



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Sahtu)

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Members Present

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Please be seated. Good afternoon, colleagues. I wish to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories:

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 1, 2002-2003 during the Fifth Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

Yours truly,

Glenna F. Hansen
Commissioner

Colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the House, as well to the staff and the visitors who are here, for a short summer session of the Fifth Session of this Legislative Assembly. Sadly, since we last met, we have mourned the passing of Mr. Goo Arlooktoo, a former Member of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Arlooktoo was the Member for Baffin South from 1995 to 1999. After the creation of Nunavut he returned to Baffin Island to live and to work. During that time, he retained many family and business ties with the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Steen and I were able to travel to Iqaluit to attend Mr. Arlooktoo's funeral and to represent this Assembly. It was a very sad time, as he left us much, much too early. I know I speak for all Members when I pass along our deepest condolences to Mr. Arlooktoo's widow Dorothy and to their children and their extended family.

After a very late spring, we are now able to enjoy the Northwest Territories' wonderful summer session. I know that the Members of this Assembly have been hard at work in their constituencies since we last met and I would like to encourage you all to continue to enjoy the summer with your families when we are finished this sitting.

At this time, I would like to advise the House of a very important event occurring today. It is the silver anniversary of the Honourable Jim Antoine and his wife, Celine. Congratulations.

-- Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 43-14(5): Western Premiers' Conference**

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Welcome back, everybody. Today I would like to report back to the Members on the Western Premiers' Conference attended by Premier Kakfwi in Dawson City from June 4th to 6th. Premiers from all three territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba attended the conference. They were joined for portions of their meetings by the U.S. ambassador to Canada, Paul Cellucci; the Canadian ambassador to the U.S., Michael Kergin; as well as Governor Knowles from Alaska and Governor Geringer from Wyoming. The Premiers reviewed progress reports and discussed several issues, including climate change, trade, infrastructure, and health.

I am happy to report that the NWT made significant progress by forwarding its position in support of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The Premier reiterated the position that I previously put forward at the Joint Meeting of Energy and Environment Ministers on May 21, 2002, that the Northwest Territories supports the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol while recognizing that all provinces and territories will have to work hard to do their part to reduce emissions over time. National consultations on the Kyoto Protocol led by the federal government are taking place all across Canada with engaged stakeholders and will be in Yellowknife on June 13th. Municipalities, industry, environmental organizations and government, including aboriginal and territorial governments, are expected to participate.

During their discussion of Canada-U.S. trade issues, Premiers talked about U.S. agricultural subsidies, the recent softwood lumber decision and energy. The Premier spoke out against the U.S. Senate energy bill because it would guarantee a floor price for Alaskan gas. Such a subsidy would work to strand Mackenzie Delta gas and would have a negative impact on all other Canadian gas producers.

The Premier made a convincing argument about the parallels between U.S. duties on Canadian softwood lumber, agricultural subsidies for American farmers and setting a subsidized floor price for natural gas. I am pleased to say that Premier Kakfwi got excellent media coverage, which is evidence that the Northwest Territories was successful in stating our interests and participating actively in the conference.

Working with our neighbours in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories called for economic development funding for the Territories. We managed to get agreement from all Premiers that the federal government should begin discussions with all three territories to determine how current and future federal programming can best meet the economic and diversification needs of northern people.

Premier Kakfwi, together with Premiers Okalik and Duncan, managed to gain the support of fellow Premiers to collectively urge the federal government to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to provide health care to aboriginal people, regardless of whether they reside on or off reserve. They also noted that that health status of aboriginal people continues to lag behind that of non-aboriginal residents, which is unacceptable.

In summary, the Western Premiers' Conference was a success for the Northwest Territories and placed us in an excellent position to continue discussions on energy and climate change at the upcoming Annual Premiers' Conference in Halifax this summer. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Minister's Statement 44-14(5): Corporate Income Tax Changes

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the goals this Legislature set for itself two years ago was the creation of a healthy and diversified economy. We wanted to see more businesses starting up and more businesses locating in the Northwest Territories. To keep our economy healthy, and to encourage businesses to grow and to create jobs, our tax regime must be competitive.

The Northwest Territories has long maintained a very competitive tax environment, with both personal and corporate tax rates among the lowest in Canada. These competitive rates have helped us attract individuals and businesses to the North. In fact, our competitive corporate tax rates have, in the last two years, resulted in several large revenue gains. These corporate tax revenues have allowed this government to make important investments in programs and infrastructure that would not otherwise have been possible.

Recently, however, a number of provinces and territories have announced significant reductions in their personal and corporate income tax rates. These changes have reduced the NWT's overall competitiveness.

In the Budget Address last February, I announced changes to the personal income tax system that lowered taxes for all NWT residents. Effective this July, NWT taxpayers will see these changes reflected in their payroll deductions.

I also indicated in February that this government would be monitoring the changes made by other provinces and territories in order to keep our tax structure competitive. Our position, relative to other jurisdictions, could have negative effects on our tax base, as companies look to do business where the tax climate is most favourable. Even existing businesses may re-examine their corporate structures to minimize their tax liability.

Mr. Speaker, I am announcing today our government's intention to make changes to the NWT corporate income tax regime. If the Legislative Assembly agrees, effective July 1, 2002:

- The general corporate income tax rate will be reduced from 14 percent to 12 percent, that is a reduction of 14 percent in tax payable; and

- The "small business" rate, that is, the rate applicable to the first \$200,000 in income of Canadian-controlled private corporations, will be reduced from 5 percent to 4 percent. This represents a reduction of 20 percent in the small business tax rate.

The legislation required to enact these changes will be introduced later this session. We will be looking for an early indication of Members' response to this proposed change, in order to be able to confirm the effective date with the federal government, who administer the corporate income tax on our behalf.

These changes will send a message, Mr. Speaker, that the Northwest Territories welcomes businesses that want to locate here, to create jobs here, and to contribute to our bright economic future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 45-14(5): Ministers Absent From the House

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House for today, tomorrow and Thursday to attend meetings in Ottawa regarding the Federal Infrastructure Program funding.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that, regrettably, the Honourable Jake Ootes will be absent from the House for the duration of this sitting. As you are aware, Minister Ootes is currently recuperating from coronary bypass surgery. His doctors have termed the surgery successful, are pleased with his progress and have placed him on a cardiac recovery program. I would also like to pass along a sincere thank you from Mr. Ootes to the medical staff for their excellent care and to all those who sent flowers, get well cards, personal notes and books. As well, I would like to extend his appreciation to all those who came to visit him in the hospital, but especially to his wife, Margaret, and son, Luke, for all their personal care, concern and love. On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to wish Mr. Ootes a speedy recovery.

Finally, I would like to advise the House that the Honourable Joe Handley will be acting Minister of Education, Culture and Employment until Mr. Ootes is fully able to return to his duties. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Indeed, the House wishes Mr. Ootes a speedy recovery. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Selective Application of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be back in this House with yourself and the rest of my colleagues as we continue the Fifth Session of this 14th Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to make a

statement full of good news and events that have taken place in Hay River. However, because of a situation that is unfolding as we speak, I feel it is imperative that I voice my concerns.

The issue I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, is the Business Incentive Policy and this government's intentions of cancelling the BIP in order to bring the construction costs of the correctional centre here in Yellowknife in line with projected estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say that there are no problems with the BIP policy or that changes are not necessary. I might go as far as to say, Mr. Speaker, that the time may have come to do away with the BIP. The problem that I have with this situation is process.

This government should have learned by now that when they make decisions in isolation, with no input from impacted groups or all Members of this House, then they are guaranteed to receive nothing but a negative response from all concerned.

It is very frustrating, Mr. Speaker, when as a Member of this government, I get questioned about a major decision that has been made on such a big issue as cancelling the BIP and the people who are asking the questions know more about it than I do, simply because I happened to miss a radio news broadcast.

There are many reasons as to why this project's costs are in a runaway mode. Mr. Speaker, it is time to look at how this project was designed from day one and why the decision was made to build it in Yellowknife. It certainly was not from a cost-saving point of view. In my mind, it is another indication that the vacuum was in full operation.

It has been mentioned by some, Mr. Speaker, that living conditions for inmates in this facility will be far more glamorous than what most of our law-abiding citizens can afford. It will be full of recreational equipment that most of our communities can only dream about. Mr. Speaker, there is far more wrong with this project than what cancelling the BIP can rectify. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say this is not the time to cancel the BIP.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if there are huge problems with this project, then maybe the government should get rid of the project manager and take control of this project and use the same approach that the Minister of Education used in Hay River when we tried to get changes made to the Princess Alexandra School project to better meet the needs of the community. His answer, Mr. Speaker, "You can make all the changes you want, but there is no more money." Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and happy birthday to you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I knew there was a reason I let you run over your time, Mr. Delorey. Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement on Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since this government, without any notice or consultation with the Members from this side of this House, unilaterally decided to suspend the BIP policy on the construction of the new jail in

Yellowknife, we have been inundated with phone calls and letters from an outraged public. The general consensus is that this decision seems to have been a simple knee-jerk reaction to a very complex problem, which will not do much to address the cost overrun, but add many more serious problems in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that this government must avoid further damage and embarrassment, reverse this decision immediately and work with the industry representatives to find better ways out of this situation.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to understand what the rationale of this decision is. I have to wonder what kind of debate Cabinet went through when making this decision. I wonder if Cabinet really thought about the wide implications of this decision. Have they thought about the damage and the message they are sending, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, this government, from the Premier on down, has spent the last number of years convincing mega resource companies that they must engage in northern hiring and northern purchasing because it has been saying it is good for the North and we want to maximize the benefits that resource development will give to our people. The companies have agreed to do impact benefit agreements on this basis even though, Mr. Speaker, in many cases, this drives the cost of doing business in the North.

They have had little choice but to comply with the government's position, but apparently, this is not the principle the government has to live under. With this BIP flip-flop, how can this government expect to have any legitimacy anymore to take this position, Mr. Speaker? How can it have the moral ground to ask for this from the industry after this decision?

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that the economy is on a high and there are not as many bidders on some of these contracts, but these times come in between very lean times. We know this is how our economy works. It has a lot of ups and downs and we should not lose sight of that. Our northern contractors maintain their businesses and keep their employees in the North through these lean times while waiting for the boom times. Could the government not come up with better ways to deal with this situation other than exempting themselves?

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is up, Ms. Lee. Ms. Lee.

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

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the government not have come up with better ways to address this situation?

My last important point that I want to make is that this decision violates a very fundamental principle that we are supposed to live by in our society. No one, especially the government, should be above the law. We all have to follow the rules we set for ourselves. This is why we are here. If some rules do not work, we work to change them by building consensus and setting priorities. No one is free to declare itself exempt

because it is inconvenient or costs more money or whatever. That is simply absurd and should not be tolerated, Mr. Speaker. I urge the government to reverse this decision immediately. 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 Forest Management Education Programs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, youth involvement in the management of Northwest Territories forests is an issue that merits some attention. The forests of the Northwest Territories have sustained First Nations for thousands of years. They have fed, sheltered, clothed, transported and healed them. The transmission of knowledge about the land is the responsibility of the elders and the teaching begins when one is very young.

The youth learned how to live and care for the forest. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has expended some forest fire management dollars in the past to deliver fire ecology camps in some regions. Mr. Speaker, I believe that five such camps were run in the Northwest Territories last summer. The purposes of the camps, Mr. Speaker, appears to be to get the youth involved in seeing the effects of fire on the forest.

The camps ran ten days in duration and involved ten to 15 youth from selected communities, and usually they are from the same communities year after year. There does not seem to be any opportunity for the youth from my constituency to be involved in forest management education programs of this nature.

Mr. Speaker, while it is good to know that some interest is being paid to the issue of youth involvement and development by the department, I would encourage the government to look further than the current program. I have learned about the existence of an Aboriginal Junior Forest Ranger Program that was developed in Ontario by First Nations and the National Aboriginal Forestry Association. The program is designed to develop leadership skills and to introduce youth to career opportunities in forest management. There are other youth corps-type programs in Canada that allow youth to gain exposure and experience through work practicum in forestry and environmental management.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage this government to look at all options for providing youth programming and to ensure that all youth in the Northwest Territories gain an equal opportunity to participate in working, learning and caring for the forests.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions to the Minister of RWED during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Strategic Infrastructure Funding Proposal Meetings in Ottawa

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the invitation of the Minister of Finance, I had the opportunity to join Mr. Handley May 22nd and 23rd to visit Ottawa to pitch for the GNWT Strategic Infrastructure Proposal.

Sometimes we wonder about the value of Ministers traipsing off to Ottawa, but the reality is that, along with all other jurisdictions in Canada, we have to get ourselves in line to compete for federal finance dollars. We are handicapped here in the NWT with our small population and we are a bit of a question mark with the power elite and mandarins of Ottawa.

How we can get their attention though, Mr. Speaker, is to highlight the impact on the national economy of what we have going on here in the NWT. How does northern development affect the constituents and the economies in Alberta and Ontario? The major objective of the meetings that we had was to brief federal Ministers on this infrastructure proposal. It is a \$240 million plan to advance the Mackenzie River bridge, to build better ice roads into the Mackenzie Valley and into the diamond corridor.

The message that we took to Ottawa, among other things, was that over 20 years, the work going on here in the NWT could contribute \$65 billion to the country's gross domestic product. It could create 270,000 person years of employment and add \$17 billion in royalties and taxes.

We met with seven Cabinet Ministers and the chair of the Liberal Caucus Economic Development Committee, Mr. Tony Valeri, and Eddie Goldenberg, the senior policy advisor to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, we need to work continuously to raise our profile in Ottawa and keep our agenda alive. We need to illustrate the benefits of our development for the rest of Canada and there needs to be a consistent message and a common agenda pursued by this government. Today and tomorrow, we know that the Premier and our colleagues, Mr. Dent and Mr. Krutko, are in Ottawa to help deliver that message to other Ministers. We need to stay on that federal radar screen and I encourage the Premier and the Ministers to continue their visits and to continue taking Regular Members along. It is one of the strengths of consensus government and it needs the backing of all the governments and leaders in this tremendously exciting time here in the NWT.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to the word that will come along, I am sure, that we will be seeing that \$133 million from Ottawa that will make such a difference to Canada. Happy birthday.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Commenting on Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about consensus government. In April, I was in Ottawa, where I proudly explained our unique governing system to MLAs and aboriginal leaders from across the

country. As one of only two consensus governments in Canada, we have a political system that is distinct from the more common party politics. The absence of party structures allows each Member to vote as he or she wishes on any subject matter. Approval of any decision requires agreement by the majority of Members. This is consensus government.

When we are first elected from our constituencies, we come to the Legislature and we choose a Speaker from amongst ourselves. We also choose our Premier and six Cabinet Ministers. Members, such as myself who are not in Cabinet, are referred to as Regular Members. I would like to point out that in our Legislature, Cabinet consists of only seven of the 19 Members. Since Cabinet is a minority, the 11 Regular Members can have a big impact on many of the decisions and the direction of the government.

While I was in Ottawa, I was proud to explain our system. I even stated how effectively it worked. When I returned, I became aware that, behind closed doors, Cabinet was making decisions that excluded my riding in major plans.

The reality is that Cabinet, which is a minority, is creating strategies and documents without including all MLAs. Cabinet picks and chooses which projects it wishes to develop. Regular Members become aware of the government's agenda by listening to the radio or reading the local paper. We are not part of the process.

When we came together as a government in January 2000, one of our first tasks was to create a working agenda for our term. The result was a document called Towards a Better Tomorrow. This document that all 19 Members created is being used as a blank cheque by Cabinet -- a minority of seven Members -- to fund whatever projects they want. This was not the intention of Members or the purpose for what the document, Towards a Better Tomorrow, was created for. I think we are doing both this document and consensus government a great deal of disservice by not actively involving all Members in the decision-making process.

Mr. Speaker, I was elected as a Member of a consensus government. I am beginning to wonder when we will be practicing consensus government. If we do...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, your time is up. Mr. Lafferty.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Lafferty, please continue.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I was elected as a Member of a consensus government. I am beginning to wonder when we will be practicing consensus government. If we do, then I can proudly say that I am a Member of a consensus government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Western Arctic Leadership Program Fundraiser

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to acknowledge a community event that took place this last weekend, the Annual Aurora Open, which is hosted by Aurora College and the Town of Fort Smith.

We had two fine days. It was not only the fact that we had over 100 golfers from all over the South Slave and North Slave golfing, but through this event we managed to raise \$5,000 that we were able to contribute to the Western Arctic Leadership Program to assist them in their efforts to keep the program going.

I would just like to recognize the very hard work of the Aurora College staff, the president, Maurice Evans, Kerry Robinson, Tim Gauthier, and Michaela Miltenberger, who put in a lot of time. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, this event would not have been possible without the strong corporate support from Diavik, BHP, NorthwesTel, NTPC, Enbridge, Imperial Oil/Midnight Petroleum, Canadian North, Northwestern Air Lease and Kaeser's.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everybody who was involved, thank all the golfers who came to take advantage of the opportunity and I look forward to seeing everybody again next year. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Safe Travel on NWT Waterways

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, springtime in the Delta is a time that people look forward to and prepare for as the summer season comes upon us. At this time, Mr. Speaker, many of the residents from the community I represent have started putting their boats into the water, taking advantage of the waterways and going out to their camps in the Delta.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, this spring we had an event in the community that brought much sadness to the community, the passing of a young man who has a young family. We had a drowning that occurred while the ice was still in the river, melting away. It brings us to this time when we must once again tell our constituents and residents that we must be safe, Mr. Speaker, that we must take appropriate action and be careful when we are preparing to travel on the land and travel between communities at this time of year.

As much activity goes on as people prepare to go to their fish camps and the summer camps for the season, I would just like to urge the constituents and residents of the Territory to be extra careful and be safe this year, Mr. Speaker, so we do not have the unfortunate incidents of any drownings and people going missing and leaving family members behind. I think we need to again encourage, as we have year-by-year, people to be safe on the waters and be wise, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Summary of Intersessional Activities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome everybody back to Yellowknife. I look forward to a busy few days of discussions on the challenges that face us here in the Northwest Territories. We have heard today a lesson on consensus government, how government is supposed to be working. We have heard about the exciting prospects that we have in non-renewable resource development in our relationship with governments in the Northwest Territories and Canada.

I have had an opportunity since our last session, Mr. Speaker, to travel to many communities as chair of the special committee reviewing the Official Languages Act. When you travel to these communities, you do not really discuss the official languages. You discuss the challenges, concerns and issues faced by people in their communities in the Northwest Territories.

In the last session, I spent a lot of time on housing issues, on education, on renewable and non-renewable resource development, on government systems and the kind of programs and services we should be delivering here in the Northwest Territories.

I am more convinced, talking to people, that we are not doing a good job at delivering programs and services and providing an opportunity to people at the community level, Mr. Speaker. They still are lagging behind in housing, in education. We are still the highest users of our social programs. How can we change things here so we can provide better programs and services, provide better infrastructure so that our people can stay at the community level, Mr. Speaker?

You know, after this session and coming into the fall session, it is probably our last real chance to make some significant changes to how we deliver programs and policies that will see better results at the end of the day. After that, it is into election mode. I would like to spend this next ten days seeing which direction our social programs delivery is taking and what the Ministers responsible are thinking in that area. I will be starting with questions to Mr. Allen, as Minister responsible for Housing. I thank you and happy birthday, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Recognition of Inuvik Speedskaters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of two young athletes from my riding who participated in the recent Arctic Winter Games in Iqaluit in March of this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important to recognize two young speedskaters from the riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes, who not only excelled in the Arctic Winter Games, but who, along with their team members, won the Sport North Team of the Year Award. I

have been advised that this team brought home 26 medals in total from the games in speedskating.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this so special for these two young speedskaters from Inuvik is that this was the first time for any Inuvik speedskaters to attend a sporting event such as this. It is worth mentioning that the Inuvik Speedskating Club has been in operation for only four years.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate Miss Alyssa Carpenter and Chris Lennie for an achievement well deserved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on NWT Track and Field Championships in Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, from June 5th to June 7th, Hay River hosted the Territorial Track and Field Championships. It was an exciting time again, starting with the opening ceremonies. Some schools who had never participated before were there, proudly parading into the arena under the banner of their schools. Appropriately, the previous chair and huge supporter of the championships, Mr. Guy Turvey, and his granddaughter brought in the torch and lit the flame. Over 1,000 athletes participated, accompanied by many coaches, parents and volunteers.

The local host committee of volunteers again did an outstanding job of making the logistics of preparing the grounds, coordinating the events, feeding the athletes and spectators, recording the results and much more look simple, but we know how much effort goes on in advance and we thank them for that.

Longstanding records were broken. Some folks had a slightly extended stay in Hay River due to ice stopping the Merv Hardie's operation for a few days, but we hope that they enjoyed that stay in Hay River and had a good time anyway. The cool breeze off Great Slave Lake presented some challenges to staying warm, but on the good side, we had no mosquitoes and no heat stroke.

The mayor of Hay River, Duncan McNeill, was on hand helping out with the activities and watching the students do the high jump. He momentarily forgot himself and tried to jump a chain link fence and unfortunately injured himself. I cannot give you any more detail than that, but we hope he has recovered.

I would also like to thank Minister Steen for offering the opportunity for other Members of this Legislature to attend, although this year, schedules did not permit MLAs to attend this territorial event. However, if the Minister allows, we will take a rain check on this generous support for next year's championships.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to again say congratulations to all the athletes and the organizing committee in Hay River, and happy birthday, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to remind the Member, only one subject...

-- Laughter

...but thank you, anyway. Item 3, Members' statements. Are there any further Members' statements? Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Question 95-14(5): High School Graduation Requirements

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Bell on February 27, 2002 regarding high school graduation requirements.

Mr. Bell asked if students have to pass Alberta exams to graduate.

For grade 12 courses where diploma exams are written, Mr. Bell's understanding is correct. The final mark in a course is a blend, 50 percent assigned by the teacher based usually on various assignment criteria determined by the teacher, such as assignments and class tests, and 50 percent of the mark comes from the diploma exam results.

In some circumstances, for example, when new courses are piloted, the weighting for the diploma exam may be reduced. For example, this year, for the new applied math course, the teacher determined part of the mark will count for 80 percent of the final mark and the diploma exam score will count for 20 percent of the final mark.

The diploma exams are carefully administered, course-specific examinations based on approved curricula. Diploma examinations are mandatory for the following courses: English 30/33, Math 30/33, Social Studies 30/33, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Science 30 and Francais 30. For other high school courses, the mark is determined at the school level normally by the course teacher. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a distinct pleasure today to recognize my constituency assistant from Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. John Banksland, who I understand is also an old schoolmate of yours. Kindly help me welcome Mr. Banksland.

--Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize Captain Karen Hoeft from the Salvation Army. Karen is one of our hardest working volunteers in the city. As well, with Karen are her parents, who are visiting from Regina, Saskatchewan, Bill and Gertie McFarlane. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome to the gallery Hilary Jones, who is the managing director of the Arslanian Diamond Cutting Works here in Yellowknife, and the operations manager at Arslanian, Mr. Sargis Gyulinyan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome everybody in the gallery, but especially, I would like to recognize two very special people. One being Mrs. Speaker, Mrs. Elaine Whitford, who I understand celebrated her 60th birthday yesterday. Another special person in the House, who is arguably most respected, most liked and who continues to be most senior, but not with the most grey hair, you, Mr. Speaker. Happy 61st birthday.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Colleagues, at this time, I take great pleasure in recognizing in the gallery my wife, Elaine, and our two sons, Blair and Ian. Blair lives in Calgary and is visiting.

-- Applause

In addition to that, colleagues, bear with me a moment, we also have visiting us at our home from Perth, Australia, Hannah Edwards; from London, England, we have Mike Ormerod; we also have Sheldon Pearson from Edmonton; Rob Engle from Edmonton; and Jim Le Cleir from Grande Prairie. We have the house full. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Youngblut, the executive director for the NWT Seniors' Society. With her is Mr. Ed Jeske, an esteemed senior in his own right. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Any further public recognitions? I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming to your Legislative Assembly and paying us that honour. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest challenges to people in the Northwest Territories in the face of development, not only in the capital and regional centres, but more importantly in the smaller communities, Mr. Speaker, is housing. The Housing Corporation has different programs that see anywhere between two to eight houses built in the community, if they are lucky, Mr. Speaker. Two to eight

houses in a given year does not compensate for the great need for housing.

I would like to ask the Minister, has the Housing Corporation done a survey or a study to determine the core need communities in the Northwest Territories? Maybe he could list off the top ten, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to put some preamble to my answers, we are trying to balance a number of programs that would complement the rising need for social housing in the Northwest Territories. It also requires a combined issue of homelessness versus those who are in core need. We have established, in our recent survey, six communities that are designated as core need. We are still trying to develop a policy around those communities so that we can come back and enhance some of that funding to meet those immediate needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the six communities that were identified as core need, would the Minister be able to tell us in the House which six communities he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the names of the communities at the moment. As I mentioned earlier, we are still drafting up some responses to those specific community needs. I will reply back to the Member as soon as I can. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the commitment from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, in Yellowknife and Inuvik, there was a great shift of housing and there was a big grab at it. Within a year-and-a-half, we have seen all this housing development. I would like to ask the Minister, when can we expect any kind of progress or action in the six communities the Housing Corporation designated as core need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, just to add to my reply, in the major centres, most of the development for housing is done by the private sector. We are responding as fast as we can to those who are in core need through the Affordable Housing Strategy. As I said earlier, it has taken a bit of time to finalize our policy and also to amend certain policies to meet those increasing demands. I am prepared to push this as fast as I can and respond to the Member and also the Members of the House. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the people in the communities wait for the Housing Corporation to make some kind of move, they do not have any place to live, so they move to Yellowknife or Inuvik, the regional centres, creating a demand in those centres. The efforts and energies of the corporation seem to be at that level. I encourage the Minister to do this as quickly as possible. Can he give us an indication of what kind of programs or what types of programs the Minister is thinking about right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 224-14(5): Critical Social Housing Needs

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the fundamental shift is more towards assisting the communities make a transition, a transformation to self-reliance. Through that process, we are developing what we call a universal partnership agreement. Hopefully, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will eventually be looked at as being a funding agency and allow the communities to determine what their needs are, and then we can facilitate some development in the smaller communities with our assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camps Program

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is a follow-up to my Member's statement. My question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I would like to ask him, can he tell me how much money was expended by region to deliver the fire ecology camps every summer? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camps Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fire program for youth in the regions is a very good program and we will continue to provide it. I do not have the exact details of the breakdown of how much was expended per region. I will get that information for the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camps Program

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to those numbers from the Minister. I would like to ask the Minister, as he has indicated that it is a good program, can he tell me if these programs have been evaluated to determine what value the camps are serving and how the evaluations are carried out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camps Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will also provide that detailed information for the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camps Program

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister can he tell me what other options the department has looked at for providing youth in all the communities some opportunity to participate in a youth forestry education program? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camp Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information with me. It is more detailed information, so I will try to get that for the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camp Program

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister will be providing me with a considerable amount of information at a later date. I wonder, at least, if he could reassure me that the youth in my constituency will receive equal opportunity to participate in some form of a youth forestry education program this summer and in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I am not sure if that was a question, but the Minister may respond if he wishes. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 225-14(5): Fire Ecology Camp Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fire ecology camp had been established in communities that have expressed interest in it, especially where recent forest fires have happened and where the communities are concerned about the fire.

Youth from a number of different communities, including Fort Providence, have been involved, especially in the International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment that was run out of Fort Providence for the last six years, so there is opportunity for communities to participate.

As well, RWED has developed a forest module which is taught in all schools and is in the curriculum of the school. We are trying to do what we can to provide this information. Like I said, I will provide a listing of activities that are available to youth throughout the whole Northwest Territories, but specifically to the Deh Cho area.

We are familiar with the Aboriginal Youth Forest Ranger Program in Ontario and I think it is an excellent starting point for us in the forestry area of RWED. It is a good place to start programming for our youth so they have an introduction to the forest management of the North. Thank you.

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

Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Ministers and MLAs, for the past several days, have received numerous letters from NWT construction businesses about the government's decision to waive the Business Incentive Policy to avoid cost overruns in phase two of the North Slave Correctional Centre.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, prior to waiving the Business Incentive Policy on this project, what other alternatives were explored in looking at ways to reduce costs on this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has had difficulties from day one with this project in that it was fast-tracked, so therefore, it was not the type of project that would have been designed prior to the price being put on the work. All along we have been experiencing difficulties as to how we could possibly keep the project on stream and still keep it in response to the programs that it was

supposed to support. We have been going along and designing, so to speak, as we construct. That has been one of the problems with why the project is over budget.

What we have been doing is meeting with the client, the Department of Justice. We have been meeting with our project managers and discussing ways as to how we could possibly reduce the cost of this project, other than suggesting that we leave BIP for the time being. We basically ran out of options.

Short of reducing the scope of work down to where it would no longer be able to serve the purpose, we have also discussed the option of delaying the project for a better time, like say a couple of years from now...

-- Applause

...maybe the market will be better. Unfortunately, it is not an option. We have a basic timeline to get off of the property where our existing facility is and that is because we turned the property over to the new arena and we have a timeline to get off of there. We are very limited as to options.

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

Supplementary to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, and that is part of the concern all across the NWT about this policy and this project. The NWT Construction Association has shown a lot of leadership in this. They have come up with a couple of alternatives. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to meet with northern builders and constructors, with the association, to look at these alternative methods so that we can achieve this project on time and hopefully on a reasonable budget? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for that suggestion. We already have a plan in place for a meeting. I believe it is on the 13th at eleven o'clock in the morning, to meet with that NWT Construction Association and discuss this whole ruling of the BIP for this project.

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

Supplementary to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the government and the people involved in the Construction Association for taking the initiative, but on the Cabinet decision to move off BIP on this one project, what message is the government sending to other builders and other stakeholders in the North's economy, Mr. Speaker, the mining and petroleum industry? What is the message that we are sending when we waive our own policies meant to encourage northern buying? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I can speak directly to that question, but Public Works' intent was to broaden the field of competition. Rather than having just one or two bids come in, we were hoping that we would receive a number of bids from down south.

I am told that over the past number of years, we have been receiving less and less bids from down south. People are not even bothering to bid anymore, whereby in the past, they used to at least try. We think we are opening the field where competition will be larger and we will get better prices.

We are not only experiencing the problem in Yellowknife. We are experiencing a similar problem wherever there is a boom in the construction industry. It may be related to non-renewable resource activity. In Inuvik, for instance, we are also experiencing the same type of difficulties as we are in Yellowknife, in that many of our projects are going over and above budget.

Mr. Speaker, Public Works has been told by this Assembly and by the committee on a number of occasions when presenting our budgets and presenting our business plans and also when the supplementaries come forward, we have been asked if we have tried all options before we come forward with the supplementary request. Well, that is what we are doing. We are trying all options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Supplementary to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, all options should be before all of us at all times, but the Cabinet's decision to cherry-pick this one project to move off BIP is unacceptable. Will the Minister restore the Business Incentive Policy to this project? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, if I heard the question properly, the Member is asking me if I will ensure the Business Incentive Policy will apply to this project?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. I will just ask Mr. Braden to re-ask the question. I think it was shorter than that. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was, will the Minister restore the Business Incentive Policy to this project? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 226-14(5): Reducing North Slave Correctional Project Costs

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, I cannot give the Member that commitment. Thank you.

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

Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Jim Antoine. In documents the Legislative Assembly gives to the public on our unique system of governance, it states that any decision made in consensus government involves approval by the majority of Members. This is the definition of consensus government and the way we should be operating as the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to ask the Minister, when will Cabinet involve all 19 Members in the decision-making process to ensure that we are a consensus government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government, generally and overall since the beginning of this Legislative Assembly, has tried very hard to involve all Members in making the major decisions. I think that we have done fairly well. We have gotten this far, over halfway through our term with a lot of work together on a lot of issues.

Of course, there are differences of opinions on a lot of different issues and how things should be moving along. I think we have tried everything we could at different times. Perhaps we could have tried a little harder on some of the bigger issues like the tax issues, in trying to get everyone on board. In some instances, things did not work out.

Generally and overall, I think this government has involved the Members as much as we can to try to reach consensus on a lot of the major issues that we are working on today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a short little while, we have had strategies that were put forward by Cabinet; the Highway Strategy, Corridors for Canada, the Hydro Strategy, the Energy Strategy -- all of these were Cabinet initiatives. Cabinet did not come to Regular Members for any input before they did this.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier, will he ensure that all of the Regular Members are included in the government's decision-making process before a plan is chosen in the future, like the tax? Can the Minister do that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we need to have latitude to try to develop some plans. As a government, we have a responsibility to make sure that our budget is in place and that we follow it as much as we can for major initiatives that are required up here, especially the infrastructure money; we all need that.

You look at our highways today and they are in dire need of repair. If you travel Highway No. 7 into my region recently, it is all soup. It is very difficult to travel in that area. Major initiatives such as infrastructure, we certainly need to try to find different ways of trying to get additional dollars from the feds.

Taxation is one thing where we as a government have a responsibility to try to get more revenue from the people who make big dollars up here as we can, by the road toll, which is an example of one thing that fell by the wayside. However, certainly I think we are trying everything we can, Mr. Speaker, to include Ordinary Members in all the major decisions. If that is not the case, tell us which area you think we need to be more involved in and we will try to have better communications and closer working relations in those areas. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Members from the other side know, for two-and-a-half years I have been talking about roads and about the strategies that have been put in place by Cabinet with no input. Whenever the Minister had input from us, we all agreed we did pretty good projects together.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if he will ensure that his Ministers will talk with the Regular Members whenever they are doing any projects out there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with something like this topic that the honourable Member is talking about, it is certainly very important to have everyone involved. There are a lot of areas where we as a government work with the Ordinary Members through their standing committees to try and have a good government.

There are major initiatives out there that are evolving and we do not know whether we are going to get funding in some areas or not. Certainly, as of this point, we need to work closely

together. I will say yes to the Member that we will make sure that the Ministers, whenever they are working on major initiatives, include the Ordinary Members in the decision-making we need to get done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Premier. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if he can ensure that all of his Cabinet Ministers get a briefing on how consensus government works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 227-14(5): Achieving Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes. Thank you.

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

Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question goes to the Minister responsible for Public Works regarding the cancellation of the BIP policy. I was listening carefully to answers that the Minister was giving to my colleague, Mr. Braden, and I am still not convinced at all that the cost-benefit analysis of this works to lifting this policy.

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate what evidence he has that shows that the lifting of this policy would result in a reduction in the cost of building this facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is exactly the type of question that we have in our minds as Cabinet Ministers, and the department also. We do not know. We do not know the effect of BIP on our project at this point in time, but we believe that it does have an effect on the economy as a whole. We believe that everything is inflated due to the BIP.

However, we are not putting this forward to test the waters, so to speak. What we are doing is trying to find out if in fact there is a connection between the cost increase on our projects and the BIP. We are aware that other authorities, such as the city, for instance, have been experiencing cost overruns as well, even though they do not have any relation to BIP. We are

trying to find out if in fact this is going to result in more bids and better bids. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Minister, this sounds so absurd. I wonder if the Minister would just listen to what he is saying. The Cabinet has decided to cancel their own policy, one of the hallmarks of this government, with all its faults, the Business Incentive Policy. They have thrown it out the window and they are reaching in the dark to see if maybe this will save us money, but the Minister is saying to us he does not know that for sure. This is just so absurd.

Why is it so difficult for the department to figure out what the cost of this project is and how much impact BIP has? Why is that so difficult?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Public Works has taken on face value the fact that we were to assume that it was a 20 percent increase on this bid because of BIP. We had automatically assumed that because we believe that people are bidding the 20 percent, knowing that they can bid higher relative to bids coming from down south.

However, we do not know that until we get bids that we can see and then compare. If in fact the bids that we received from down south on this project are the same as the bids, or relatively the same as the bids, we received from the northern contractors, we would then know that BIP has very little effect.

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

Supplementary to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that is based on very, very unsound presumptions. That is saying that the northern contractors arbitrarily increase their bidding by 20 percent just to inflate the cost. What the Minister is saying is really troubling, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister has already said that for years now, we have not been getting bids from southern Canada. Maybe it has nothing to do with BIP. It has to do with the fact that Alberta, BC and everybody is in full economy -- full, booming economy. Why should Northerners not take advantage of that? Does he understand the unsoundness of his argument, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure of the question. The Chair is uncertain of the question. Ms. Lee, I will give you the opportunity to ask a question. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that the northern contractors, just out of habit are just arbitrarily increasing their bidding by 20 percent, just for the heck of it? Is that what the Minister is saying?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that. Mr. Speaker, I was saying that if we take things at face value, we could assume that, but we do not know that. We do not know whether the bids are inflated by 20 percent.

What we will find out from this bidding process is whether or not the northern contractors' bids are the same from what we received down south. If in fact there is a need for northern contractors to bid higher in order to offset their costs, then that should be reflected, but we do not know that until the bids come in.

What we are trying to achieve here is a cost reduction on the North Slave correctional project. We have no more room. We have reached our limit. There is no more going back to the Finance Minister for more money on this thing. We are trying to keep it within budget. We believe this is one of the options we are willing to try.

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

Supplementary to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister's desperate attempt to see if this will save him money, but everything I see says that it will not. How I understand BIP is that, everything being equal, northern contractors will get some benefit. There is nothing to say that southern contractors will do this cheaper or that lifting BIP would encourage contractors from the south to bid on this.

The only thing this is doing is sending a very, very negative message to the industry, saying you are not appreciating your own policy. That is the point, Mr. Speaker. Does he not agree with my point?

MR. SPEAKER: Finally, a question. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 228-14(5): Suspension of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with that.

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

Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is in line with my Member's statement. I am going to put this question to the House Leader, the Minister of Finance, or maybe the Deputy Premier, but it has to do with the suspension or waiving or cancellation of the BIP policy on the project here in Yellowknife, the correctional centre.

My question is, who exactly is in charge of this project right now? Is it DPW? Is it a project manager? If it is a project manager, is he working for DPW or is he working for another firm? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Deputy Premier, I would like to take this as a question to our government. The Department of Public Works and Services is responsible for this contract, so they are in charge of this contract. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask, who exactly made the decision to cancel or waive the BIP policy on this project? Was it a Cabinet decision or was it a Minister's decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was a Cabinet decision to de-BIP the second phase of the North Slave Correctional Centre. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is setting a very dangerous precedent, in that there are an awful lot of contracts that have been awarded in the Territories using the BIP policy. To change horses in mid-stream here is setting quite a precedent.

I was wondering if the amount of money that we had to spend as a government on this project, right from day one, was ever identified to the people setting this project in place and putting out the tenders, and it was stated that we could not go over this amount? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, there was an amount of approximately \$35 million, so it was originally identified for the total project. A couple of months ago, we came back with a supp for another \$5.8 million. I am not too sure. I have to be sure on the numbers, but the numbers are there. Now, we are told that they want to come back for another \$4 million to \$5 million. We know how tough it is to go through a supp, so we have to try to look for different options on how to deal with this issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on a project that is in a runaway mode such as this, I am hoping that the government looks very seriously at ever putting another project in place such as this with the same conditions attached to it.

I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, what companies bid on this project and how well did they fit the BIP policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 229-14(5): Responsibility for North Slave Correctional Project

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is more of a detailed question, the numbers and who bid. I am sure they are all under the BIP policy to get this far in this process, so I will take the question as notice and get the proper information for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The supplementary has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are also about this runaway jail we have. Mr. Speaker, before Cabinet decided to waive the BIP on the next phase of the new correctional facility, did they give any consideration to other potential solutions to address the cost overruns? Did they consider that their estimates may have been wrong? Did they consider the project management contract may have caused them to lose control of the project?

Did they consider that the design architects and engineers may have forgotten they were building a jail and got completely carried away with costly building materials, fixtures and furnishings? Did they consider how much cheaper it would have been to have built this facility in Hay River in the first place?

Did they consider how contradictory a message this would send to southern and multinational companies, who we as a government tell to spend their money with Northerners and

develop northern industry? Did they consider how contradictory that message would be before they made that decision? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I just want to caution Members, because I think there were five questions there. However, we will just use the last one. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was an exhaustive list of questions, which are all very pertinent to this whole project. I would like to say that we have had extensive discussions internally about this issue. It is not a simple and easy issue. We are well underway. We are about halfway through the project and we find out that the costs are skyrocketing.

We certainly have to take into consideration everything that the honourable Member has said in regard to the cost estimates and management contracts. We talked about that, the design of this facility as well as the fact that Members from smaller communities would all like to have this facility in their community as well.

We have covered all of the areas here and the answer to the question is yes, we have had exhaustive discussions on this and it is still ongoing. We will wait for the bids to come in and we will evaluate those bids once they come in. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the government, given the fact that they admit there are all these unresolved, unanswered questions, all these things that may not have been considered, will the government and the Deputy Premier agree to put this project and any further action on it on hold until these questions are answered, and not proceed to go to tender without the Business Incentive Policy in place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this project is on the go. It is still in place. We have agreed as a Cabinet to waive the Business Incentive Policy on the second phase of this project. We will await the bids as they come in and determine at that time if this is the right course of action to take. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, putting together a bid on phase two of this facility would probably be in the \$20 million range. This is no small undertaking for northern contractors to have done this. What is the government going to do to compensate these people who thought they were bidding under a certain, well-established policy of this government, who are now going to have that thrown out and a new process undertaken? What are you going to do to compensate those people who have spent that much money to put together those bids? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will move ahead with the public tendering without the Business Incentive Policy and evaluate the bids as they come in and follow through as such.

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

Supplementary to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from what the Deputy Premier said, it sounds like they do not already have the bids on the various components of this work. If that is the case, what are they basing the fact that there are cost overruns on if they do not already have bids for this work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 230-14(5): Alternatives to Suspension of the BIP

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the facility has been under construction for a couple of years. The young offenders' portion of it is already bid out and the construction is done. The central core with the heating facility and the gym has been built. The security system is already contracted out for both of these facilities, so some of the contract work that has been done already overlaps into the second phase, which is the adult facility. That is what we are talking about right now. The figure that the honourable Member quoted is a rounded figure about the cost of this second phase. Certainly we have considered all of these different aspects. Thank you.

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

Question 231-14(5): Impacts of Health and Social Services Reorganization

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I had some correspondence go

across my desk regarding the health board situation in the Inuvik region and the impacts that will probably come about as a result of some reorganization as the department looks at a health board for the Sahtu. I was able to see the correspondence the Minister copied me. He contacted the health board in Inuvik.

I would like to know from the Minister, when will they be done looking at the impacts and what the reorganization might entail? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 231-14(5): Impacts of Health and Social Services Reorganization

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I anticipated talking about this over lunch tomorrow, but I would be glad to answer this question in the House. The Member raises some good questions. In fact, this process has not moved as fast as we had anticipated. We are still working with the people in the Sahtu, the leadership in the Sahtu, to gather them together to have very preliminary discussions on the process within the Sahtu, the type of board structure we would be putting in place for a regional board and those kinds of very fundamental issues.

We are trying to work back on that issue alone from September. We had targeted the end of September as a time by which we would like to be able to determine those questions. We are keeping the Inuvik board apprised, through the chair and the CEO, of things that are happening. We have not struck a working group to even look at the issues the Member raises in terms of the impact on the Inuvik board as it now exists and what would become part of the Sahtu board.

When we do that, Mr. Speaker, there will be full consultation and involvement and the affected MLAs will be kept fully apprised of the process and the results of the process. In fact, they will be involved in the process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 231-14(5): Impacts of Health and Social Services Reorganization

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, as the Minister stated, we will be involved in the process and consultation will be much more than we have become accustomed to on this side of the House, where we are advised as things are moving along what decisions have already been made.

My concern is for the residents and the impact in the community and region. The Minister stated that in September there should be some work done. What is the intention at that point to do a costing of this? If that is the case, when will they be able to move forward with that? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 231-14(5): Impacts of Health and Social Services Reorganization

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention is, in the middle to late fall, to be able to move ahead once we achieve the goals that I have mentioned in regard to deciding on a governance model and the process in the Sahtu.

Before that time, we will be striking a working group that will involve people in the Sahtu and the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority to look at some of the costing issues along with the department. We will be looking at hopefully coming forward in the fall. I should have some very clear numbers by the time we once again gather as a Legislature after we have our summer break. Thank you.

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

It appears we have a minor technical problem. We will take a short break.

-- Recording Difficulties

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, would you care to restate your supplementary question?

Supplementary to 231-14(5): Impacts of Health and Social Services Reorganization

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to my question around the health board re-organization that the department is beginning to work on, the Minister stated that they are going to be doing some work and hopefully by this fall we will have some ideas of what this will entail. I would like to know from the Minister if, in fact, when they are looking at the financial side of it, the impacts, if the department or Cabinet has looked at the fact that this money will have to come from other sources than our own. Is that the case? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 231-14(5): Impacts of Health and Social Services Reorganization

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of our tasks is, of course, to identify both the process and steps that are going to be needed to make this a reality, but also to do the costing. We have not done that yet.

I know and the Member knows through our experience with division that making two out of one entails some cost. We are going to be very diligent to make sure that those costs, should they occur, are very, very necessary. We will be very diligent to ensure that we make this affordable. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I believe that was your final supplementary, Mr. Roland. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for MACA. During my time at home and in my riding, I was quite disappointed to hear that the swimming pool in Fort Providence will be closing this year after many years of operation. With the closing of this pool, there will be no pools operating in my riding. This was the last one. During our last session, we passed a motion in committee of the whole to include swimming pools as part of the capital plan. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status in terms of incorporating swimming pools as part of the capital plan?

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

Return to Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has not, at this point in time, made any recommendations to FMBS or Cabinet. The motion suggesting pools is not reflected in our new business plans.

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

Supplementary to Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister then if he can tell us when can we expect it to be part of the business plans? In fact, maybe he can be more specific and tell us when we can see our first pool being built? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when pools become part of the capital plan will be decided at the point in time that Cabinet or FMB amends their capital priorities. At this point in time, there is no discussion at the Cabinet or FMB level as to amending the capital as far as pools are concerned. We have not discussed it at all.

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

Supplementary to Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, can he tell me if the cost overruns of the projects under his department, such as the ones in Inuvik and in Yellowknife, are preventing this program from going ahead because there are no extra monies to put towards a swimming pool program? The cost overruns are not allowing for it. 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 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, whether pools become part of the capital business plan or not, I do not know if there is any relation to the fact that we are running over budget on these projects. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am assuming that the Minister has an obligation. We have a motion passed in committee of the whole to take this to Cabinet. I am wondering, what is stopping him from doing so? I believe he is obligated to do so. Is he not going to react to this motion? Is he going to ignore it? What is his plan? I would like to hear that from him.

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

Further Return to Question 232-14(5): Inclusion of Swimming Pools in Capital Plan

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am just speaking from experience here, but in the past, I am aware that motions from the Assembly were discussed at the same time as business plans were discussed. It was at that time that Cabinet as a whole responds as to what they are going to do in relation to the motion. It is at the time that we do business plans that I have seen this list in the past.

I presume that whenever we do business plans over the summer, we will come to a list of motions from the Assembly that we have to respond to individually as Ministers, and what do we will do then as Cabinet or at the FMB level. Thank you.

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

Question 233-14(5): Review of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, in his capacity as the Minister responsible for the Business Incentive Policy. The issue we have been talking about this afternoon is one of a kind. It is a big project. Still, I think it indicates some systemic problems that are buried in the BIP policy, its philosophy and its approach. It has always been recognized as certainly not a perfect program, but one that has had its benefits.

Considering the tone and the times, it is a hot economy, this is probably just a symptom of other things that we are going to experience, and not just in the short term. Would the Minister

advise what is underway, if anything, Mr. Speaker, to review the philosophy, the approach, and the process of the Business Incentive Policy that we have? 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 233-14(5): Review of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a process underway now, and it has been underway for some time. In January of 2001, there was a comprehensive discussion paper called, BIP: A New Direction, which was distributed to about 1,500 businesses, interest groups and aboriginal governments who were invited to provide comments. Since that time, there have been releases in the media, in newspaper announcements and interviews.

Through this public consultation process, a lot of views came in. There was a number of written submissions received from a number of stakeholder groups as a result of this public consultation. These were also published in the website of BIP, so there has been a lot of work done in this area to try to look at the Business Incentive Policy and review it.

I know that in the past, other governments have tried to review it and change it to no avail. As a result of this consultation, RWED is preparing a joint decision paper and an FMB submission. We will be making this presentation to Cabinet and FMB at the end of June to move this process forward. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 233-14(5): Review of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So within this decision paper or decision process, what steps would the government be taking to bring this conclusion back to the Assembly, back to the construction industry so that we can get a look at just what new directions the BIP will be going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 233-14(5): Review of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this decision paper that I am proposing to move to Cabinet and FMB at the end of June would spell out a revised Business Incentive Policy. At this point in time, since it is not a decision yet, I would like to hold back on trying to cover the areas that it does cover, but it certainly is going to cover all the areas of the Business Incentive Policy as proposed by all the stakeholders that have put in their comments.

The process now would be to put this proposed decision paper before Cabinet. If it is approved, I would then ask permission to move it forward to the appropriate standing committee for their review. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 233-14(5): Review of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Related to this is another area that at times has been contentious in the area of government contracting, and that is negotiated contracts. Will this paper also encompass any recommendations on the future of negotiated contracts as a purchasing tool of this government? 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 233-14(5): Review of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Negotiated Contract Policy is a different policy. There is work currently underway to review that as well, which is separate from the Business Incentive Policy. The Business Incentive Policy will not cover that aspect of the question. Thank you.

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

Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question would be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and it goes to the regional reorganization of health boards. I would like to know from the Minister, what has brought this on, to look at regional reorganization of the health boards? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a political commitment to look at bringing the health boards authorities into line with the political boundaries of the Sahtu. That was what motivated it, but we are now approaching this from a Health and Social Services system perspective, to do it in the best way possible. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister stated a political commitment. Who has made this political commitment? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a commitment of the government. It is a long-standing issue. It was identified, I believe, in the Cuff report. The action plan included it as one of the action items, along with dealing with the situations in Lutselk'e and Deninoo. It is a commitment of this government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding on the Cuff report and action plan is the number of health boards overall was many, so they looked at a way of pulling some of those together. However, on the other hand, we are looking at establishing this. Again, what is the reason for the creation of a new health board in the Sahtu region? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the process, we will end up with one less board than we had pre-Cuff and pre-action plan.

The purpose of the board, the direction, we are identifying that as an action item. I have already stated the reasons why, Mr. Speaker. I can just say those are still the reasons now as they were two minutes ago. It is part of the action plan. It was identified as one of the things to be dealt with and we are doing that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is from two minutes ago; the political commitment that was made, it was made when and for what reason? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 234-14(5): Reorganization of Health Boards

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we are proceeding on is what is known as the action plan. The motivating factor was to bring the service delivery systems in line with the political boundaries of the

Sahtu. It has been built in, as I indicated, to the action plan and we are proceeding on that basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. The honourable Clerk, Mr. Hamilton.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 2-14(5): Ministerial Travel

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question 2-14(5) asked by the Member for Frame Lake to the Premier concerning ministerial travel.

Mr. Speaker, I will commit to routinely reporting ministerial travel to this House, including the purpose of each trip, the destination, dates of travel, method of travel and travel costs.

Ministerial travel will be reported on a six-month basis, beginning with the period April 1 to September 30, 2002.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to the opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 3: An Act to Amend the Public Service Act

Bill 6: An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has reviewed Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act and Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, and wishes to report that Bills 3 and 6 are ready for consideration in committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bills 3 and 6 moved into committee of the whole for tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) to move Bill 3 and Bill 6 into committee of the whole for tomorrow. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 3 and Bill 6 are therefore moved into committee of the whole for tomorrow.

Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Liquor Act

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development has reviewed Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, and wishes to report that Bill 11 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole as amended and reprinted.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bill 11 ordered into committee of the whole for tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and move Bill 11 into committee of the whole for tomorrow. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Therefore, Bill 11 is referred to committee of the whole for tomorrow.

Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 31-14(5): Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities, Expenses and Allowances for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2002

In accordance with section 35 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities, Expenses and Allowances for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2001.

Tabled Document 32-14(5): Members' Election for the Supplementary Pensions

In accordance with section 5.31 of the Legislative Assembly and Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the elections filed by Members under section 5.2(2)(a).

Tabled Document 33-14(5): Members' Statutory Declarations of Residency

In accordance with section 19 of the regulations made pursuant to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Members' Statutory Declarations of Residency.

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Tabled Document 34-14(5): Hay River Hub Article Entitled "The Big Picture"

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table an article that appeared as an editorial in The Hub newspaper, our local newspaper in Hay River, on May 28, 2000, entitled, The Big Picture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Elections Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2002, I will move that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, as well, I give notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2002, I will move that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, 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. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Bill 14: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2002, I will move that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 15: An Act to Amend the Real Estate Agents Licensing Act

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2002, I will move that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Real Estate Agents Licensing Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Bill 16: Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2002, I will move that Bill 16, Interjurisdictional Support Orders 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. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 17: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2002-2003

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2002, I will move that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2002-2003, 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 Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Elections Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 12 today. Are there any nays? You may proceed, Mr. Minister, you have unanimous consent.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Elections Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 13 today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Minister, you have unanimous consent.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 13 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 14 today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Minister. You may proceed.

Bill 14: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had first reading. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Elections Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 12. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Minister. You may proceed.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Elections Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Elections Act to provide for the appointment of a Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, to fix the term for the appointment of returning officers, and to permit returning officers to vote. The minimum election period is shortened from 45 to 28 days, and various provisions are adjusted to accommodate this change.

New provisions are added to require the establishment of a permanent register of electors, to provide that enumeration may take the form of either a comprehensive "basic enumeration" that creates or replaces the information in the register of electors, or a "confirmation enumeration" that revises and updates the existing information. In addition, provisions are added to govern the use of information collected about electors.

Candidates are given the right to access multi-unit residential buildings and may have their photograph reproduced on the ballot paper.

Special ballots and special mobile polls are introduced as new special voting opportunities, and provisions relating to voting in the office of the returning officer and advanced polls are adjusted. Provisions allowing for proxy voting, mobile polls for outpost camps and polls for correctional institutions are repealed.

Electors are afforded the opportunity to decline a ballot and election officers are required to wear an approved badge at a poll.

A refund of the deposit will be paid to candidates who file the required post-election returns and declarations, and requirements are added for the Chief Electoral Officer, as opposed to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, to retain such returns and declarations. Certain restrictions are introduced with respect to the placement of campaign signs and persons who place signs on public property are required to remove them after the election.

In addition, a variety of minor improvements or corrections are made to the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had second reading. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, moved into committee of the whole for Thursday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 12 moved into committee of the whole for Thursday. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Therefore, Bill 12 is moved into committee of the whole for Thursday.

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister is requesting consent to give second reading of Bill 13 today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Minister. You may proceed. You have consent.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reduces the general corporate income tax and the small business income tax rates for corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Is the House ready for the question? Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 13 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister is requesting consent to give second reading to Bill 14 today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Minister, you do have consent.

Bill 14: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill establishes a revolving fund with an authorized limit of \$4 million for the lending of money for the development of residential lots in communities that are not municipal taxing authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Is the House ready for the question? Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment today and again at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Also, at 10:30 a.m., meetings of the

Standing Committee on Social Programs and the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, and at 12:00 p.m. of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 12, 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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
 - Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
 - Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 12, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:00 p.m.