability frameworks, any standards the department is giving to the local school boards as to how this money is being spent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have an accountability framework in place, whereby reports are done at the end of the year. School boards report back to the department on the expenditure base and where the funding was expended.

Ahead of time, we have made it clear to the school boards that the funding is necessary to bring down the PTR. It is very measurable and the funding for student support be directly targeted at student support. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for us to have a copy of the accountability framework the department is giving to school boards as to how this money should be spent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can certainly provide the Member with the areas of accountability that we require from school boards in return for the funding that we provide them. I would be glad to pass that on to the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, is there a policy or guidelines that the school boards should have with respect to how they propose to spend this money? If so, could I get a copy of that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 115-14(5): Student Support Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will certainly provide the Member with any areas of guidelines and instructions that we forward on to school boards with respect to funding that we provide; formula funding, special funding and so forth. We will be glad to turn that over and supply it to the Member. Thank you.

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

Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it is in regard to the Child and Family Services Act and child apprehension. I see it as getting out of hand. Something has to be done to rein them in. I do not see why, in this day and age, we have the child protection officer along with the RCMP going into our hospitals and apprehending newborns, not even allowing the mother to bond with her newborn child.

For me, that is inhumane and emotionally stressful on the mother, the family and the community. I would like to know from the Minister, as First Nations governments are supposed to be consulted in apprehensions that are taking place, is he aware of this practice and what is he doing about it?

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

Return to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member made me aware of this issue yesterday in the Members' lounge. I am having it checked into. I understand there were two cases where there were apprehensions at birth last year, one in consultation with the mother with a plan of care agreement to reunite the mother with the child as soon as possible.

My colleague makes reference to some very specific facts that I am not aware of or have not been privilege to in regard to police and the way hospital apprehensions may have been done. I am not in a position to comment on that. I will check but I do not have that kind of information. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Child and Family Services Act, it clearly allows for a process to take place between the social worker or child protection officer, the parent and some sort of a working group or working committee within our communities to work out and try to find solutions to the problems, so the children do not have to leave their homes.

I would like to ask the Minister, could he check and see if that is being done at this time and is it being carried out to the letter of the law? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was here in the 13th Assembly on the committee that was working with the final review of the family law bills that were brought into effect, which my colleague mentions.

The intent of the plan and care committee was to do the very things that the Member indicated, to provide input, make sure there was due process, make sure every step possible was made to keep the child with the family and in the community and that no moves were made on children in and out of the community without the community being involved.

If the Member is asking me to tell him if there are plan and care committees in place in every community in the North, I will get that information and I will find out. I know what the intent is. I know what the process is, but I will get the specifics in terms of whether there are plan and care committees in all the communities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the components of the act clearly allows for dialogue between this government and First Nations governments when it comes to aboriginal children who are either apprehended or are being taken away from the community, so that the First Nations governments are aware that this action is being taken and how they can intervene.

I would like to ask the Minister, has the process of consultation with First Nations been taking place? If so, what has been done? If not, why not?

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

Further Return to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this act has been in place for a number of years. The plan and care committees are set up in conjunction with the people in the communities and the community leadership.

I am also in the process of trying to arrange a meeting with the Dene Nation. They have some concerns and want to have some discussion in terms of child welfare matters. I have had some discussions with the people in the Dogrib region.

I know this is a very important area, one where there is some history. We are very clearly committed to providing the best service possible and protect the interests of the children, while trying to maintain a family structure.

Mr. Speaker, there has been consultation and there will be continued consultation. I will be going into the communities in the coming weeks and months and I am sure that item will be on the agenda, as it has already been, when I get to the communities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us in this House exactly how many children are presently in care, or who have been withdrawn from the family member or from a home? Exactly where are these children today?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Two questions there, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return to Question 116-14(5): Apprehension of Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can give the Member an indication of a snapshot. The numbers change, sometimes on a daily basis. As of September 30, 2001, there were 246 children that had court status with the department, which means they are in either permanent custody, temporary custody, in the process of being apprehended or are under some type of supervision order. We have approximately 20 children down in southern placements. The other children are in various placements throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I talked about what DIAND is proposing to do with the 237,000 tons of arsenic trioxide stored at the Giant Mine site. I would like to ask the Minister of RWED what involvement his department has in addressing the problem of arsenic trioxide being stored underground at Giant, and also the surface cleanup at the mine site. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when Giant Mine was sold to Miramar, the condition of that sale was that DIAND retains all of the legal responsibility for managing the arsenic stored underground. Our position in RWED has always been that. It is the federal government's responsibility, since it is a condition under the water license. As a government, we have been making our position known to the federal government that we would like to see the arsenic removed from the site. That is the first priority we would like to see. I am told through the department and previous Ministers that letters have been written in that regard to the federal government as our position, that we would like to see it removed.

However, they are going through a consultation process. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board has granted DIAND until this coming fall, October 2002, to submit the management plan for removal of the arsenic or to deal with the arsenic. Through this consultation process, we will be hearing from our citizens. Hopefully, they reinforce the position of our government that the first priority is we would like to see the arsenic removed.

As for the surface cleanup, we are involved as the territorial government in this regard. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear our preference is ultimately for the removal of this substance. I am wondering if the Minister can say to date, of the proposed options that DIAND has discussed as being most appropriate to address our concerns, which of those options is RWED leaning toward? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Our position is that we prefer the arsenic to be removed. This is where we are heading. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my concern is that if DIAND comes back to us and says "Options X and Y are too expensive, therefore we are going with Z," what is this government prepared to do? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this submission in the fall is very important. The consultation now is very important for us, and it will result in DIAND coming forward to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board with a submission. This submission will trigger a lengthy controversial environmental assessment in the licensing process. There is a mechanism in place for our participation in this regard. Up to this point in time, there was no plan. They were looking at options. There are different ranges of options that are there. The removal of the arsenic trioxide is \$300 million plus. That is our first preferred option to go. We would indicate that through the environmental assessment licensing process, which this fall's submission will trigger off. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am looking for some sort of assurance that this Minister and this department will not accept the cheapest solution as necessarily the most preferential. There are other sites in the Territories. I think it would set a terrible precedent if we just buckled under and accepted the cheapest solution. Will the Minister give me assurance that cost and the price of this cleanup will not be the ultimate determining factor? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 117-14(5): GNWT Role in Giant Mine Cleanup

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, our preference is to have this arsenic trioxide removed and we will keep taking that position. I would like to reassure the honourable Member about that. Thank you.

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

Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to go back to the questions I raised with the Minister of MACA, Mr. Vince Steen, about swimming pools. I asked several days ago about consideration to replace the swimming pool in Fort Providence. I received several phone calls from my constituents regarding his answers. I want to ask again, because in his response, he talked about not knowing why swimming pools were not in the capital planning anymore and was not aware that there was a request from Fort Providence. He could not answer why some communities could transfer funds and others could not.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could give me a clear answer on what he plans to do with this request. What is his

answer to the people? What message can he send to the people of Fort Providence regarding the request for swimming pools? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had opportunity to discuss this issue with the department after the Member's questions in the House. It is clear that some communities chose to switch priorities, whereby MACA has a funding program, capital program for some type of facilities and not for the other, so the community did switch priorities and used the funding for a swimming pool rather than for an arena.

We do not have, at the present, a capital planning process whereby we would fund swimming pools. Swimming pools were cut off in the days of the cutbacks, as I said, and it was never really re-established into the capital plan. As we all know, the new corporate capital planning process puts recreation facilities quite a ways down the scale in the line of priorities. Swimming pools are not even mentioned at this stage.

What the department did do with Fort Providence is that there was \$50,000 that had not been spent at this point, which was originally for the arena, I believe. The community had not spent it yet and it was held over from the year before. It is still earmarked for that particular facility, but the department did give the community the option of using it towards the swimming pool if they wished. I have not heard anything back from the community on this at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is providing a lot of new information here. The \$50,000 he is referring to is for the curling rink. If that is going to go towards the pool, is he going to give us more money to complete the curling rink?

If that is what he is saying, that is fine. However, I have to question the comments he made about switching priorities in terms of the funding that went to Fort Liard. They took the money that was earmarked for an arena and put it towards a pool when they already have an arena. Were they planning to build a second arena and then this got switched? I need some clarity on that. I am not sure what the Minister is saying.

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

Further Return to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can understand the Member's predicament. Whether or not the department will be approached now with another request for another building, I put the same thing to the department, but we

do not really have a program in place. What do we do when communities switch priorities?

I am at this point discussing this with the department as to whether we are going to continue with this process, because it just does not seem to be a process that allows for fairness.

I am also discussing with the department the option of multiplexes, which is possibly a solution to some of the problems that communities face in obtaining a complex that would serve all of their recreational needs. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister. There has to be some consistency here and it is unfortunate that the community of Fort Providence was not able to do what is being allowed now with the new policy, I believe, to switch funding from one recreational project to another, because that was the desire in the first place. The swimming pools are the most used facilities in the communities, as we know.

I would like to ask the Minister, given the high demand for swimming pools in the communities, if he would consider adding swimming pools in the department's capital plans for next year. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will most certainly consider that. I think what the department and this government needs is some kind of a collective approach to this from the Ordinary Members and from the standing committees, giving us direction to work towards this. I have to take this to Cabinet. I have to have support for this somehow.

I need some kind of a collective agreement that all of the communities want this. As well, I will be seeking this kind of support from the NWTAM. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is difficult to measure what kind of support the Minister is asking for, but I would like to ask him if he would consider placing this in front of Cabinet if he got a response from all of the communities in the North that are requesting swimming pools and would like to see swimming pools added to the capital planning for next year. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 118-14(5): Request for Fort Providence Swimming Pool

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that as a department, we can allow the communities to identify this in their five-year capital plan. It is just a matter of if it is one of the programs that we fund.

What I am speaking to is support from standing committees, including AOC, that this is one of the programs that should be supported. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice. Yesterday in a Minister's statement entitled Human Resources Action Plan, the Minister proceeded to indicate the status of priority one candidates in the corrections services.

At the bottom of the first page, "This is an excellent indication that affirmative action is progressing very well within corrections services." I would like to ask the Minister, is this affirmative action human resource plan that he is talking about part of a bigger government-wide policy for affirmative action, or is this something just specific to his department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To confirm the answer, it is specific to the Department of Justice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, am I to understand then that each department of this government is coming up with its own Affirmative Action Policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not believe it is. It is something I have really deliberated with in our own department to see where we could make improvements in the context of the Affirmative Action Policy. Thank you,

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's statement, he also indicated that his department is creating opportunities for career advancement for priority one candidates who are already working in the corrections department.

I was wondering, since there are still some people who work for Justice and who work for corrections who are not priority 1 candidates, who may have been there for many years, for example, 15 years of service, are there going to be career development opportunities made available for those people as well, or will these opportunities be made available exclusively to P1 candidates? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we do not intend to put one category over the other. We want to have some consistency in the corrections model that every employee will have an opportunity to take enhanced training and look towards career development within our corrections system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that answer. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about our Affirmative Action Policy, and I have brought this up before, I believe it is fairly old now. There were suggestions for revision made in June of 1997, which have not been responded to by this government.

The philosophy behind it is a representative workforce, yet in Mr. Allen's statement, I see the philosophy seems more towards looking at the population within the service as opposed to the population of the Northwest Territories. I want to know if this is also going to be consistent to other departments, or is this just a single department initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 119-14(5): Human Resources Action Plan

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to mention again that it is specific to the Department of Justice. We want to ensure that our staff have opportunities within the corrections services. We were trying to ensure that we are looking at affirmative action candidates and see how they can move up the ladder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 120-14(5): Child Psychologist in Yellowknife

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for [Education, Culture and Employment](#). As I understand it, Yellowknife No. 1 and No. 2 school districts are cost sharing a full-time position that works to diagnose special needs. I believe it is a child psychologist position, but I may be incorrect. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me if indeed that is the case. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 120-14(5): Child Psychologist in Yellowknife

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information here, Mr. Speaker, but I will certainly find out for the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 120-14(5): Child Psychologist in Yellowknife

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that he does not have that in front of him, but I guess if he is going to look into that, I have a couple of things I would like him to include.

I would like him to specifically inquire as to the length of the waiting list. For instance, how many children are on the list? How long does it take us to get through that number of children and report back? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 120-14(5): Child Psychologist in Yellowknife

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can do that for the Member. Thank you.

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

Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development some further questions on the arsenic problem that we face here. The Minister replied to a question from my colleague, Mr. Bell, that this government's preferred option is that the arsenic is removed, and indeed I support that. Is the government prepared to say allowing the arsenic to stay in the ground is absolutely unacceptable? Will the government take that position? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we could go as far as saying that. As MLAs, we represent our people, and if that is what the people are saying then that is what we are saying too. We did not really have to have a big consultation to know what is right, and our position is going to be that. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Supplementary to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. That is the kind of commitment and leadership that we hope to see from this Legislature...

AN HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. BRADEN: ...and I think the people of Yellowknife, and indeed the Northwest Territories, hope to see. I would ask the Minister about other situations in the NWT, specifically the Colomac situation, which threatens the people around the North Slave area. Will the government take a similar stand on DIAND's obligation to clean up that horror story? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the land up here is very important to us. Our elders are telling us that whatever we do on our land through development, we have to make sure we protect our land. What happened with past practices, such as with Colomac, should never have happened and it should never happen again. It is the responsibility of DIAND to clean that up. I think that is what they should do. That is what our position is. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I know that other levels of elected government in this region have also taken steps to make their concerns known to DIAND. I would like to ask the Minister what collaboration and coordination has gone on with, for instance, the City of Yellowknife or the aboriginal governments in the area, to present a unified front? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, up to this point, we have raised our opinions as a government, sent letters and made our position known to the federal government. They are fully responsible for the arsenic trioxide stored underneath us here in Yellowknife. They are going through a consultation process right now with the people looking at various options. It is going to culminate, as I indicated, in the fall with a submission. Between now and this submission, we need to work with all levels of government to try to formulate a very strong position. If it is going to be a lengthy assessment and licensing process, then we have to get ready for that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider leading a collaborative and cooperative message with other elected levels to the Minister of DIAND at this time? Rather than waiting for the long, complex and expensive regulatory process, can we design a plan row with cooperation from all levels that we can all have ownership in and acceptance of? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 121-14(5): Arsenic Trioxide at Giant Mine

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the consultation process and the presentation by DIAND officials seems to indicate that there is a preference that DIAND officials are leaning towards. I think that if that is the indication, then I agree with the honourable Member that we have to do something now rather than later. I agree with that. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have notice of motion for first reading of two bills.

Bill 9: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2001-2002

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 4, 2002, I will move that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2001-2002, be read for the first time.

Bill 10: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 4, 2002, I will move that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**Bill 8: An Act to Amend the Nursing Profession Act and the Pharmacy Act**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Nursing Profession Act and the Pharmacy Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had first reading. 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. Bill 2, Bill 4, Committee Report 1-14(5), Committee Report 2-14(5), Committee Report 3-14(5), Motion 1-14(5), with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will call the committee to order. We have a number of items to deal with; Bill 2, Bill 4, Committee Report 1-14(5), Committee Report 2-14(5), Committee Report 3-14(5), and Motion 1-14(5). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Mr. Chairman, I suggest we resume with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Once we have concluded RWED, we would then begin with Transportation.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will take a short break and then begin with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

---Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call the committee back to order. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree the Minister may bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses into the chamber? Mr. Minister, for the record, can you introduce your witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bob Mcleod, the deputy minister to my left; to my right, Mr. Jim Kennedy, director of corporate services; to his far right, Mr. Fred Koe, who is the president of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We are on page 11-17, resource management and economic development, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$35,597,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on a question that was asked yesterday. The Minister's response on page 622 of unedited Hansard talks about the very high premium related to the fact that we have pure natural diamonds that can be traceable and certified.

I was wondering if I could get a sense from the Minister what is the premium that is now being paid, both on the rough and on the finished diamonds, for Canadian diamonds? What is the premium over the exact same diamond quality that is mined in Russia as compared to that which is mined in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the diamond industry here, we have been trying to find out the premium. It varies. We have been told it is as low as 8 percent and it could be as high as 20 percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have heard that it is around 10 percent at the rough level myself, and in the area of 8 to 10 percent at the retail level. Yesterday, the Minister said there was a very high premium. I guess I would argue that 10 percent is not that much of a premium. If in fact it turns out to be 20 percent, then that might be significant, but I have never heard that number.

I was trying to find out where the Minister was coming from when he said a very high premium. I would suspect the Minister would have to agree with me that if a manufacturer is paying 10 percent higher for the rough, and they can only command 10 percent higher on the goods that are manufactured because of the premium, obviously the excise tax is going to be putting a squeeze on the spread between what the manufacturer pays for the raw materials and what they have at the end in polished goods to sell.

What I am looking for is a commitment that the Minister and the department understand the significance of the 10 percent excise tax. I know the Minister has told this House that he is prepared to work on this issue. I would just like to confirm that, and also that the department and the diamonds projects people will put a significant amount of energy into this area.

Mr. Chairman, what I am really trying to suggest is that they reexamine their approach. I would be far more interested in seeing them spend money lobbying Ottawa, working out the

arguments as to why Ottawa should look at the Northwest Territories as an excise tax free zone and advance that, rather than worrying about diamond regulation.

Let's monitor to make sure that we can prove that the diamonds are clean, that they are not blood diamonds. Prove there are not conflict diamonds going through any of our operations here and then let's try and make the playing field as flat as possible for our manufacturers in comparison to their competition across the world.

Let's not worry so much about the actual marketing. Let's do the certificates, but leave the marketing to the diamond companies and let us work on the tax area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you. I agree with the Member on the excise tax. The previous Minister did write a letter two years ago, I believe, to the federal government with regard to the excise tax. We have been following that up recently at meetings with our Member of Parliament, looking at different ideas on how to approach it. There was talk of looking at a diamond sector council to gain interest in Canada. As you know, we have just been producing diamonds for about three years and the manufacturers have been learning as they go along. There are different high costs of manufacturing up here, and we need to help our manufacturing sector to get the best benefit out of the diamonds from the Northwest Territories that we can.

I agree we should pursue that now. We need to work not only with our Member of Parliament, but we are told that there is diamond exploration going on in the provinces as well, in Ontario and Manitoba. I think there is going to be more interest on the part of the federal government if they start finding diamonds in other provinces as well. Since we are the first jurisdiction to start working with diamonds, we need to kind of lead in that whole area. I agree with the Member in that area.

With regard to the proposal that went out for a discussion paper with respect to a diamond act, I guess those ideas are out there. We are taking the concerns and then we will move forward. Perhaps we may not move with it. The indications now are that we should look at all aspects and options that are out there and choose the right one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could I remind Members to keep their side conversations down? It is hard to hear the Minister answering the questions. Just to respect the Members who are asking questions and getting a response back from the Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to hear the Minister commit to working on the excise tax issue. In talking to people in the Northwest Territories, both from the mining and from the manufacturing side, I have heard very little support for us moving forward with the act, so I hope the Minister will keep that in mind as we are going along here.

I think he is right. As more and more diamonds are found in Canada, it may become more of an issue to the federal government, but I hope we are going to work very quickly on this and very aggressively on the excise tax issue because again, our cost of operation is much higher here than it probably would be in Saskatchewan. If we can get our

businesses established first, they have a leg up. I would hope we would work at this quite aggressively. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to pursue this excise tax. I think there is a possibility to get something out of the federal government if we pursue it aggressively. I agree with that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further comments? We are on page 11-17, resource management and economic development, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$35,597,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Resource management and economic development, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$652,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Resource management and economic development, grants and contributions, contributions. We will go on to page 11-23, total contributions, \$11,010,000. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask for some clarification on activity around the West Kitikmeot Slave Study. There is a line on page 11-23 noting a grant of \$349,000. My understanding, and this is where I would like the clarification, is that this study is being sunsetted or wound or closed down. Could the Minister offer some information about the status of the West Kitikmeot Slave Study? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The deputy minister, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The West Kitikmeot Slave Study is releasing its final report today. They have indicated they need to go to the end of the year to wind up their operations. There is considerable interest in continuing the study by the aboriginal groups and governments that are participating, so we are waiting to see the outcome of the meetings that are being held today. Our department's intention is to move this money into a western biophysical study for oil and gas. That was the intention, depending on the support and what comes out of the West Kitikmeot Slave Study. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. I take that as a confirmation that the study project itself is closing, but there may be a reprofile into a biophysical study regarding the pipeline. I support that general direction. I know we have a lot of ground to cover so that we understand the impacts of a pipeline, but perhaps I could ask, Mr. Chairman, for a bit more detail on the nature of that biophysical study. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The deputy minister, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess since oil and gas has become an increased activity, and along with discussions about the pipeline, there has been increasing

concern about a lack of baseline information and gaps in the research that has been undertaken with regard to oil and gas and to do more for the environment. We have approached all the stakeholders, including aboriginal governments, the federal government and environmental groups, to undertake a coordinated approach to do some research and gather baseline information. That is what we are proposing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support that work and that initiative. I am wondering if the department would be able to indicate, as a cost-shared program with the Government of Canada, industry, and aboriginal and environmental organizations, are we looking at matching dollars here? To what degree are the other partners going to contribute to the value of this work? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are at the very preliminary stages at this time. We are envisioning about a five to six million dollars a year study. That is what we are looking at initially. We are proposing that it be cost-shared between the federal government and aboriginal governments, similar along the lines of the West Kitikmeot study, and industry would contribute as well. However, we are very preliminary. There are no confirmations or commitments by anybody at this stage. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. I guess I have to read that this is contingent, pending the involvement or the commitment of other partners. Would the \$349,000 proposed here be held in abeyance or not spent if there was no agreement on how to go forward with our partners? I am wondering what the nature of the commitment is to spending this money, regardless of whether or not there are other people involved. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The deputy minister, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. It is our intention to use this money to do research in our areas of responsibilities. If nobody else wants to participate, then we would do research and gather baseline data in areas like wildlife and so on, which is within our area of responsibility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: So it may not be spent on a biophysical study? The department is saying they want some discretion in how that money would be spent, if I get that reading right.

A bit of a flag is going up in that context, Mr. Chairman, in that projects are being proposed in one way and yet, if some arrangement does not come to pass, then the money may be spent in another way without a lot of information or detail coming back to us. I support the intention as the department has outlined. I would just indicate a caution to the department to be more forthright in stating the terms or conditions under which money is proposed. It just gives me more confidence that when I vote for a certain pot of money, I have enough

information to know where it is really going to go. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The deputy minister, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I want to make sure the Member understands there are some areas of responsibility with the West Kitikmeot Slave Study that we are still wrapping up on. In particular, there is some traditional knowledge work that is ongoing with some of the communities, like Lutselk'e and the Dogrib communities and the Inuit communities, in this period. They are looking at this as a transition year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are dealing with contributions, total contributions \$11,010,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not a big expenditure, but I was just wondering why would a grant to the Great Northern Arts Festival be handled through RWED, instead of through the usual arts and culture grants process in Education, Culture and Employment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The deputy minister, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. Every year since the arts festival has started, we have been approached for funding. The way we are set up in our department where most of our monies are in the regions, we would have to approach all of the regions and cobble this money together. We have decided this year to put it in one central location and that it would be committed. Essentially, we use this money for acquisition of raw materials that is used at the festival. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By the way, I support the grant to the festival. My question is still why is this coming through RWED and not through ECE, which usually does the grants to festivals?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The deputy minister, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MR. BOB MCLEOD: My understanding is that RWED contributes because we are promoting tourism. For that reason, we are contributing our share. Education contributes theirs as well and they contribute a larger amount than we do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For legislators and the public reviewing the main estimates, I think it would be good if we could see the amounts together so that we had a clear picture of how much is going out in grants to organizations. Personally, I would prefer to see this coordinated through one or the other agencies. In my mind, it makes more sense going through ECE. Then we would have one number that everyone would know how much the government's contribution was to the organization.

Like I say, it is not a big deal and I think that everybody supports the idea of the festival. It is just a question of reporting it and making sure the public understands where the money is going.

One other thing I would like to comment on, Mr. Chairman, just briefly is to congratulate the Minister and the department for the significant increase in the tourism industry marketing contribution. That is an extremely welcome contribution, long overdue, seeing this kind of investment in tourism promotion. I hope the department and the Minister will continue to look for opportunities to better promote tourism in the Northwest Territories. I think we have tremendous potential here and unfortunately, we have tremendous, unrealized potential. Whatever we can do to increase our marketing efforts, I am certainly supportive of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond? Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it as a comment. I think it is encouraging, that support. For many years, the tourism industry did not receive the kind of support we are providing today. Hopefully with that, we will see more businesses and more people taking advantage of taking up this part of tourism, this part of the sector in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are dealing with grants and contributions, total contributions, \$11,010,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total grants and contributions, \$11,662,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Forest management, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$28,686,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if I could find out where we are in the process of the air tanker contracts? Are we in the middle of the contracts or are we going out to tender for contracts? What is happening with the air tankers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the air tanker contract we have with Buffalo Airways is coming up for re-tendering at the end of this fire season, which is in the fall. We are meeting with the proponents right now to listen to different proposals that are out there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From that, can I take it there has been a letter or an invitation to different companies to make proposals? Is that how it is being handled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you. No, Buffalo Airways are meeting with our officials today. They are coming forward with a proposal. We want to listen to them to see what the proposal is going to say. From there, we will determine which way we are going to go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Okay. I just want to be clear, because I thought I heard the Minister say they were looking at proposals from different proponents. At this point, it is one proposal that is on the table. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: I have no further questions at this time, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

Committee Motion 3-14(5): Completion of a Timber Inventory by 2003-2004 (Carried)

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a motion I would like to make under forest management. Mr. Chairman,

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the government complete a timber inventory by 2003-2004.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried.

We are dealing with forest management, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$28,686,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Forest management, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$100,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total grants and contributions, \$100,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. Information item, active positions, information item, lease commitments, infrastructure. Next information item, fur marketing service revolving fund. Page 11-31, details of work performed on behalf of others, which continues on to page 11-34. Total department, \$3,190,000. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Revenues, recoveries and transfer payments. We will go back to page 11-7, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, department summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$81,574,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will move to capital, page 21, at the back of your report. Capital acquisition plan, resource management and economic development, total resource management and economic development, \$1,585,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Forest management, total forest management, \$340,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, \$1,925,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that consideration of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development budget summary has been concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses out? Prior to the break, we agreed that once we concluded the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, we were going to deal with the Department of Transportation. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he has any opening comments. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present to you the Department of Transportation's proposed main estimate appropriation for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

For most of the department's operational programs, the main estimates budget projects continuity and stability in the delivery of the department's transportation programs and services. The operations and maintenance component of the budget actually amounts to only a small reduction in expenditures of about a half million dollars, from \$50.7 million in 2001-2002 to \$50.2 million in 2002-2003.

There are almost a million dollars in forced growth expenditures, due largely to the added demands on the transportation system from our booming resource industries and, of course, the introduction of new national security measures at our airports.

The increase in air traffic associated with the growing oil and gas industry calls for a new regional airport manager in the Beaufort-Delta area. Similarly, the increase in industrial highway traffic in the Mackenzie Delta requires a stepped-up, seasonal presence of the department's highway patrols.

During the ferry season at the Tsiigehtchic crossing, the department will increase the number and frequency of daily crossings to keep up with the traffic. At freeze-up, it will accelerate the construction of the ice bridge at the Tsiigehtchic crossing with the application of ice-spraying technology.

A security and protective services officer will coordinate the implementation of Canada's new airport security measure across the territorial airport system.

The department's budget for 2002-2003 includes a \$38.3 million capital construction program. The government's financial position has permitted a one-time injection of \$15 million to the department's reconstruction program that will bring up expenditures this year on highway improvements to \$33 million.

The budget also provides \$4.6 million for runway and air terminal improvements in the airport system. In its marine program, the department plans to install a workshop for the Peel River ferry operation near Fort McPherson.

One of the Department of Transportation's most successful programs for stimulating the economic potential of our smaller communities is the community access road program. In 2002-2003, the department has budgeted \$587,000 for local access road projects in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Lutselk'e, Rae Lakes, Tsiigehtchic, Wekweti and Wha Ti. Contributions from the community access program mobilize local capacities in the construction of new roads on a scale suitably adapted to the needs of a small economy.

All together, Mr. Chairman, the budget we are reviewing today represents proposed expenditures by the Department of Transportation of \$88.5 million on the programs and services in the Transportation portfolio.

In the delivery of its transportation programs, the department is always looking for ways to improve the quality of its services. Its commitment to better public service and supplies across the transportation mandate to our airports, highways, ferry operations, road licensing and road safety services. The detailed review of the Department of Transportation's proposed budget is always a good opportunity to showcase the essential importance of the transportation function in our economy and daily lives of the Northwest Territories. I look forward to the Members' comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the standing committee responsible for reviewing the department under consideration to present their report. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Transportation provides for the safe, accessible and reliable movement of people and goods throughout the Northwest Territories. The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development met with the Minister of Transportation and his staff on January 15, 2002 to review the department's main estimates for 2002-2003.

The standing committee noted a net \$518,000 decrease in operations expenses for the department from their 2002-2005 business plan. This decrease resulted from:

- An \$887,000 increase in amortization expense;
- A \$1,750,000 decrease for approved strategies and priorities resulting from a funding reduction for the Highway Investment Strategy from \$1,850,000 to \$100,000; and
- A \$345,000 increase in other subsequent Financial Management Board approvals to fund required enhancements to small airports and airfield security.

The standing committee also noted a net decrease of \$16 million in the department's overall capital expenditures from its 2002-2005 business plan. This adjustment was attributed to a \$1,100,000 reduction in funding for the Mackenzie winter road bridges, and a \$14,900,000 decrease in funding for highways that resulted from a revision of the original Highway Investment Strategy.

Use of Northern Businesses and Labour

The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development wants to ensure the maximum usage of northern labour and businesses in contracts issued by the Department of Transportation.

Committee members pointed out that many northern businesses and local labour are more than qualified to do most of the department's work. The standing committee is concerned that a significant portion of the work is completed by southern contractors or labour.

The Minister replied that northern content has improved over the past five years. At the request of the standing committee, he agreed to provide a breakdown of employees hired by department contractors for as far back as the department records would provide.

Recruitment, Retention and Training

Some committee members made their concerns known to the Minister that more Northerners would be hired if there were more training programs available and training is incorporated as part of a department contract.

The department replied that training dollars are a component of some contracts, but not all. However, they are making "best efforts" to ensure the selection or inclusion of northern businesses and labour in their contracts.

At the request of the standing committee, the department agreed to provide a list of training money and the number of individuals that have received training through the department or its contractors for the past five years.

Gravel Access Roads

A number of committee members pointed out that, as there are initiatives to improve the highway system, there should also be initiatives to improve community access roads, especially to gravel sources.

Some committee members pointed out that community access roads that lead to gravel sites are particularly underfunded. For example, to build a gravel access road, the community requires gravel, but without ready access to a gravel source, a road is costly, if not difficult to build. Gravel access roads are distinct and have unique requirements compared to community access roads that lead to historical, harvesting or recreational sites.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development recommends that a separate gravel access road program be incorporated within the Department of Transportation.

Community Access Roads

The standing committee was especially concerned about the low level of funding available to communities for the proper development of their community access roads. Committee members are of the position that with the current annual maximum of \$50,000 for a maximum period of five years, for a total of \$250,000 for community access road projects, by the time a road is completed to some sites, it might take 10 to 15

years. Considering our adverse climate, short construction season and high operating costs, the current level of funding is inadequate.

Further, a number of committee members reported that once a segment of road is completed, part of next year's funding has to go to repairing the existing portion due to permafrost and wear and tear. Compare this level of funding to public highway access roads, which receive the full amount of funding necessary to connect a nearby highway to a community.

The standing committee debated the merits of the current community access roads program and came to an agreement that the yearly amount be increased to \$75,000, but the overall cap should remain unchanged.

Corporate Capital Planning Process

The new corporate capital planning process was developed and implemented by the government prior to the 2002-2005 business plan review. The establishment of the new capital planning process was done without consultation of the Regular Members.

The standing committee is of the opinion that this process affects all Members and would like the government to give a status report on the corporate capital planning process to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

This would give all Members an opportunity to express their concerns to the government on the current process. The government would then convey those concerns to Cabinet for possible amendments, if required.

In the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development's review of the 2002-2005 business plans, committee members noted that:

The new process removes capital planning from the departments and places the decision-making firmly in the deputy ministers' control and may leave communities and Regular Members without effective input.

As a result of this new capital planning process, all GNWT capital projects are now subject to a prioritization process, determined by the Capital Review Committee, which is made up of departmental representatives. The prioritization process is made up of a review of all capital projects screened through a new primary rating criteria.

The new primary rating criteria places the protection of people first, followed by the protection of assets, protection of the environment, financial investment considerations, and then program needs or requirements. The standing committee is concerned that these criteria, especially the protection of people, may lead to more projects being placed in larger rather than smaller communities.

(Response to the Government on the
Review of 2002-2005 business plans,
November 13, 2001, page 3)

The inflexibility of the government's new capital planning process is particularly evident in the Department of Transportation's ferry operations. For example, when ferries encounter major mechanical breakdowns, in some cases, it may be more cost effective to replace an engine rather than to adhere to a strict maintenance schedule and engineer costly makeshift repairs. As a result, committee members would like to see the current capital planning process be more flexible and responsive.

Highway Investment Strategy

The standing committee was concerned about expenditures to date resulting from the cancelled Highway Investment Strategy. The Minister explained that \$178,000 was spent on salaries and \$542,000 on other operations expenditures. No capital expenditures, including motor vehicles, were made.

The Minister assured the standing committee that he would not bring back the original Highway Investment Strategy. He added that he has gone to the private sector for advice. The private sector has formed a lobby group, which includes the NWT Trucking Association. This group, which is led by the NWT Chamber of Commerce, plans to lobby Ottawa for more highway and other infrastructure funding.

As a result of the cancellation of the government's original Highway Investment Strategy, the Minister offered to arrange an information session for the standing committee with the highway and infrastructure lobby group. The standing committee looks forward to meeting with the lobby group.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I am prepared to bring in witnesses, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me is Peter Vician, deputy minister of the Department of Transportation, and Ms. Lynn Cook, director of corporate services for the department, will be along shortly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witness. General comments on the department's main estimates? Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One question from the opening comments by the Minister, he indicates that although O and M was basically what it was last year, it is down a little bit. We have heard in this House several Members, primarily

Mr. Lafferty, talk about what he perceives as a lack of maintenance on highways in his riding and indeed in the Yellowknife area. I wonder if this means we are doing less O and M than we were last year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no, this does not indicate that we are doing less maintenance or less careful work. It is simply that last year, there was some money included in the revised main estimates for the proposed trip permit fee and that money is no longer in this budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Then, given that the money is no longer in the budget, would we assume that the department has answered the call and is stepping up the amount of money they put into highway maintenance this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we would certainly like to increase the budget for maintenance, but given the limitations on the budget, there is no increase this year in maintenance of highways.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments on the Department of Transportation? Detail? We are on page 10-9, corporate services, operations expense, total operations expense, \$7,579,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-11, airports, operations expense, total operations expense, \$20,279,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-15, highways, operations expense, total operations expense, \$35,060,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Under highways, I would like to ask the Minister if he could tell us what new positions are created at any of the highway camps across the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Does the committee agree we go back to highways?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are two new positions in the North and South Slave regions, project officers. The additional project planning and implementation requirements require these positions, one in each region.

As well, in the North Slave region, additional traffic on Highways No. 3 and No. 4, due to resource development activity, have resulted in an increased service requirement. Due to the increased time and attention to plan and manage these

requirements, there is a need for a highway maintenance supervisor position in the North Slave region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: I do not hear any mention of mechanics. Is there any intention of putting new positions in some of the communities for mechanics?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The Minister of Transportation.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we have not identified any new journeyman mechanic positions, but we have identified three apprentice positions. We have done this by just converting regular positions to apprenticeships.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: The reason I am asking this, Mr. Chairman, is I had understood there would be a new position created in Fort Providence. I may be wrong, or that position may have been created last year. Is that what is happening? I just assumed it was in this fiscal year that it was going to happen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, a mechanic position from Hay River is being deployed to Fort Providence. There is not an additional position. We are moving one over to Fort Providence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: For clarity, I want to ask, the position is being transferred, but it will be advertised and filled? Or is there a mechanic going with the position?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the position has been advertised and is presently in the staffing process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 10-15, highways, operations expense, total operations expense, \$35,060,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-19, ferries, operations expense, total operations expense, \$5,021,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-23, community marine, operations expense, total operations expense, \$227,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-25, community marine, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$80,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are on page 10-25, community marine, grants and contributions, contributions, \$80,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total contributions, \$80,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-27, community access roads, operations expense, total operations expense, \$587,000. Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 4-14(5): Incorporating a Separate Program for Access Roads to Gravel Sources (Carried)

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman,

I MOVE that this committee recommends that a separate program be incorporated within the Department of Transportation for access roads to gravel sources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I am wondering with the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk road, an access to a gravel source, where that fits into this budget. If that is not specifically identified as access to a gravel source, how do we identify it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With regard to the motion, if the Minister can assist with information to the Member's question on the motion. Speaking to the motion, does the Minister have information with regard to the access road to gravel sources, such as the one in Tuktoyaktuk? Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the road from Tuktoyaktuk to the gravel source was a special initiative that was processed through an application to the federal Minister of DIAND. It has not been included as part of the community access road program up to now and I do not expect that it would be. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): A motion is on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against?

We do not recognize a quorum in the House in order to deal with the motion, so we will ring the bells until we have a quorum.

-- Ringing of the bells

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I recognize a quorum. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. Page 10-27, community access roads, operations expense, total operations expense, \$587,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-29, community access road, grants and contributions, total contributions, \$507,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-31, road licensing and safety, operations expense, total operations expense, \$2,652,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Information item, page 10-34, active positions. Page 10-38, details of work performed on behalf of others, total department, \$4,356,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10-39, revenues, recoveries and transfer payments. We will go back to page 10-7, department summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$71,405,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will move to capital, page 16, airports, total airports, \$4,586,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ferries, total ferries, \$620,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Highways, total highways, \$33,090,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to page 10-14.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The Member is requesting that we go back to page 10-14. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to request that the Minister point out where the dollars are identified for the public access roads program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will give you the breakout as it is proposed by the department. As I said earlier, I am open to consultation with the Members whose areas this is in. There is \$2.5 million for public highway access roads. The proposal is that on the Kakisa access, \$400,000 for grade improvements, drainage and chip sealing; Hay River access road, engineering assessment, drainage and grade improvements, \$1,050,000; Detah access road, drainage, surface improvements and some chip sealing, \$400,000; Fort Liard access road, drainage, surface improvements, chip sealing, \$150,000; Jean Marie access road, drainage improvements, \$250,000; Nahanni Butte access road, \$250,000 for engineering surveys for an all-weather road and the continuation of improvement of that existing road right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLeod, does that answer your question? Thank you. We will go back to capital, page 20, highways, total highways, \$33,090,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, \$38,296,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree consideration of the main estimates for the Department of Transportation has been concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, witnesses. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to propose we commence consideration of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, at least the Minister's opening comments and the committee's response, and perhaps some general comments.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the Minister for the Housing Corporation have any opening remarks?

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the 2002-2003 budget for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. We have requested a total contribution of \$48,981,000 from the Government of the Northwest Territories, including other revenue sources of \$46,429,000. The corporation will spend over \$95 million on housing in the Northwest Territories this year. This figure includes contributions from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

With the funding identified in this budget, the corporation will continue to deliver programs and projects to assist low and moderate income residents to obtain healthy and safe housing so they can fully participate in the opportunities offered in this Territory.

Mr. Chairman, this government's recent budget address clearly recognized the critical role housing plays as part of the Territory's social safety net. Mr. Chairman, the Housing Corporation's current analysis of critical issues and environmental trends clearly demonstrates that the Northwest Territories is going through a cycle of economic expansion. The Housing Corporation recognizes that increased employment in mining and oil and gas sectors, as well as the future potential for the construction of a gas pipeline, will have a substantial impact on the overall housing demand.

The need for an adequate supply of private rental market units has never been greater. In response, the Housing Corporation has developed specific goals and initiatives to assist with the supply of private rental housing units across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Chairman, under the recently announced affordable housing agreement signed with the federal government, approximately \$7.5 million in funding has been allocated over the next four years to the Northwest Territories for the creation of new, affordable housing options. When added to the current budget allocation, this funding will have a significant impact on developing housing solutions.

Mr. Chairman, the government is working together with aboriginal governments, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to develop a social agenda for the Northwest Territories, creating solutions to the many housing

issues that face our residents will no doubt help improve the quality of life for our citizens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the committee responsible for reviewing the department under consideration to make comments with regard to the committee's review of the department's estimates. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Social Programs met on January 17th, 2002, to consider the main estimates for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Committee members noted a \$1,250,000 increase in operations expense to offset forced growth to the local housing authorities for increases in the price of heating fuel over numbers presented in the business plan. Members also noted a \$1,061,000 increase related to the Government of the Northwest Territories capital contribution to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

Caucus Priorities and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs are extremely disappointed that the priority on housing articulated at the Caucus retreat in Hay River in December of 2001 is not reflected in these main estimates.

When questioned by a member of the committee on why the Caucus priority was not reflected in the main estimates, the Minister stated the Housing Corporation was confident they were meeting all of the housing demands across the Territories, with the exception of Yellowknife.

The president of the NWT Housing Corporation stated the organization is working to capacity and that for any more housing construction or programs to be delivered, it would be necessary to hire more staff. He also pointed out that some housing construction would not be reflected in the corporation's infrastructure acquisition plan because the only role the Housing Corporation would have in the construction would be in either providing loan guarantees or in matching private developers with community or aboriginal development organizations.

In our subsequent discussions, the Member from the North Slave noted that one contributing factor to Yellowknife's housing crisis was that a number of his former constituents had moved to Yellowknife. These residents are gainfully employed, primarily in the diamond mines, and moved to Yellowknife because there were no housing options available in their home communities. The Member stated that the majority of these families would move back to their home communities, provided there was adequate, available housing.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs took their concerns with the lack of Caucus priorities being reflected in the main estimates of the NWT Housing Corporation to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

A recommendation that Caucus priorities related to housing be reflected in the main estimates of the NWT Housing Corporation was forwarded to the Minister of Finance.

Co-operation Between NWTHC and Municipal and Community Affairs

Members of the standing committee could find no evidence of cooperation on the development of lots between the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the NWTHC reflected in the Main Estimates.

The president of the NWTHC stated there have been two preliminary discussions with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs on the lot development initiative for non-tax-based communities. Members of the committee are concerned that the level of cooperation is not at a point to be of benefit in the 2002-2003 building season.

There is no point in developing lots if the primary source of funding for construction has no available funding for construction or lending in that community.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs strongly encourages the NWT Housing Corporation to finalize plans with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to ensure that sufficient lots are available in the communities that the corporation will be active in, in the upcoming year.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Private Developers

During the discussions on the main estimates for the NWT Housing Corporation, reference was made to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation being reluctant to finance projects in the Northwest Territories because of its reliance on a resource-based economy.

The Minister and his staff did state there has been some policy shifts that have made it easier for developers to be financed or guaranteed through CMHC programs. The Standing Committee on Social Programs would encourage the NWTHC to work with private developers interested in investing in the North to access any and all relevant CMHC programs.

Lot Development in the City of Yellowknife

As stated by the Minister and in recent media reports, the biggest impediment to developers is the lack of affordable, serviced lots to build on. A developer, because they have to pay such a high price for a lot, may be unable to make a realistic profit when they sell their product to the eventual homeowner. This of course discourages the developers from even undertaking projects.

The committee was pleased to hear of ongoing discussions between the City of Yellowknife, the NWT Housing Corporation and private developers on ways to reduce the costs of lots in Yellowknife. It is hoped that some agreement could be reached between the parties that would result in the construction of needed private and rental accommodations.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs would appreciate being kept apprised of the status and success of ongoing negotiations between the developers, the NWTHC and the City of Yellowknife.

Business Development and the Alaska Market

The Standing Committee on Social Programs is disappointed that the NWTHC has neglected the business development side

of its mandate. The Minister stated in a response to a question from a member of the committee that there is so much demand domestically, we have not been able to go into Alaska this year to market our own products.

Members are aware of one NWT entrepreneur specializing in the manufacture of panelized building products who could have benefited immensely from the NWTHC aggressively marketing his products in Alaska. This is evident from a recent article in the Edmonton Journal expounding the success of an Edmonton manufacturer of panelized building products in selling to the Alaskan market. Those persons in Alaska who decide to build with the panelized products are even eligible for lower mortgage rates from the Alaska Housing Corporation because of the panelized products' superior insulation qualities and attendant savings.

Committee members could determine no reason why the NWT manufacturer could not be marketed by the NWTHC. Given the developing barge shipping system via the Mackenzie River and the north slope of Alaska, the NWT manufacturer may be competitive with the Edmonton supplier.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends that if the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is not going to comply with their mandate to market Northwest Territories products and services, that this responsibility be transferred to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if I could ask one of my colleagues from the committee, Mr. Bell, the Chair, to continue with the standing committee's report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Energy Efficiency in Public Housing

The Standing Committee on Social Programs was generally pleased with the efforts of the NWT Housing Corporation to ensure that public housing units are as energy efficient as possible.

Members of the committee look forward to being kept apprised of the status of the study being conducted by the Arctic Energy Alliance to help the local housing authorities realize energy savings.

Should the study show that savings could be realized by the replacement of energy inefficient appliances and furnaces, Members would expect to see a capital replacement plan developed.

NWTHC Housing Programs Delivered by Local Housing Authorities

The committee has always supported the devolution of decision-making to the local level for the delivery of housing programs. However, because of the potential for abuse, committee members believe that devolution of this decision-making process to the community level does not absolve the

NWT Housing Corporation of a responsibility to ensure access and program delivery fairness.

The recent court case involving fraud and theft from a local housing authority has highlighted the need for due diligence and oversight of the activities of local housing authorities and raised concerns that this may not be an isolated issue.

Members of the committee would like to see a regular review process of the housing programs delivered by local housing authorities conducted by the NWT Housing Corporation to ensure access and program delivery fairness.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends that the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation conduct regular reviews and operational audits of the local housing authorities that deliver housing programs on behalf of the corporation to ensure access and program delivery fairness.

Further Information Required by Standing Committee

In discussions with the Minister and his officials, Members were interested to hear that in addition to the rent-supplement leases administered by the corporation, there were many more that were administered by the local housing authority. Members of the committee are concerned that because of these flow-through funding arrangements, the committee has no sense of the amount of money and the number of housing units that are truly under the rent-supplement program.

Members are also concerned about how loan guarantees are being made by the Housing Corporation. The committee has not been provided with a listing of the loan guarantees that have been provided by the Housing Corporation to private developers and aboriginal development corporations.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation provide the committee with biannual statistics on the number and costs of all rent supplement units in the Northwest Territories and a listing of all loan guarantees and amounts made to developers by the NWT Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Standing Committee on Social Programs' review of the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bell. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The Member has moved to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2, Committee Report 2-14(5), Committee Report 3-14(5), and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee, seconds the motion. There is motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs at adjournment today; on Monday at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and Cabinet House Strategy; and also at 12 noon of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the day for Monday, March 4, 2002:

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
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act
 - Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2001-2002
 - Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Nursing Profession Act and the Pharmacy Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2, Appropriation Act, 2002-2003
 - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
 - Committee Report 1-14(5), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the 2002-2003 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 2-14(5), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the Review of the 2002-2003 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 3-14(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the 2002-2003 Main Estimates
 - Motion 1-14(5), Establishment of a Special Committee on Rural Community Affairs
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we break, I would like to wish honourable Members who are going home to celebrate at festivals this weekend a safe and enjoyable weekend. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 4, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

