



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

---

**5<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 31**

**14<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

---

**HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2002**

Pages 1107 – 1140

**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Tony Whitford**  
(Kam Lake)

### Hon. Stephen Kakfwi

(Sahtu)  
*Premier*  
*Executive Council*  
*Minister Responsible for*  
*Intergovernmental Affairs*  
*Minister Responsible for the Status of*  
*Women*

### Hon. Jim Antoine

(Nahendeh)  
*Deputy Premier*  
*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*  
*Minister Responsible for the*  
*Intergovernmental Forum*  
*Minister of Resources, Wildlife and*  
*Economic Development*

### Hon. Roger T. Allen

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)  
*Minister of Justice*  
*Minister Responsible for NWT*  
*Housing Corporation*  
*Minister Responsible for Public*  
*Utilities Board*  
*Minister Responsible for Youth*

### Hon. Joseph L. Handley

(Weledeh)  
*Minister Responsible for Energy and*  
*Hydro Secretariats*  
*Minister of Finance*  
*Minister Responsible for the Financial*  
*Management Board*  
*Minister Responsible for the Northwest*  
*Territories Power Corporation*  
*Minister of Transportation*  
*Minister Responsible for the Workers'*  
*Compensation Board*

### Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger

(Thebacha)  
*Minister of Health and Social Services*  
*Minister Responsible for Persons with*  
*Disabilities*  
*Minister Responsible for Seniors*

### Hon. Jake Ootes

(Yellowknife Centre)  
*Minister of Education, Culture and*  
*Employment*

### Hon. Vince R. Steen

(Nunakput)  
*Minister of Public Works and Services*  
*Minister of Municipal and Community*  
*Affairs*

### Mr. Brendan Bell

(Yellowknife South)

### Mr. Bill Braden

(Great Slave)

### Mr. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

### Mr. Charles Dent

(Frame Lake)

### Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

### Mr. David Krutko

(Mackenzie Delta)

### Mr. Leon Lafferty

(North Slave)

### Ms. Sandy Lee

(Range Lake)

### Mr. Michael McLeod

(Deh Cho)

### Mr. Steven Nitah

(Tu Nedhe)

### Mr. Floyd Roland

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

## Officers

### Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David M. Hamilton

#### Deputy Clerk

Mr. Doug Schauerte

#### Clerk of Committees

Mr. Dave Inch

#### Law Clerks

Ms. Katherine R. Peterson, Q.C.  
Mr. Charles Thompson

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Ms. Nicole Latour-Theede

#### Editors of Hansard

Rich Archer  
Sue Ireland

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>1107</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1107</b>
77-14(5): STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (OOTES) .....	1107
78-14(5): UNITED STATES ENERGY BILL (ANTOINE).....	1107
79-14(5): UNITED WAY PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS (HANDLEY) .....	1108
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1108</b>
GAPS IN THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM (GROENEWEGEN) .....	1108
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION (DENT) .....	1109
ESTABLISHMENT OF A DANGEROUS GOODS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT SITE IN ENTERPRISE (MCLEOD).....	1109
INUVIK MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS (ROLAND).....	1110
STANTON HOSPITAL NURSING SHORTAGE (BELL) .....	1110
STANTON HOSPITAL NURSING SHORTAGE (LEE).....	1110
SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS (NITAH).....	1111
COST OVERRUNS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS (LAFFERTY) .....	1111
PETITION TO ADDRESS TENANT RENTAL INCREASES (BRADEN) .....	1111
FUEL SUBSIDY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DELOREY) .....	1112
SENIORS' LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY FOR FORT MCPHERSON (KRUTKO) .....	1112
RESULTS OF THE ACHO DENE FIRST NATION BAND COUNCIL ELECTIONS (ANTOINE).....	1113
ELECTION OF N'DILO CHIEF DARRELL BEAULIEU (HANDLEY) .....	1113
CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOB'S WELDING (1873) LIMITED (ALLEN) .....	1114
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>1114</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1115</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>1126</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>1126</b>
<b>MOTIONS</b> .....	<b>1126</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>1127</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>1139</b>
<b>THIRD READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>1140</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>1140</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, October 23, 2002****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

-- Prayer

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Minister's Statement 77-14(5): Student Financial Assistance**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our Student Financial Assistance Program continues to be the best program of its kind in the country. We provide some of the highest benefit levels to encourage more and more of our aboriginal students and those who were schooled in the Northwest Territories to further their education and to return to the North and to contribute and prosper in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most exciting statistics that I have the pleasure to share with you today about the Student Financial Assistance Program is that more and more people from all age groups and from every remote corner of the Northwest Territories are completing a post-secondary education because of the support that this program provides.

in just this past year alone, the number of people applying from all over the North in places like Tulita, Wha Ti, Aklavik, Holman, Paulatuk, Lutselk'e and Wrigley are up by 3.5 percent over the previous year and we are seeing increases despite a very positive job market. People are increasingly seeing the value of furthering their education, of laying the foundation of a better tomorrow for themselves and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these students who are taking such an important step in their lives that we continue to improve the service that we provide. We must ensure that our programs continue to address the new ways that students are learning all around the world, through correspondence courses and now over that World Wide Web.

To ensure that our students have access to these learning opportunities, we introduced for the first time this fall one of the best distance learning programs of its kind available in Canada. Now students can stay at home with their families if they choose and still complete their education with financial support from the government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, although students with disabilities face many of the same challenges as other students, they often encounter barriers related to their disabilities. In responding to their needs, the department raised the level of support that it provides to students living with disabilities through the Northwest Territories Study Grant by 60 percent. For the fall 2002 semester, the value of the Northwest Territories Study

Grant has been raised from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year. This is over and above the grant and loan assistance that we provide to other students.

Through the additional support that we are making available, I like to think that we, as people of the Northwest Territories, share in a desire to support the success of all students, including those with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very positive economic outlook, making it possible for many of our new graduates to live a prosperous life in the Northwest Territories. We have noted, however, there are new graduates who require a little extra time to get started in their careers and also in repaying their loans. To ensure that these students get the best start in life that they can, we have increased the income thresholds for our Interest Relief Program so that those who are experiencing difficulty have the time they need.

Mr. Speaker, our students are our future. If they are to build a better world for us tomorrow, then we need to give them the tools that they require today. However, a strong, educated workforce requires a considerable investment on our part. That is why we spend \$12 million each year on the Student Financial Assistance Program. I can tell you that investing in our students is the best investment that this government makes each year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Minister's Statement 78-14(5) United States Energy Bill**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress has been working in conference on an energy bill for the past couple of months. Discussions on this legislation have covered broad energy issues for both the production and conservation of energy in the United States.

One element of the bill was a proposed floor-price subsidy for Alaskan natural gas production. If implemented, this subsidy would severely distort the North American natural gas market and could harm the potential development of gas reserves in the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories was the first to oppose this ill-conceived subsidy. We lobbied very hard and very effectively against this measure. The Government of Canada, the United States administration and many members of the oil and gas industry in both countries also oppose the subsidy. We all agree the subsidy would favour gas production in one region to the detriment of gas production in all other regions of North America.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Energy Bill Conference has been unable to come to an agreement on this legislation. The Alaskan gas subsidy is one of the contentious issues that is still unresolved. We have been informed that Congress has adjourned for the upcoming mid-term elections in early November and has put the energy bill on hold for now.

When Congress reconvenes, we will continue to defend the interests of the Northwest Territories against any measures in the energy bill that puts our gas development potential at a disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, we have always believed that the timing and extent of northern gas development is best served by allowing industry to make market-based investment decisions and not by the interference of government. We will continue to work with the Government of Canada and the industry to ensure this occurs. Mahsi.

-- Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 79-14(5): United Way Payroll Deductions**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the first Northwest Territories Chapter of the United Way was launched in Yellowknife. I am pleased to announce today that the Government of the Northwest Territories has agreed to allow employees to donate to the United Way through payroll deductions.

Mr. Speaker, the United Way plays a very important role in fundraising efforts on behalf of charitable organizations. The local chapter is committed to building a strong and healthy community by responding to health and social service issues in our communities. Individuals can also choose to direct their gift to any registered charity in Canada or any of the 90 plus charities registered in the Northwest Territories. These are listed on the Yellowknife United Way Chapter's website at [www.yellowknife.unitedway.ca](http://www.yellowknife.unitedway.ca).

Mr. Speaker, the United Way is a widely known and respected institution in Canada which has established a presence in the Northwest Territories and are in the midst of the inaugural campaign. I understand that along with the GNWT, the City of Yellowknife and the federal government also offer this voluntary payroll deduction service to their employees and that the Union of Northern Workers and the Northwest Territories Federation of Labour have given support to this campaign.

It is expected that the first United Way payroll deductions from participating employees will likely begin in January 2003. Employees from across the Territories will be able to access this service and will be able to indicate which registered charity they wish to contribute to.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the GNWT is able to play a part in assisting the United Way efforts to raise donations. I believe this will greatly benefit charitable organizations across the Northwest Territories who continue to work hard for many good causes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Member's Statement on Gaps in the Student Financial Assistance System**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometimes as Regular Members we feel we bring constituency issues to Ministers, senior bureaucrats and to the floor of this House and we might as well be having a conversation with ourselves.

Although the solutions seem simple and prudent to us, the ability to get a timely and favourable response at times seems next to impossible. It can be very discouraging. Recently I had such an occasion to share such a constituent issue with Minister Jake Ootes regarding student financial assistance. It was a gap in the system that was not necessarily affecting a lot of people but creating serious hardship for the families and students that were affected.

My constituent's issue concerns students who are attending university but seemingly not belonging to any jurisdiction. We live in a very mobile society. We have students who may have received a good part of the K-12 education in the North. One example of a gap which existed is when one parent may have left the North and they shared a joint custody for a portion of their school years.

Even if the financially contributing parent was living in the North, the student's subsequent residency in another jurisdiction was affecting their access to student financial assistance.

Another scenario is a student growing up in the North, the family leaving prior to the student's entrance into post-secondary education. Now the parent is returning to the North, still being financially responsible for their son or daughter, but the student is being denied access to financial assistance because of their intervening absence from the North.

The problem presents in establishing residency for the purpose of accessing student financial assistance. Our Student Financial Assistance Program did not allow for recognition of a supporting parent's jurisdiction of residence or allow the students to re-establish their northern residency within a time frame consistent with other programs and services, thus making the student disqualified in the jurisdiction where they were attending school, because their family lives someplace else, and being enrolled in school they couldn't spend enough time at home on holidays to re-establish their residency. The student then would not be considered to be a resident anywhere.

When this situation was brought to the attention of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes, he and his department quickly recognized the deficiency of policy in this area and have committed to addressing the issue.

I can tell you this will come as very welcome news to some post-secondary students and families in my riding, and I would like to thank the Minister today for his timely action in response to this issue. Occasionally, some things happen that renew my

confidence as an elected representative on behalf of the people that I represent. I would like to thank Mr. Ootes and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, we marked Family Violence Awareness Week in the Northwest Territories, a time to pay attention to the problem of abuse in the Northwest Territories. Many of us participated in activities marking that event. Family violence is a serious problem in northern society.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of the front-line involved in ending violence, such as shelter workers, counsellors, police officers, social workers and the people offering victim services.

Though often hidden, one of the most disturbing forms of family violence, Mr. Speaker, is elder abuse. That form of violence has been a key concern of the NWT Seniors Society, who held their annual general meeting at the Baker Centre here in Yellowknife last week.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Seniors' Society can celebrate many accomplishments since their establishment in 1983. Over the years, the society has worked in partnership with other seniors' societies and with government and related organizations to improve the independence and quality of life for seniors in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, last year, they partnered with the victims' assistance committee to host workshops in Hay River and Yellowknife. The workshops concluded with a final report entitled "Taking Action on Elder Abuse."

Out of the Yellowknife meetings came a powerful list of goals. The first on that list was legislation to protect older adults. Mr. Speaker, the seniors society feels that our current legislation does not lend sufficient protection to elders in the Northwest Territories. In Alberta, they have several acts to increase the protection of elders. They have passed the Dependent Adults Act, the Nursing Homes Act, and they have the Protection Against Family Violence Act.

Mr. Speaker, our current legislation does not permit immediate protection from family violence like elder abuse. Police cannot obtain immediate protection orders over the phone. Victims are re-victimized by having to follow often overwhelming, cumbersome, time-consuming legal processes to obtain the protection they need immediately. Many are incapable of dealing with this volume of bureaucracy and process.

Mr. Speaker, many times I have asked the Minister to move quickly to enact family violence prevention legislation similar to that found in Alberta, PEI and most other Canadian jurisdictions. He keeps saying that they are studying the issue and makes no promise to move things along.

So again today, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister of Justice to reconsider his and his department's position and take immediate steps to implement an act protecting families against violence. I also urge the Minister to consider further specific legislation to protect those who have contributed so much and who will continue to be important teachers, caregivers and role models -- our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Establishment of a Dangerous Goods and Waste Management Site in Enterprise**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a matter that directly impacts the settlement of Enterprise. This matter is directly related to the handling of dangerous goods, and more specifically, that of ammonium nitrate within community boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that Enterprise is located such that it sees the majority of highway and rail traffic, both of which transport a large quantity of dangerous goods. In addition to ammonium nitrate being handled within the community, last winter's fuel haul to the mines alone was in excess of 10,000 loads -- all of which passed through Enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor of Enterprise, Ms. Winnie Cadieux, has informed me that positive steps are now being taken to address the concerns that were raised regarding the handling of ammonium nitrate within the community. Polar Explosives, the company handling the ammonium nitrate, has indicated a commitment to consult with and keep the community informed with respect to its activities in the area.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that productive meetings have taken place between the Settlement of Enterprise, Polar Explosives, Government of the Northwest Territories representatives and other stakeholders. From these meetings, an understanding was reached and a committee was formed from a cross-section of the meeting participants. This committee is tasked with the responsibility of addressing matters related to the movement of dangerous goods within and through the community.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, the settlement of Enterprise is a direct conduit for the passage of dangerous goods. Because of its location, Enterprise has identified a potential economic opportunity with respect to the handling and storage of not only dangerous goods, but waste products as well. This opportunity has spurred an initiative by the community to explore the feasibility of establishing a dangerous goods and regional waste management site that would be used for potential economic opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage and recommend to this government that it continue support to the Settlement of Enterprise by committing appropriate financial resources required to plan and research the feasibility of establishing a dangerous goods and regional waste management site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Inuvik Municipal Election Results**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Inuvik Twin Lakes and I would like to congratulate those who were elected in the recent elections in Inuvik. Elected to the town council for Inuvik were George Doolittle, Arlene Hansen, Derek Lindsay, Alfred Moses, Denny Rodgers, Cheryl Sharpe, Marja Van Nieuwenhuyzen and Clarence Wood.

We would also like to congratulate those who were elected to the Inuvik District Education Authority, and they were Jeffery Amos, Sue Clarkson, Shauna Grant, Judy Harder, Deanna Marie Jacobson, Shauna MacKay, and Ruth Wright. We would also like to thank those who spend time in those bodies working on behalf of our constituents through their previous work and those that ran but did not choose to run again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Stanton Hospital Nursing Shortage**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak to the nursing shortage issue at Stanton. In case there was any doubt left anywhere, it is critical to get our staff complement up to a full complement at Stanton.

A recent publication by the Journal of the American Medical Association, I think the report just came out yesterday, Mr. Speaker, spoke to the issue and studied the issue of over-worked nurses. Their findings indicated, Mr. Speaker, that for each additional post-surgery patient that a nurse has to take on, their increased chances of mortality are 7 percent greater.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this is a clear indication that we need to do something quickly about our staff shortage issue at Stanton. Last week, I spoke to it already in the House, Mr. Speaker, the GNWT came out in the local media indicating that we feel we have very competitive wages for nurses. And it would look the case, Mr. Speaker, when you look at entry-level nurses right out of school and we talk about minimum pay for nurses, we are high. I think we are second in the country when you adjust it for cost of living and for other bonuses, Mr. Speaker.

But if you look at the maximum rank, we find out that we are pretty middle of the road. We are about fifth in terms of other jurisdictions. Those are the nurses we are in critical shortage of. Clearly when we hear that the ICU is not reopened because we don't have the nurses with specific training and experience in order to re-open ICU, we know it's not just a matter of plugging nurses with lower levels of experience or lower skill levels in there, because I believe that there are no vacancies in those areas, Mr. Speaker.

So it is about addressing this critical shortage of experienced and skilled nurses, and we still continue to stand here, Mr. Speaker, as a government, and argue that, well, we are middle

of the road. We consider that competitive. Mr. Speaker, it is not going to get it done. I would suggest that if the Minister and the department, and indeed, this government, cannot recognize that, we are truly going to be in dire straits for some time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to also talk about the crisis at Stanton Hospital due to the shortage of staff. Mr. Speaker, as Member for Yellowknife South has already mentioned, I do not think we need to look at numbers or status to tell us what the real problem is with respect to the shortage of staff at the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, everyone tells us that our package for wages and benefits is just not competitive, and it really does not matter what the national status is or whatever, because the result is showing by the shortage of staff.

Another thing that really, really comes up all the time is the housing shortage. I have a case here that I could tell you, and that I want to tell the Minister about that. It illustrates what a problem housing and the cost of living and the cost of housing is having on these people on making a decision to stay here.

Mr. Speaker, in the beginning of September, I had a lady come to talk to me. She is a registered nurse. She is aboriginal. She was trained here and she has worked as casual staff at the hospital for a very long time. Finally, this fall, she had a job offer to work as a permanent nurse. She is a Northerner. After much consideration, she had to turn down that job because she just could not afford to buy a house and she could not qualify for any government programs that are available because she was already making money. She just did not make enough money, even with nurses' wages, to live here. She is a Northerner. She went to the recruitment office, they dismissed her. "We can't do anything for you. Go away."

She was totally shocked, as would be any reasonable person, after all she has heard about the lack of nurses and how the government wants to attract nurses and they want to attract northern nurses. Nobody wanted to help her.

I wrote a letter to the Minister. The Minister wrote me back three weeks later saying, "We will have our compensation person call her." I talked to her yesterday and she did not hear from anybody. She heard nothing. She has left town. She said to me, "Tell the Minister if he wants me to work on a casual basis, I am ready. If he will fly me in and put me in a hotel and pay me the wages he is paying for everybody else." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

### Member's Statement on Support for Negotiated Contracts

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the negotiated contracts. Mr. Speaker, I agree with negotiated contracts. Negotiated contracts look at training, opportunities where employment is low. They look at the benefit to the community and the benefit to the Northwest Territories' government.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke yesterday about the work that the Department of Transportation did on Highway No. 6 and how an opportunity was lost and at the same time, shoddy work was done. I am speaking again today on that same issue and I would like to work with the Department of Transportation to see what can be done to include the community of Fort Resolution in that resurfacing work that is ongoing for the next few years. There is some money committed by this government for next year and the following year. I believe if we partner up with the community and through the community, get some federal funding and access the training and education experience of Aurora College, we could make this work, Mr. Speaker.

I think the negotiated contracts right across the board make sense to the people of the Northwest Territories and it makes sense to this government, similar to the negotiated contract that has been discussed in the paper, in the House today with the water bomber contracts, I think that is a good thing.

Not to change the issue, but if it helps people in the Northwest Territories, why not, Mr. Speaker? I will be asking the Minister of Transportation questions on the possibility of working in partnership between the Department of Transportation, the community of Fort Resolution and other agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

### Member's Statement on Cost Overruns on Capital Projects

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through the life of this Assembly there have been many occasions where there have been cost overruns on capital projects. One of the most recent examples is the North Slave Correctional Facility which has had cost overruns during each phase of its development.

Mr. Speaker, these cost overruns are not small sums of money. They involve millions of dollars. Along with the cost overruns, there have been different adjustments to capital plans, Ministers write to Regular Members informing them that money has been reallocated from one project to another. Sometimes these funds are reallocated from one riding to another without any discussion at all.

Mr. Speaker, also, special warrants for funding are another way money is issued for projects not in our business plans. Mr. Speaker, as Members of this Legislature, we gather together and determine annual budgets. We lobby hard for our regions and the projects within it. It is not fair that hard-won projects are affected by funding transfers from one area to another.

Mr. Speaker, with all of these cost overruns, I see two things happening. The first and most obvious is that community

projects that are really needed are not considered. An example is a need for addictions and health centres in the Territories.

The second thing that is happening is that a substantial debt is going to be handed over to the next Assembly. Mr. Speaker, are these multi-million dollar cost overruns, budget adjustments and special warrants a result of poor planning, or are they a case of ministerial mismanagement or, are they simply an unavoidable fact of life?

I am sure your constituents would like to know the answers to these questions as I find it very difficult to guarantee them that new or already planned projects will occur without these funding reallocations. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this later. Thank you.

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

### Member's Statement on Petition to Address Tenant Rental Increases

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the past few weeks and again at a constituency meeting last week, I have heard more and more evidence of how low and middle income people are getting hurt in the housing crunch here in Yellowknife. Consider, Mr. Speaker, the case of the 60-year-old single woman who saw her rent jump by 12 percent of January of this year and just received notice that it will rise by another 14 percent this coming January. A \$205 increase in just over 13 months.

Consider the single pensioner living on his own trailer on a rented lot who saw his monthly rent soar by 66 percent, from \$300 to \$500 and then months later was essentially evicted.

Consider the plight of 61 individuals and families on the waiting list for the five transitional housing units provided by our government and administered by the YWCA.

Consider the lack of choice or opportunity for the 150 people now on the waiting list for public housing through the Yellowknife Housing Authority.

Now, Mr. Speaker, consider that our Landlord and Tenancy Act offers no legislative right for tenants to appeal what they feel may be unwarranted rent increases or related disputes. The only provision that it makes is that a landlord can increase rents in any 12-month period and must give 90 days notice. There is no other mechanism for rent management.

We do have a territorial rentals officer but he has no guidelines or appeal mechanism for helping either tenants or the landlords who have issues around rate increases.

Mr. Speaker, in a lot of other areas we have mechanisms for making appeals. We can appeal court orders, job offers, compensation claims, tax rulings, student financial assistance, even parking tickets, but we do not have a way of addressing something that affects thousands of Northerners every month and that is the rent that we pay for our homes.

Our legislation can offer more help if we create a practical way for either side to have their case heard and adjudication. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, MLAs in this Assembly asked our Minister of Justice to consider looking into

ways to manage this. We did not get the answers that we had hoped for.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is where the people who are most affected are prepared to take action. I have been working with two of these people, Mark Zimmer and Barry Newman, both owners of small businesses in Yellowknife and both tenants, to develop a petition that will go into circulation today and hopefully, Mr. Speaker, will capture an audience across the Northwest Territories.

The petition urges two things. One is for the government of the Northwest Territories to create effective ways for tenants and landlords to resolve disputes regarding excessive rent increases, and the other is to work with developers to enable construction of affordable rental housing in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, this is not rent control. I want to state right now that I am not in favour of rent control. I will oppose any measure that tries to set absolute control in how a landlord runs his business. I must reinforce, Mr. Speaker, that the messages I am getting from my constituents cannot be ignored. We are not going to take the Minister's initial response as the final word and that is what this petition is about.

I want to congratulate Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Newman for taking the initiative and trying to make a difference. I look forward to bringing a well-signed petition back into this Assembly next February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Fuel Subsidy for Persons with Disabilities**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, two groups in Hay River that I have been working closely with since being elected are the senior citizens and the persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is a very important day. That being the International Day of Disabled Persons. It is indeed my sincere pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to publicly acknowledge this very important date. I must clarify, Mr. Speaker, that while this day should be recognized, we should be celebrating the accomplishments of persons with disabilities every day of the year.

Mr. Speaker, persons with disabilities have every right to participate fully in our society and partake in all that life has to offer. They are equal citizens and are entitled to equal access to all programs and services offered by this government. It is truly a tribute to the betterment of society, Mr. Speaker, when government accomplishes things with people instead of in

isolation. Our government functions best when we as leaders work side by side with citizens who are in the best position to convey their needs and propose solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard many times from constituents with disabilities in Hay River at the troubles and frustrations that they face when it comes to dealing with the bureaucracy that is government.

Mr. Speaker, the current provisions of the federal government disability pension are very prohibitive to persons with disabilities. The pension monies provided are very minimal, and often place a person with disabilities under a great deal of stress, especially when they are trying to maintain their own homes and an independent lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Minister of Education for the excellent program his department provides by way of a fossil fuel subsidy for seniors. The new sliding scale for seniors income thresholds, introduced by the Department of Education, is welcome news for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Minister that while I am very pleased with the fossil fuel subsidy for seniors, I believe it should also be supplied for persons with disabilities living on a very limited income. Persons with disabilities, Mr. Speaker, are often attempted to maintain their own homes on an average income of under \$12,000 a year. Mr. Speaker, I know from documentation I received about the seniors fossil fuel subsidy that seniors can receive a subsidy of 100 percent of their fuel cost if their yearly household income is between \$35,000...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The time for your Member's statement is up. Mr. Delorey.

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

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

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you, colleagues. Seniors can receive a subsidy of 100 percent of their fuel costs if their yearly household income is between \$35,000 and \$36,429. Many persons with disabilities have a yearly income of a lot less than \$35,000. Please do not get me wrong, Mr. Speaker. The seniors receiving this subsidy have every right and justification for receiving it. I just think that low-income disabled persons should be entitled to the government's fossil fuel subsidy as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about one of the most important assets in our communities and in our lives -- our elders. Mr. Speaker, our

small communities depend on our elders for knowledge, for support and also for being there for the family as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Fort McPherson has been requesting for some time that we consider a long-term facility in Fort McPherson to ensure that our elders can live out their lives in the community of Fort McPherson without having to leave the community and be put in long-term facilities either in Aklavik or Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, this summer at the Gwich'in assembly, the community passed a motion at the assembly directing this government to consider the establishment of a long-term facility in Fort McPherson. Also, Mr. Speaker, there was a similar motion passed at the community assembly in Fort McPherson to work with this government to establish such a facility in the community of Fort McPherson to keep our elders in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the community feels that they have the resources, they have the personnel and they have the ability to take on such a facility and to manage the facility within the community as a whole. Mr. Speaker, such a facility will ensure that the community members and the community do not have to continue seeing our elders leave our communities, and in most cases, not live out the rest of the time that they have with us in our home communities.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, I have been lobbying the Minister of the Housing Corporation and the Minister of Health and Social Services, to see what this government can do to carry out this important initiative. Yet to date, Mr. Speaker, I have not seen any correspondence or any information in regard to what the status of this correspondence to the Ministers are, so Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Ministers questions on this matter. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

#### **Member's Statement on Results of the Acho Dene First Nation Band Council Elections**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the MLA for Nahendeh, I rise today to speak about one of the six communities that I represent in my constituency. I would like to talk about and say a few things about Fort Liard today. As you know, Mr. Speaker, and people in the North know that the chief and council has been, over the last five or six years, been very involved in resource development and the gas exploration, and they have taken the forefront and a leadership role in that endeavour. They had some success as well.

As the MLA, when we represent these communities, we work closely with the chief and council. I just wanted to mention that as of last May, there was a chief and council election in Fort Liard. They have had a new chief and council for the last four-and-a-half months. I would like to congratulate and acknowledge Chief Floyd Bertrand in the four-and-a-half months of his tenure so far, as well as the six councillors. I just wanted to congratulate and encourage them to keep working for the people; Joanne Deneron, Julie Capablanck, Eva Hope, Floyd Diamond'c, Joe Bertrand, Stanley Bertrand, along with

two youth councillors that they have elected to the council; Francine Kotchea, as well as Dion Bertrand.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we tour around our communities and we work very closely with the community leadership. They work very hard for their own people in their own communities and they know what is required in their communities. It is a pleasure in the past to have worked with the previous chief, Ms. Judy Kotchea. I would like to acknowledge the hard work that she's put in for the people. As a former chief of the Acho Dene First Nation, Ms. Kotchea has taken a position as a school counsellor at the Acho Dene School in Fort Liard, so I am sure that she will do a fine job there as well.

The honorary chief, Harry Deneron, from Fort Liard has always played a key role in his community. It is a pleasure working with all of these people. Mahsi. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### **Member's Statement on Election of N'dilo Chief Darrell Beaulieu**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Darrell Beaulieu of N'dilo was elected as the chief of N'dilo for a three-year term.

-- Applause

From 1988 to 1997, Chief Beaulieu served two years as a Yellowknives Dene First Nation councillor and eight years as chief of N'dilo. Mr. Beaulieu has been a tireless worker for his community, as well as for the NWT. He is the past director and president of Deton'Cho Corporation. He is also the president and director of the Denendeh Development Corporation, and he served on the board of directors for Northland Utilities Enterprise Limited and Northland Utilities, NWT Limited, and Northland Utilities Yellowknife Limited.

He is also founding director and served as president of Deton'Cho Diamonds Incorporated. Mr. Beaulieu currently co-chairs the Education, Culture and Employment mine training committee, serves as vice-chair of the NWT Business Credit Corporation, and is a director on the board for the Northwest Territories Business Development Corporation.

As chief of N'dilo, Mr. Beaulieu is particularly interested in the settlement of the Akaitcho aboriginal claim and the importance to the Yellowknife Dene membership of managing the various governments and economic issues they face.

I congratulate Chief Beaulieu and look forward to working with him over the next years. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

**Member's Statement on Contributions of Bob's Welding (1983) Limited**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a sense of satisfaction today that I highlight another small business that symbolizes a northern success story. They have been a vital contributor to my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes. Mr. Speaker, today I speak of Bob's Welding 1983 Limited, which has been in existence since that year. Bob's Welding, as the company is known locally, employs between 15 and 20 employees on an intermittent basis, depending on the level of business.

Bob's Welding has ventures in welding but it also does other business in household construction, gravel crushing, barging, and has investments in crane operations. Bob's Welding is owned and operated by Bob Gully and his family in Inuvik who are residents of Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Today I am pleased to extend my congratulatory remarks to a company that provides employment opportunities to the constituents of Inuvik Twin Lakes and to the residents of Inuvik.

Before that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment or two and on behalf of my colleague from Inuvik Boot Lake recognize Mayor Peter Clark from Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I hope you realize that you used two days of Member's statements in one. Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, Members' statements. Are there any further Members' statements? Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitor's gallery of the Auditor General of Canada, Ms. Sheila Fraser. Please welcome her to the Assembly.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago I talked about Jean Marie River and congratulated Fred Norwegian but today I would like to recognize Stan Sangris who is the chief from Jean Marie River. Last summer he acted as grand chief for a few months there for the Deh Cho First Nation. I would like to welcome and recognize Stan Sangris.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize Allan Landry, better known as Julien Landry, and he plays a big role in the Northwest Territories. He is the chair of the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Board, chair of the Deh Cho Education Board and he is also chair of the Aboriginal Sports Circle. Thank you and welcome Allan.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** I want to thank the Member for Nahendeh for recognizing my constituent. I cannot see from here, but I would

also like to recognize Julien Landry who is here to observe our pages from Kakisa and as Mr. Antoine has stated wears too many hats to mention. I would like to welcome him and Stan Sangris, the former chief of Jean Marie River to the House. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize two people from Yellowknife who are working to make a difference and I am happy to be working with them on the housing petition, Mr. Mark Zimmer and Mr. Barry Newman. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine in the gallery, an avid political watcher and a watcher of what is going on in this House, Mr. David Lee Rose.

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

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Stan Sangris as well. He has participated in our work on the Special Committee on Non-Tax-Based Communities and also Mr. Julien Landry, with all the things he does he is an avid hockey player and it is said during our carnival that the race is not over until Julien comes in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

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

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people, Julien Landry, he is the chair of the Deh Cho Education Council and a great supporter of the education system. I would also like to recognize another member of the Auditor General's staff, Roger Simpson, an acquaintance for some years now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the people who have come to the Legislative Assembly and certainly the Auditor General and welcome to our fine facility. Thank you for coming to watch the Assembly in action. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS****Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I made reference to the long-term facility in Fort McPherson. Mr. Speaker, there have been several motions passed in regard to the Gwich'in Tribal Assembly in Aklavik this summer and also a community assembly. There has been correspondence that has been passed back and forth between the different Ministers, the community and myself.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Fort McPherson has a population of about 1,000 people. They have a seniors' facility which had been built some 30 years ago, but yet, Mr. Speaker, we continue to have to send our elders to Inuvik or Aklavik to the long-term care facility there.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is time that we devolve that authority to the communities to ensure the communities take on that responsibility and also deliver those programs in affected communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, has he been able to take the time to see if there is a possibility to work with his colleague from the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to establish such a facility in Fort McPherson?

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

**Return to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the concern raised by the Member. We have a file with some extensive documentation. At this present time there is no funding in the department's capital plan for any new facilities.

The new hospital in Inuvik has had an additional eight beds added into the design which will bring the total of 32 beds in the Inuvik region for long-term care. We are however looking at expanding the home support services and supported living programs that we deliver across the North where I think there is room for us to help accommodate the intent of the people of Fort McPherson to keep elders in their home for as long as possible. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have established those facilities in other communities in the Northwest Territories. With this program, we have the Minister of Health and Social Services along with the Minister of the Housing Corporation who both together have to move on these initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned a couple areas where he is looking at transferring different programs such as the Home

Care Program and Community Wellness Program. We have a lot of programs being delivered in the community of Fort McPherson right now and I believe that we do have the capacity in the community to deliver these programs for our seniors.

I would like to ask the Minister, have you consulted with the Minister of the Housing Corporation to look at the possibility of establishing a new seniors' facility in Fort McPherson with the opportunity to consider taking on this responsibility down the road?

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

**Further Return to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Housing and I have had preliminary discussions. If it is the wish of the community to have issues addressed with the existing seniors' facility in terms of the deficiencies and inadequacies then that is clearly an existing program that is there to be looked at.

If it is, as I understand it to be, a request for a long-term care facility then that is an issue that falls within, at this point, the mandate of Health and Social Services and as I just indicated, there is currently no funding in the capital plan for any new long-term care facilities in the Northwest Territories. We are looking at trying to, as I indicated, expand our home care and supported home living programs which is where I think there will be room to try to accommodate the interests of the people of Fort McPherson. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned in my statement that the facility in Fort McPherson is some 30 years old. It was built back in those days when we did not have the luxury of having good accommodations for an area for the family and community to get together. All it is is a bunch of rooms that facilitate individual members, but there is no room there for couples.

I would like to ask the Minister, would he consider looking at the possibility of a replacement of the existing facility in Fort McPherson?

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

**Further Return to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do remember touring the facility with the Member when we were in Fort McPherson and I can appreciate and I recollect the state of the facility and the concerns that the Member raised.

I will commit to revisit this issue with the Minister of Housing to see if it is an issue of improving or trying to address deficiencies in the current facility. We will see what is possible. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Minister is going to look into this but I just would like to remind the Minister that there is a financial cost to a renovation of this facility. I believe the cost we are looking at is somewhere around half a million dollars.

I would like to ask the Minister, under the financial restraint we are in, would it not be appropriate to replace the facility with a new facility rather than strictly renovating the existing facility? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 382-14(5): Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility for Fort McPherson**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, there are financial restraints that we all must deal with and as I indicated there is no money in our capital plan for any new proposed long-term care facilities in the North.

My discussions with the Minister of Housing will focus on what is potentially possible in terms of improving the current structure that is there and the program that is currently being delivered there. Thank you.

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

**Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an unofficial survey of municipalities taken in 2000 indicated that there were very few persons with disabilities that would qualify for a fossil fuel subsidy. It is a difficult thing for municipalities to quantify.

However, in 2000 the municipality of Fort Smith had six people that would have been eligible, Inuvik had one person, and Hay River, to the best of my calculations, would have had less than a dozen. We are not dealing with a large group of people, Mr. Speaker, but we are dealing with a very large need.

I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister for Disabled People and the Minister for Seniors is Mr. Miltenberger. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

I would like to ask the Minister, what programs does he currently have in place dealing in the area of a fossil fuel

subsidy that could be accessible to persons with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a good subject. What may not be available to some individuals is the possibility of accessing income support, Mr. Speaker, in the event that individuals have inadequate income they can then apply for income support to assist them and through income support, we provide income support clients, they receive fuel payments and housing costs, Mr. Speaker. That is an opportunity for individuals to access should they wish to do so. It is a financial means test on it. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is that simple for persons with disabilities to get access for fuel subsidies, particularly through low income.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier in my Member's statement that we as legislators have to be vigilant in remembering the needs of persons with disabilities. Would the Minister please state if he would be willing to open up the fuel subsidy program to persons with disabilities who receive a federal disability pension and fall below the approved income thresholds?

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

**Further Return to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned there is a possibility for individuals to access our income support program which does cover fuel costs. That is available to individuals. Also, Mr. Speaker, there is a Disability Steering Committee partnership which was launched under the direction of the Premier and that has the ADM of Health and Social Services and the Council of Persons with Disabilities as co-chairs. They are putting forward a report that we expect will be brought forward before the year ends.

Through that process, perhaps this issue can be addressed if there is a gap beyond what we can provide, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister says that there is a process in place that persons with disabilities can access. I would like the Minister to commit to reviewing this program of fuel subsidies and make sure that this program is

available to persons with disabilities using the same criteria that is used for seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will ensure that the Disability Steering Committee partnership is made aware of this, I think that is the appropriate process to use in order to address the honourable Member's question.

I totally agree that we need to ensure that we look at this but I want to do it in the proper fashion, Mr. Speaker, by ensuring that we look at the total issue, where the gap may be.

As I mentioned, we have our particular programs in place and if there is an oversight there or a gap then we can address it through the steering committee to see how we address it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been addressed to me on a number of occasions from persons with disabilities. Now that winter is upon us, this program is becoming very much timely.

Would the Minister commit to some timelines to when we can get some answers for persons with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 383-14(5): Fuel Subsidy for Persons With Disabilities**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Disabilities Steering Committee partnership is looking at November as a possibility of bringing in an initial report, so I can make sure that we address that with the disability steering committee immediately.

In the meantime, if Mr. Delorey has specific cases that we could look at in case of hardship, then we can certainly see what we can do to help out. Thank you.

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

**Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley.

As I mentioned in my Member's statement, during the life of this Assembly, there has been a continuous stream of cost

overruns, adjustments to capital projects and special warrants for project money not discussed during our business plans.

I would like to ask the Minister, what guarantees can the Minister give to the MLAs and the people of the Northwest Territories that projects that are in the business plans will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to give a categorical guarantee that all projects in the business plan will be completed. I can give the Member assurances that we will make every effort to make sure those projects are completed, but recognize that there are circumstances beyond our control, sometimes that makes it impossible to complete some projects. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rae-Edzo last year, a single bridge was built because the government would not give an extra \$40,000, but I see special warrants are being used in other ridings -- in the ridings of Ministers. I would like to ask the Minister, is the Minister aware of any cost overruns, budget adjustments or special warrants before the next budget session in February? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley -- I am not sure what the question was there, but...thank you. Mr. Handley, a question for you.

**Further Return to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, other than those that were tabled and discussed in committee of the whole yesterday, I don't know of any other cost overruns that we are looking at for the balance of this year. There may be some, but I am not aware of any right now. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, are there any departmental plans being developed that might involve special warrants before the next session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, none that I know of. It may give some comfort as well. Yesterday I said that we would give a monthly update on any special warrants, or any special warrants that come forward. I will certainly make sure that we do that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister is going to let us know month-by-month what they have already spent, but what is the Minister doing to ensure that there aren't anymore cost overruns on any projects in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 384-14(5): Cost Overruns on Capital Projects**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, it is not just myself but all of us in Cabinet who make every effort to ensure that our estimates on any project are as accurate as they possibly can be.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

Having said that, we have in fact had some discussion about the need possibly to have more detailed estimates of proposed capital projects in particular where we felt there may be some question about the accuracy of the initial estimates. Thank you.

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

**Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is further to my statement I made this morning. Mr. Speaker, every information that I have is that the operation of many units at the hospital are still at a critical stage. Everybody is still working extra shifts and extra hours to keep the system going and to keep it from falling apart.

Mr. Speaker, as the example I gave indicated, there is a serious lack of understanding on the part of the department and the Minister about what the solution may be to this problem. My question to the Minister is when will he stop looking at the computer database and listen to all of this technical information? When will he stop doing that and listen to the real people who tell him that the real issues are housing and benefits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have travelled to 32 communities since last November and I, as well as the people who work in the department, make it an ongoing habit to talk to what the Member referred to as real people. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe he has addressed any of the aspects of the various serious question that I asked, which is that there are real people doing real work at the hospital, taking care of the people, telling them that there are not enough people to do the job. When will the Minister stop saying that he is paying them enough and that they are being competitive when the real situation shows otherwise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that I am aware of. I am paying attention. I do acknowledge and recognize where we stand in terms of salary and compensation and benefits. We have a document in the works that is being re-written. It just came through a review from the Social Programs Committee that will speak to some of the issues in regard to recruitment and retention, which will be brought forward to Cabinet here in the next few days, so we are looking at this issue very seriously on a regular, ongoing basis, not only in terms of making sure services levels are maintained, but how do we address some of the issues, both in the short term and in the long term? Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while the Minister continues to shuffle his papers and defer action by having a review after review and study, I am here to tell the Minister that there are real people turning down jobs at the hospital because they cannot afford to live here. What is the Minister doing about it other than shuffling papers, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of housing is one that affects many communities. I know in Yellowknife, which is the victim of its own success, the cost of living is prohibitive, especially on the housing side. The Government of the Northwest Territories is not in the housing market anymore. We are trying to look at options to deal with that issue. I also would like to commend Mr. Braden for his initiative and some of his constituents in terms of trying to deal with what I see as incredible rent gouging that goes on in this community that makes it impossible for people to live.

We have to work as a government on this one, but we are coming forward with options through Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if everybody heard it, but he said everything but answering my question. Commending Mr. Braden, that is great -- housing is a problem. My question is what is he going to do about that, because as he stands here and, speaking the way he does and not dealing with the issue, his staff is not answering any questions about recruitment and retention. When people go there and say "I can't take this job because I can't afford to live here" there's no answer. What is he doing about that, Mr. Speaker?

I don't appreciate him answering nothing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. This is not the House of Commons. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return to Question 385-14(5): Stanton Hospital Staffing Shortages**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I have answered the Member's question. The member may not like the answer. Thank you.

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

**Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question would be directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. It is regarding an issue that has been ongoing in my community since spring of last year when the department issued a request for proposals on ice road construction between the communities of Inuvik, Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, the department went out with an RFP that had two options that bidders could put their proposals in as, and from the information we have been able to get back, options A and B were not compared to who had the lowest option. A contract was issued. Since then, I have heard the contract has been assigned to another contractor. There are a whole lot of

questions that are developing around this ice road request for proposals. I would like to know from the Minister of Transportation, what is he doing to clear the air around this contract? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. When the Department of Transportation issued a request for proposals for three distinct pieces of ice road and offered the contractor two options to bid by it, it made for a very complex process. We have been talking about this one for some time and following up on the issues that have been raised, questions about it, I have asked the department to have an independent third party to look at the way we have awarded this contract. The department is comfortable that nothing was wrong, but we are going to have a third party look at it in any case to ensure that all procedures were followed correctly. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister inform us as to when this review will be done and concluded? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the department is speaking with the Audit Bureau this week and we hope that they can do it quickly. We would like to use them if possible as the third party. If they cannot do it then we will start to look outside of government to have someone else do it.

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

**Supplementary to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, is there a time line to this? Contractors are waiting to see the results of this. Those that were interested and bid are now looking from the outside in and want to know when this will be done. Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we will do it as quickly as we can. I will try to have it done within the next two weeks. I

cannot give any assurance right now because we have not confirmed anything with the people doing the review, but as fast as we can I will keep the Member and other interested parties informed as it moves along. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister also inform us, since we will be out of session at that time, how he will get that information to us as the results are made known? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 386-14(5): Delta Ice Roads Request for Proposals**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I will follow up with the Member by telephone and in writing. Thank you.

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

**Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my Member's statement earlier today, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, a full range of stakeholder groups, including the Northwest Territories Seniors Society have called on this government to bring in family violence prevention legislation.

I have been questioning the Member for a long time now to move on this. When will the Minister finally complete this review and tell this House when he is going to bring forward family violence prevention legislation?

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

**Return to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been informed that the research is near conclusion. We will be bringing forth the recommendations of the research in the very near future. I cannot give a specific date. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to, after he leaves the House today, going to his department and requesting that they give him the information he needs to come back to this House during this session and let us know what they propose to do.

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

**Further Return to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am prepared to do that although I should allude to the fact that there are several outstanding issues currently being developed through the process that addresses some of the outstanding questions. I will make an effort to respond back to the Member.

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

**Supplementary to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister also undertake to review whether or not the Northwest Territories has adequate legislation to protect seniors, legislation similar to that found in Alberta, the Dependent Adults Act and the Nursing Homes Act? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will undertake to find out the particular information required and I will respond back. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell us when he will come back with that information? Will it be in this session or will it be within this calendar year? What will the date be that he will get us the answer? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 387-14(5): Family Violence Prevention Legislation**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope to have the report completed by late this fall and hopefully I will be returning to Cabinet for a decision. I do not know if that will be done in the very near future. Thank you.

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

**Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum. As the MLA for the Deh Cho, we are

not active participants in the Intergovernmental Forum, however we are watching with keen interest.

It was reported to us that a federal negotiator for the federal devolution talks was appointed, Mr. David Peterson. ... (inaudible) ... also from the reports from the Minister we have become aware that Mr. Peterson has no mandate to negotiate the net fiscal benefits.

It is also being interpreted to mean that he will not negotiate with the aboriginal people of the North for resource revenue negotiations. Could the Minister clarify what that means? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Minister responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum, Mr. Antoine.

**Return to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Intergovernmental Forum that we had undertaken a couple of years now with the federal government along with the aboriginal governments to appoint negotiators. The federal government has recently negotiated the former Premier of Ontario, David Peterson and his first initial visit, and upon questioning his terms of reference we find out that his terms of reference are from DIAND representing the federal government and his mandate is to negotiate the programs and services that DIAND currently provides in the Northwest Territories.

This Intergovernmental Forum is for devolution of the powers and authorities. It is still controlled by Canada, our lands, water and resources. The intention here in the Intergovernmental Forum on our part, and the Aboriginal Summit's part, from what I gather, is to gain control in the North of the lands, waters and resources, including the royalties and the taxes that flow from the development of our resources.

At this initial meeting, we found that David Peterson does not have the mandate from Finance Canada which would deal with the net fiscal benefits of resources and revenues flowing from the resources. So I will answer as such. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very interesting to hear that. I would like to follow up with a question to the Minister asking if the members of the Aboriginal Summit are still going to pursue these talks and if indeed we, as the Northwest Territories government, are also going to participate since a big portion of what we were expecting to negotiate is no longer there. I would like to ask the Minister if he could answer that, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, this is the very first initial meeting with David Peterson. There is a negotiation session of the Intergovernmental Forum set to take place in mid-November and we are intending to pursue this further, through a joint working relationship with the Aboriginal Summit and ourselves in developing a joint letter to both Minister Nault and Minister Manley in regard to our concern of the mandate.

We fully intend to work together and pursue that there be a full mandate, either through separate tables or representative of Finance Canada at a single table, we intend to pursue that at this point in time. Thank you.

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

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you.

-- Technical Difficulties

**MR. SPEAKER:** We have stopped the clock. Okay we can restart the clock. We seem to have regained technical control. Your supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to indicate that I certainly will not be holding my breath when it comes to pursuing this with the federal Ministers. If there is any historical track record, we have not been very successful. I do want to ask the Minister though, it seems we as regular MLAs have only been made aware that the net fiscal benefit was not part of the negotiations. I would like to ask the Minister if he could tell me when he knew or when Cabinet knew that it was not going to be part of the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Supplementary to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our first initial meeting with David Peterson, I do not know what date it was but it was about three weeks ago when we first realized that there was a problem. It is a serious concern to all of us. We were hoping that he would have the full mandate to talk about devolution as well as net fiscal benefits. Our intention here is to pursue it and we informed the Aboriginal Summit. They are fully aware of this situation and the intention here is to work together, both with Manley and Nault to see if we could fix this concern before we get any further down the line. If we do not, then we will have to decide at that point in time if it is worth pursuing in the form that it is in. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**MR. MCLEOD:** I have talked to some members in the Aboriginal Summit and have also heard from Mr. Bob Simpson who has stated in the media that he knew for well over a year. I would like to know where our negotiators and staff were during this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 388-14(5): Federal Devolution Negotiators' Mandate**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were hoping that Mr. Peterson, when he got his terms of reference, that he had the full mandate. We were aware that there was a possibility that he might not. The first indication that he did not have this full mandate that we were hoping for was about three weeks ago when we first met with this person. Yes, our negotiators were there and we were aware of the background discussions that were going on between the staff, and we kind of had an indication of what the thinking was on the federal government's part, but we were there. Thank you.

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

**Question 389-14(5): GNWT Procurement Practices**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier and it is about the procurements practices of this government. I have had a number of constituents raise concerns with me recently. We know that Cabinet decided to waive the Business Incentive Policy on the North Slave correctional facility, phase 2. Their rationale was that they thought it might save us money. Of course, we do not know what the BIP cost is, but never mind that for now. Then also recently, in direct contradiction to that it seems, Mr. Speaker, we decided we were going to get into a negotiated contract situation for water bombing as it relates to forest fire fighting because, Mr. Speaker, we think that a monopoly situation can save us money.

I am wondering why the Cabinet would take such a direct contradiction of position when it comes to procurement in this case.

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

**Return to Question 389-14(5): GNWT Procurement Practices**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some years ago this government took measures to ensure that the work necessary to have the water bombers and land-based fire fighting operations be contracted to northern businesses, for the benefit of northern businesses that would hire northern people and base their operations here in the North. That was an expensive exercise that some of us were involved in, and we believe that after a significant amount of investment the contractor, Buffalo Airways, has done a very good job, in the view of this government, and has invested a

significant amount of money, time and energy to carry out that responsibility in the contract arrangement with this government.

The contract requires certain types of work to be done, certain facilities to be available and certain lease arrangements to be made, including with the federal government. These are not arrangements and circumstances that come about easily, and are not readily available to just anyone. In our view, we felt that as an executive there were some compelling reasons why we should consider, in reviewing the good performance of the contractor, in this case to extend. We felt that the benefits ensured evident ongoing benefits to the North of the initial arrangements we made were clear and substantial, and felt it warranted giving the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development a mandate to negotiate to see if the current provisions could be negotiated to the satisfaction of both parties. This is currently what we are doing. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 389-14(5): GNWT Procurement Practices**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I am not here to argue the performance of the current contractor, from all accounts that I have heard it has been very good. I think, Mr. Speaker, there have been many concerns and I would like some acknowledgement of that about our procurement practices. We heard in the House Mr. Roland today talking of concerns about an ice road RFP in Inuvik, and that an independent third party we now know will be looking into that contract. We know we are going to have an independent review of the correctional centre fiasco.

Mr. Speaker, there just seems to be an inordinate number of procurement concerns. Would the Premier acknowledge that.

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

**Further Return to Question 389-14(5): GNWT Procurement Practices**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government handles many contracts over the course of a year. There are many circumstances to be considered. Sometimes they may not be evident to all of us in the same way, but there is reason for the actions we take and we are at the Legislature here to be accountable for the decisions we make. All the actions we take, of course, are actions we should be accountable for. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 389-14(5): GNWT Procurement Practices**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well my constituents are telling me that we may very well have reasons, but they are very difficult to decipher. Some of us have suggested that other jurisdictions have statutory officers in charge of procurement and they provide annual reports to be tabled in the House so that we can see which departments are contravening our procurement policies and, indeed, which departments are in compliance. I am wondering if the Premier would consider such

an arrangement if a recommendation came from this side of the House. Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 389-14(5): GNWT Procurement Practices**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature are free to make recommendations to us. We believe it is their duty to forward recommendations with substance and with merit so that we can consider them in clearing out the work that is given us to do. Yes, if the Member has recommendations to make in this regard and wants us to review that and give it consideration we would be pleased to do so. Thank you.

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

**Question 390-14(5): Contract for Highway No. 6 Upgrading**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, we just heard our Premier talk about the goodness of negotiated contracts. I would like to speak to him on that issue.

Mr. Speaker, in Fort Resolution, we have Nuni Corporation which currently has a negotiated contract with the Department of Transportation to maintain Highway No. 6. We are doing resurfacing work and all the good things that the negotiated contracts do is something I would like to see the department do.

I would like to see if the Minister would commit to negotiating the contract for surface upgrade and chipsealing on Highway No. 6 with Nuni Corporation and the community of Fort Resolution. Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 390-14(5): Contract for Highway No. 6 Upgrading**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a very clear policy on negotiated Transportation contracts. Certainly within that policy, I am open to considering a negotiated contract in the case that Mr. Nitah is referring to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. No further supplementaries? Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the employees at the Hay River Community Health Board. I would like to continue my line of questioning.

Mr. Speaker, when the department was looking at taking over the employees of the health board under the government, there

was an amount set aside as to what the department thought it would cost them to do that. Unfortunately, that amount was grossly underestimated, which put a stop to that process. I wonder if the Minister could tell this House how much money this department has put aside in order to see parity brought to the members of the union in Hay River right now, or how much is the department anticipating it will cost to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we initially contemplated the transfer, as we publicly stated, we looked at \$440,000 worth of ongoing costs, and approximately \$336,000 one-time costs, which as the Member accurately stated, we are somewhat under...the term he used was, I think, grossly underestimated.

We had moved to a process of negotiation with the existing local. That process is underway. It would not be appropriate for me as Minister to comment on the money that may or may not be involved in that process. It is going to be done in good faith and it will address many of the issues that my colleague has touched on. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has stated that there will need to be some legislative change in order to bring about the contract that he is pushing to see in Hay River. Will the Minister inform the House where that legislation is now, and when does he think this legislation will be passed? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are planning to have that legislation ready no later than the February session. If possible, we would like to get it done this session, but that is not confirmed yet. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that is involved here, Mr. Speaker, is the board. I would like the Minister to state what his involvement is, or what his mandate is in the selection and appointment of board

members to the Hay River Community Health Board now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this present time under the structure that is currently there with the authority constituted under the Societies Act, I have very little direct legal involvement. I am working cooperatively with the board to see the best way to get their board filled up and a permanent chair picked. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the unedited Hansard, I want to go back to the final question I asked the Minister yesterday. In reviewing Hansard, I did not get an answer to that. I asked the Minister if he would be willing to look at reimbursing the union, the health board and the many individuals who spent hours and hours of their own time pursuing the original plan that the Minister had for the health board employees. Will the Minister be willing to state to this House whether he is willing to reimburse those individuals for time spent on that initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 391-14(5): Hay River Health Care Workers Transfer**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will give the same answer I believe I gave in Hay River, that there was a process agreed to when we started reviewing that with the joint committee. Members were picked and there was, I believe, some compensation agreed to. That is the arrangement that is on the books. At this point, I see no need to change that. Thank you.

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

**Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, we all know that housing is of great demand in the Northwest Territories. I thought the Minister had responded to the needs of particular communities -- six communities, in fact, Mr. Speaker. I cannot remember the six communities right off the top of my head, but the Minister stated in the House during the last session that these six communities, and one of those communities is Lutselk'e, Mr. Speaker, are of in great need of housing. All of a sudden, there is no need in those communities anymore. I would like to ask the Minister, was that a Cabinet position when he mentioned in this House that there were six communities identified as in great need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the context of the question, I will reply to the latter first in the sense that it was not a Cabinet decision, but in consultation with the communities as well, this ongoing needs survey of those communities that were most in need at the time. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it ironic that the Minister would stand up in the House and announce core need of housing without Cabinet approval. I would like to ask, what kind of surveys are they doing in the communities that determines all of a sudden one minute there is a great need for housing in this community and the next minute, there is not a great 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 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do have a process, an ongoing process that assessed each community on an annual basis through our allocation procedures, so if we find that the community is in core need, then we will address that at the time.

Those six communities, Mr. Speaker, we want to look at reprofiling some of our budgets. If the community is not in need of its money, then we would like to reprofile the money to those communities most in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the House and the people of the Northwest Territories, can the Minister tell me which six communities, which other communities other than Lutselk'e that were identified as communities that are in great need of housing in the Northwest Territories?

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

**Further Return to Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member's community is one of six. Sorry if I have forgotten the

rest of the five, but again, the intent here is to make sure that those communities that are in core need have adequate resources to help develop and overcome some of those housing shortages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every community has a core need for housing, I thought, Mr. Speaker, and I was happy to hear that the Minister announced six communities that will be actioned. There will be some action taken to address the needs for housing in those communities. Yet all of a sudden, there is no need in those communities. I do not know what the Minister is planning to do to address the issues, but those six communities are no longer on a list for priority action. What is the Minister planning to do and how is he planning to address those needs in those communities? The memory is short, obviously, Mr. Speaker. He forgot the communities already.

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

**Further Return to Question 392-14(5): Housing Survey of Core Need**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we have not forgotten those communities that were designated in core need. Mr. Speaker, what is required from the Housing Corporation to reprofile additional monies into those six communities taken from other communities that presently have suitable, adequate and affordable housing situations.

The question today is not so much adequacy and suitability as much as affordability. So we are trying to design the delivery model that would suit those six communities and hopefully within this current fiscal year we can be able to address those key questions. Thank you.

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

**Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. It is in regard to the questions I directed to his colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation; I have had correspondence with him and we have considered looking at different options, so I would like to ask the Minister, has your department had the opportunity to consider replacing the existing seniors' facility in Fort McPherson?

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

**Return to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done a large part of the work already. We have decided to reallocate and reprofile some internal appropriations to the facility, although the facility is designated as an independent seniors' housing project, we will work with the community through our district office and be able to fulfill that obligation. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for that, it looks like we are making some progress on this. I would like to ask the Minister, how soon can he see the capital item being put into the capital planning process so that I can respond back to my constituents letting them know we are moving on this and hope to have it implemented as soon as possible? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no requirement to have it incorporated into the capital plan, however they have the monies in internal reallocations so we will assure the Member that we will communicate that back to the community as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the Minister's commitment to work with the community, I would like to ask the Minister, along with his colleague the Minister of Health and Social Services, if they can make an attempt to go into the community of Fort McPherson and start the dialogue so that we can work with the community to complete the construction of this needed facility in Fort McPherson.

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

**Further Return to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the direction has been given to our housing officials in the Inuvik district office. Just to respond again in the context of complimentary services to the seniors of Fort McPherson, yes, we agree with the Department of Health and Social Services and ourselves that we will provide some kind of home visit, some care will be given to the seniors as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit to myself and the community how soon can we see the particular item at hand in the capital planning process?

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

**Further Return to Question 393-14(5): Replacement of Seniors' Facility in Fort McPherson**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will reiterate that there is no need to have it in the capital plan. We will direct our Corporation officials to begin dialogue with the Member and also with his community to ensure that the project will be completed by next summer at the latest. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to the opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 64-14(5): Auditor General's Report on the Termination Compensation to Two Senior Officials**

**MR. SPEAKER:** In accordance with Motion 7-14(5), I wish to table The Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Termination and Compensation of Two Senior Officials by the Auditor General of Canada.

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Tabled Document 65-14(5): Blank Petition and Backgrounder Addressing Tenant Rental Increases**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the text of a petition that will be circulated to the citizens of the Northwest Territories asking for effective ways for landlords and tenants to resolve disputes and for the government to work with developers for the construction of affordable housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Tabled Document 66-14(5): Letter From Air Tindi Regarding Water Bomber Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter that I received from Air Tindi Limited. It is in regard to the negotiated contract for the water bomber contract.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 13-14(5): Referral of Tabled Document 64-14(5) to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002 I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that Tabled Document 64-14(5) entitled Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Termination and Compensation of Two Senior Officials by the Auditor General of Canada be referred to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

And further, that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is instructed to meet with the Auditor General of Canada on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

And furthermore that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight undertake consideration of the report with due diligence and provide a report to the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**Motion 14-14(5): Review of the Operation and Accountabilities of the Committee Structure and System**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures undertake a review of the operations and accountabilities of the committee structure and system.

And further, that the standing committee provide a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than June 30, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Braden, you have the floor.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS**

**Motion 13-14(5): Referral of Tabled Document 64-14(5) to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My motion is the referral of Tabled Document 64-14(5), Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Termination and Compensation to Two Senior Officials by the Auditor General of Canada to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly by Motion 7-14(5) had requested the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a special audit;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General of Canada had agreed to undertake a special audit;

AND WHEREAS the report of the special audit has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Tabled Document 64-14(5), entitled Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Termination and Compensation to Two Senior Officials by the Auditor General of Canada be referred to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight;

AND FURTHER, that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is instructed to meet with the Auditor General of Canada on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight undertake consideration of the report with due diligence and provide a report to the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters; Bill 26, Bill 1 and Committee Report 10-14(5) with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to call committee of the whole to order. We have a number of issues to consider in committee, Tabled Document 35-14(5), Bill 1, Bill 26, Committee Report 10-14(5). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that committee continue consideration of Bill 26, and should we conclude that, that we move into consideration of Bill 1 and Committee Report 10-14(5) concurrently.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair will call a break and we will be back to review Bill 26. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. The Chair calls a short break.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I will call the committee of the whole back to order. When we left yesterday we were on Bill 26, detail, Health and Social Services, operation expenditures. Does the Minister wish to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Handley.

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

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Sergeant at Arms, would you escort the witness in please. Mr. Handley, for the record could you introduce your witness please.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are doing Bill 26 and we are on page 13, Health and Social Services, operation expenditures, ministry and corporate services, special warrants, \$151,000. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what are we doing with regard to supporting front line workers seeing that there is a major expenditure for corporate services at headquarters, yet the problem we see with our health care system is in the area of the service delivery side with regard to doctors and ensuring that we have front line workers in our communities, to be able to carry out the day to day program responsibilities we have for delivering health care to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

I would like to ask the Minister exactly what are we doing with regard to ensuring that we have adequate resources in that area considering we are spending \$611,000 here at the corporate services side at headquarters. Should those dollars be expended at the regional level or in communities?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer this question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have funds identified to add staff, for example, to long-term care facilities. We currently are working with the Social Programs committee to review the recommended priorities for trying to look for improvements to the alcohol and drug services that we deliver. We have identified money, or are in the process of identifying money to deal with those folks who need supported home living arrangements.

As well, you will notice in this document that there is money in there to conclude the collective agreement, which was negotiated to provide pay and benefit increases to staff. We are currently in the process of negotiating both with the general practitioners and the specialists, doctors, to try to conclude an agreement.

Just to give a sense of scale, from 1997-98 to this year, there has been an increase of about \$58 million to the budget of health authorities. Much of that has been targeted for the program delivery area. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we hear a lot in regard to the cost in the area of health and social services, but we also hear a lot of concerns from other groups and agencies with regard to preventative mechanisms that we can take as a government.

One is in regard to the area of alcohol and drug programs, and looking at programs and services in that area. Yet, Mr. Chairman, to date, we have not seen anything happen in that area. Yet again, for \$600,000, we could probably do a lot to improve the programs that we have in the Northwest Territories, which to date we have one treatment program, which is based out of Hay River. Again, there has been a major report filed with the Minister on that. I would like to ask the Minister, exactly what type of priority are we going to give to those strategies and initiatives, knowing that we are making expenditures that could be expended elsewhere.

Yes, we know money is needed in certain areas, but yet, Mr. Chairman, very little focus has been given to look at preventative mechanisms to cut down the high cost in regard to our Health and Social Services programs. I would like to ask the Minister, exactly what type of focus and priority are we going to see from his department in the area of alcohol and drugs in regard to the report that was filed with him?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, you are going to see client focus, a community focus, a program delivery focus. We have put together a recommended plan in our integrated service delivery model, which has key components. The response on the alcohol and drug, mental health side, as well as a continuing care framework, which speaks to facility living, supportive living as well as home care.

That document, once again, has been in development for some time. We are waiting to sit down with the Social Programs Committee to get their feedback. We want to be able to, in the next couple of weeks, be able to proceed to Cabinet with a document and recommendations in terms of how we are suggesting we should proceed. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the million dollar question here is can we afford it, knowing the financial situation that we are in. My concern looking at the supp is that there is a lot of expenditures in the area of the management area in regard to corporate services, headquarter expenses, and also in regard to different types of technology that we are trying to upgrade, but yet, what I am worried about is will we have the resources or the dollars to implement some of these initiatives, knowing that you are coming forth to a committee or going to be making some suggestions and recommendations...I would like to ask the Minister, by making these major expenditures now through a supplementary appropriation, what assurances do we have that there will be resources available to implement those new programs?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I intend to proceed with a document that has been through a fairly extensive consultative process. Then I have to go to Cabinet with a document. I have to make a case to Cabinet in light of the fiscal situation of the need to address specifically, as the Member was referencing, some of the alcohol and drug issues. We are currently spending over \$5 million directly on that particular issue. The Chalmers report recently released indicated that there were some significant deficiencies in that particular program area. We are working to respond. So we are going to have to make the case and we are going to have to have priorities and we are going to have to recognize that we cannot maybe do everything we need to do, and then this Legislature, along with Cabinet, will have to make decisions and choices. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister give us a breakdown on the \$611,000 in regard to where that is being expended? Is it expended in regard to establishing new person years, establishing new means of reporting or looking at...I would like to ask the Minister exactly, can he give us a breakdown on the \$611,000 in regard to how many positions are we talking about, and also exactly how much money is for operations and maintenance, those different areas? Can we get a breakdown of the \$611,000?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have about four pages of detail that I could provide, rather than go through it, if that is the wish of the committee, rather than go through it line by line.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Krutko, would you settle for that?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have that information. I think it would answer my questions, so it would save us going through each line item, if he can provide us that information. That will give us a better breakdown of what that expenditure is expended on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We will go to Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek unanimous consent to turn to page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, regional operations.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to page 11. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will go back to page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, operation expenditures, regional operations, special warrants, \$1,467,000. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** I would like to ask the Minister, what is the maximum amount that can be used for special warrants in situations like this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, there is no maximum for special warrants. It would be whatever amount is necessary. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister why money for a special warrant was given to the community of Tuktoyaktuk on September 26<sup>th</sup> when the season for construction was already over, and then we see in the newspaper on Monday saying that road construction was completed. Can the Minister tell me why the dates and construction was already completed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer that question to the Minister for MACA.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what is in the paper is not quite accurate. Phase one of the work on the road is completed. The actual repairs to the road require two to three phases. The first phase was to put a lift on the road and widen the road to respond to the damages that were already done to the road that were...it was evident that even the matting that was used to protect the base of the road was evident, and it required a major lift and a major reconstruction project to actually do the road overall. Initially the hamlet thought that they could repair the damage to the road with four or five hundred thousand dollars, but when we brought the engineers in from Transportation in June it became evident from their reports that there was a lot more serious damage than the hamlet had estimated and it would require a lot more money.

Then the hamlet started looking into the options of where they could get material, and one of the reasons for the special warrant was because, in order to access the material that was available to the community locally, it would have to be done before freeze-up. There were two sources of material that the hamlet could use. One was clay and one was a stock pile at the airport which consisted of a base for an old DEW Line hangar. The plan was to combine the two materials. However, the material at the airport belonged to Transportation and it had to be returned, so part of the funding requirement was that the hamlet haul material over the winter to return what they borrowed from Transportation.

The need for the special warrant was that the road was no longer safe to drive on. It could not stand another year without major repairs and it could not wait for spring to access those materials. If we waited for spring then we would not have the option of those two sources of gravel until July and August when they thawed out again. The decision was made to request a special warrant to allow the hamlet to tender for gravel hauls. Again, although the material that was used for winter haul was not necessarily required right away we had to allow the hamlet the moneys in order that they could have the option of tendering all at once or in two or three phases of contract haul. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am surprised that the Minister said that the decision was made in June. We did have a June session, so why was this not brought up at the June session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I think what the Minister said is that the decision was made following the engineers' visit and assessment of that road in June. The report would have come out -- as I recall it came out after the session was over. We did not make the decision in June. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if this road is within the municipal boundaries of Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, yes the road is within the municipal boundaries although a portion of the road is on private lands, not Commissioner's lands.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, is the community of Tuktoyaktuk bigger than Yellowknife that it has six kilometres on one way of a municipal boundary? I am not sure how big the boundary is here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, the initial boundaries for the hamlet were six miles inland and about three miles wide. Within that is Commissioner's land, federal land and private land. The boundaries extend to the pingos and to other water sources that the community wanted to protect.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. So the Minister is saying that the sewage lagoon road to the airport is outside on private land, outside the municipality?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Chairman, the hamlet sewage lagoon is located on private lands and this particular road extends to the sewage lagoon across, I would guess, about a kilometre of private lands.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I do not understand this. I do not think we fund any money for private land repairs or private roads. I know that in other communities if they want to access any money for roads outside the municipality they have to apply for access road funding, and that is capped at \$50,000. How did he get away with doing this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, this road is not considered an access road. It is an important portion of the municipal road infrastructure. It is a requirement that the community has to have a road to reach the sewage lagoon. The community at one point had a lease and a right of way with the land owners to build that road and to use the sewage lagoon. They still are in existence. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. Just to get more clear here, this money is identified for this road but it is a road that goes over private land and the Minister is saying that it was at one time, he said, leased but it is no longer leased? Are we putting money into a road that is no longer leased to the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk? How much of it is Transportation because it is going to the airport? How much of it is a Transportation responsibility? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I will answer the last part of the question first. None of this road is Transportation's responsibility. These roads are municipal roads, and the municipality maintains them all. The portion of the road that is on private lands is under a right of way agreement with the land owners, but it is considered a municipal road and the municipality maintains it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. The chair will recognize Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern with regard to the way this money came about is that I would like to know from the Minister, we have different avenues of accessing dollars through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and other programs we have within government. We have a program called extraordinary funding for emergencies which is used in case of emergencies. I know that the hamlet of Fort McPherson accessed those dollars through extraordinary funds with respect to the problems with regard to their water and sewage program.

We also have a program with regard to infrastructure funding. We have a community access road program. We have all these programs in place. I would like to ask the Minister why was the community of Tuktoyaktuk not encouraged to apply to those programs to access those dollars instead of having it come forth through a supplementary appropriation from the department?

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct, there is an extraordinary funding program. However, the maximum is \$200,000 and it would never have been adequate for this particular project. It would have cleaned out the budget totally, which would have eliminated other communities from having access to that program. Secondly, road repairs for this particular project are within the municipal boundaries and they do not qualify under Transportation's access road program. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the decision to go forth, you mentioned that supplementary

appropriations are used when there is a major emergency. We know that there is an infrastructure which may have been destroyed in a fire. Basically we know that there has been a major natural emergency such as a forest fire and yet the whole idea of using special warrants for this type of activity, because I believe that we have the capital planning process in place to ensure we have a fair system so all communities could have an opportunity to develop community infrastructure and improve the community facilities.

We have just approved a program, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has restructured the agreements we have with municipalities in ensuring that it is fair that the resources that you do get are there to ensure that you have adequate funding to run your programs and services.

By setting this precedent, what does that tell the other communities who are trying to maintain their programs and services with those dollars to improve or upkeep or look at maintaining the community infrastructure such as roads or buildings and utilidors and yet a particular community can bypass the whole planning process, budgets, looking at internal expenditures.

For years we were told that communities have been saying they need more dollars in the Granular Revolving Fund. We need more money to improve the infrastructure in communities, especially roads, and now we find out that we have 26 small communities that need to improve their roads. They have also been affected or damaged by development or infrastructure and traffic moving back and forth. Yet they are told that they have to make do with what they have, that there are not any dollars for new initiatives.

Here we go. We find a new initiative taking place through a supplementary appropriation which was not part of the planning process.

I would like to ask the Minister, what are we doing to ensure communities have the comfort and also have the support of the department to ensure that they do not have to follow the rules? That there are ways of getting around, breaking the rules, spend as many dollars as you want and we will take care of you. What is there to ensure that the communities have the ability to spend the amount of money that they get without finding new ways for certain communities to get extra funding that other communities do not have access to?

I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that there is special emphasis put here for the community of Tuktoyaktuk? Why have other communities not had that same opportunity where they may have a similar problem with their infrastructure?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, every community has an equal right to seek financial assistance to maintain their existing infrastructure as was used in this case. In this case it was looked at as being a situation that was urgent. It was urgent in the sense that the road could not take another year of traffic without completely breaking down.

It is certainly in the public interest in terms of this being the most cost-effective way of resolving this situation. The department clearly did not have the appropriation to do it. This

situation is no different for Tuktoyaktuk than it would have been for another community. This is not an enhancement of their capital infrastructure, it is simply protecting what they have from probably a complete breakdown if we let it go again. This right is here for every community to be able to do it. If there is an emergency or an urgency and it makes sense financially to do it now, not wait another year, then any community can apply.

Mr. Steen would like to add to what I have just said. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just to reply to the last part of the Member's question, the department did work with the community to put in place restrictions on access to these roads by heavy industry in the form of a by-law so that the municipality would have something that they could fall back on to prevent this from happening again. When it happened they did not have the ability to stop the traffic.

That traffic was heavy truck traffic with chains. They did not have the ability under legislation to stop the traffic. They are now working on legislation to put in place that legislation to ensure that this does not happen again.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, we all have bad roads in our communities. They are not up to par, they are full of potholes and we do have problems with our community infrastructure such as drainage and what not.

Yet, Mr. Chairman, an emergency for me is a thing of protecting communities and the health and well-being of our communities. The community of Tsiigehtchic has been under orders, they have been told that they are going to get infrastructure in their community for a water treatment program, which is a public health issue which is an emergency as far as I see it. They have not even seen a blueprint of the facility or what they are looking at and they have been waiting for two years. As far as I am concerned, that is an emergency. That should have been dealt with like the maintenance of this road.

So why is it that the determination of a so-called emergency is different when it comes to Ministers' ridings?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not think this one is any different in this community than it would be in any other community. We are not talking about a road with potholes and so on. In this case we are talking about a road that was in danger of complete failure. It is the only road access to the sewage lagoon. It was an urgent matter that we do something with it now. To have the road completely fail and people be denied access to the sewage lagoon is certainly an impossible situation for us to find ourselves in. This is really in many ways the same kind of emergency we had I think about a year ago, I think it was with a supp then, on the water quality one where we had to put I forget exactly what the amount was, something over \$2 million in as a supp to upgrade a water facility.

This use of special warrants and supps is essential in order to maintain that basic infrastructure in the communities. I do not think there was any particular preference given to this one. It is the same way we would deal with any community that has an essential road on the verge of collapse. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The Chair recognizes Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister about the expenditures of this fund. Is this fund going to be spent or is it already spent? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I did not get the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Lafferty, could you repeat your question please?

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. I will ask my question again. How much of this fund, \$1.3 million has been spent already? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. For the record, Mr. Handley, you are referring the question to Mr. Steen. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the first phase of the funding was a little over \$500,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking about this special warrant, not the first phase. From what I understand, the Minister was telling me that this money was for the second phase. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, the funding is for all three phases. The first phase of the construction is completed and that is reconstructing the base and widening the road. That is completed today. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, while the five hundred or so has already been spent directly on the road, most of the money has already been committed in that there is a commitment to replace the gravel that has been used from Transportation, so that is already a commitment that is made. Even though the money for hauling that gravel may not have been actually spent yet, there is a commitment already. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like there is a merry-go-round or we are getting the run-around in this House here when it comes to asking for things and getting things. I will give a good example. Last year Mr. Steen was the Minister of Transportation when the community of Rae asked for gravel and they said that the gravel is for Transportation and not for municipality use. Another example is a bridge in

Rae where there was \$40,000 needed for a tooling base. Supplementary funding was not used because they said that there was no money.

Why is it that Minister's ridings are more preferred for all these special warrants and supplementaries? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, in this case, as I said before, there was basically an urgency and an impending emergency where people would not be able to get access to the sewage lagoon, a road that is required for municipal services. To not provide it in this case would have created that emergency. If the issues the Member is referring to were of the same nature, then we would treat them exactly the same way. I do not know the need for stockpiling gravel or the extra \$40,000 on the bridge, or whether those could be classified in the same way. Were they going to stop some required service? I do not know. I can assure you that we treat all the communities with the same priority. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. I would caution Members in their line of questioning to guard against imputing motive. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that remark. We are just talking about facts and not motive. The last question I have for him is that another example is Highway No. 3 when I complained about the safety conditions, they lowered the speed limit. Could they not have lowered the speed limit on this road so they could continue traffic on it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the issue was not the speed the trucks were travelling. It is the fact that we had a lot of heavy trucks with chains travelling on that road, so I would guess they were likely travelling within the speed limits. Lowering it down I don't think would have made that much difference in this case. Now, as Mr. Steen pointed out, the hamlet has passed a by-law to require them to remove the chains so that they do not chew the roads up. I think this is not going to happen again here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister did not seem to answer my question so I will ask it again. Did they not think of lowering the speed limit on this road? It seems that it was easy to do on a major highway. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, it was not a situation of speed. It was a situation of the trucks having chains on them, and they were not removing their chains because they used the chains to go on the winter road. They were not just talking about one or two trucks a day. We are talking about a fair number of trucks every day. They were hauling water to the winter roads and in the wintertime these same trucks were accessing the municipal sewage lagoon using chains as well. It was something that was ongoing. I believe that the community, after dealing with it for one year, they know what is necessary

now to prevent this happening again to their road and they will take the necessary precautions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Ministers share with us the correspondence regarding the plans, the plan changes and all that? The other question is, you said that the municipality damaged the road themselves and then now they are going to legislate against themselves. Is that the case?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, if there was a misinterpretation these trucks were under the supervision of contractors that were working for the oil companies. They were not hamlet trucks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they were not hamlet trucks, what were they doing using the hamlet lagoon? If the Minister could answer that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley indicates the question to Mr. Steen. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, the hamlet lagoon is accessible by anyone that has permit from the hamlet to access the sewage lagoon. In this case the permit allowed the contractors to haul sewage from the rigs into the sewage lagoon. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the municipality did not have the foresight to think that they would be self-destructing the road by giving these permits out without any restrictions on them? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I may end up having to draw a picture here, but the sewage lagoon is at the end of the road and from there the trucks access the rigs. There was very little use of the actual road by the sewage trucks to the sewage lagoon. The major damage to the road was done by the water trucks that were using the road. This was done at about this time of the year last year. The hamlet did not realize the total damage until the road thawed out in June, and they then found out that they were not able to repair the damage with the resources they had. That is where the whole project started and the process started, and we are putting together a plan here that could address the damage.

This road just does not access the sewage lagoon. It services the industrial sector, it services the hamlet's solid waste site, as well as servicing a subdivision outside of town. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. The Chair will recognize Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister stated that there were three phases to this project. Could the Minister give us some documented information on exactly what the different phases pertain to and exactly what is the expenditure for each of those phases?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley, you are referring the question to Mr. Steen. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have the information here somewhere, but basically, it is three phases involving what I was just describing as repairs, reconstruction of the base and the widening of the road, which is done already. It is roughly \$500,000, a little more than that. The second phase requires the hamlet to do a winter haul to replace the gravel that they borrowed from Transportation's stockpile, as well as to put another lift on the road, finishing material on the road. That is phase two and three. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we had a long debate on this in AOC with the Minister of Finance, in regard to providing us information so that we could, in the Minister's word, draw the picture. I think for us to get a better understanding of exactly what we are dealing with here is to understand how these expenditures are going to be expended, what is the different phases, and exactly what was the extent of the emergency.

I would like to ask the Minister again, can you provide us with that information, which is documented to clearly spell out the time frame of the different phases, the expenditures of those phases, so that we can see where the different aspects of this project were going to happen?

Again, I would like to ask the Minister, will you provide us that information here in the House, which we did commit from the Minister of Finance in committee that that information would have been provided?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, yes, we will provide the information.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get that information before we move from this line item? I think it is essential that in order for us to approve such an expenditure, we should have the information in front of us.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, if the Member wants verbally the information in each of the phases and the cost, then we can do that right now. If he wants the information on paper, then that is something that will take some hours to do. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regard to the Minister's statement, he said the emergency was that they had to get the gravel and the materials laid down before the ground freezes. I believe the ground is frozen right

now. I would like to ask the Minister, is the need for phase two and phase three needed at this time? Could we carry that over and allow for these dollars to be put in place through the capital planning process, so that everybody knows that there are these expenditures and we do not have to spend the \$1.3 million? We have already spent over \$400,000. Is that a requirement or can we allow the remaining expenditures to be carried through the capital planning process?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I do not think that would work. Let me tell you that first of all, phase one, as Mr. Steen said, is the survey, design, widening of the road and construction of the sub-base. That was \$500,000, roughly. Then phase two and three is partly to haul the gravel and replace the gravel that MACA borrowed from Transportation. I think that is around something over \$400,000.

And then the balance of it in phase three is the putting the top gravelling on the road and completing the road, as I understand it. So that takes up the balance of the money. Could we wait and do it some time after we approve the main estimates in April? It would be risky and probably impossible to do it. But I will ask Mr. Steen to add to what I have just said here, but those are basically the phases and the time constraints we are working under.

The others, you would not want to put a sub-base down and not put a topping on it as soon as you can. Otherwise, you are going to lose your road again. I will turn to Mr. Steen. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, the hamlet was issued the full funding to allow them the option of tendering the work in one lump or in sections, and that way obtain a cheaper price. The gravel haul has to be done before the ice road goes out, so the hamlet really had to have the tender in place before the next budget, which would have been April 1<sup>st</sup>. The whole thing would have to be done in this fiscal year to allow them a winter haul.

They already had commitments to replace the gravel that they borrowed from Transportation. They had already made those commitments, so that was some of the funding that we gave them in that lump sum. There were to use that to see if they could get a better price for a cheaper gravel haul. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister for correspondence on this. I am not too sure if we can get it in writing. If not, I suggest that we hold off on approval of this item until we get the documentation that I requested.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I am not exactly sure what the Member wants in writing or what correspondence, but I will check Hansard and try to work it out. I do not have -- whatever correspondence it is, I do not have it here with me. I cannot give it to you right now. If you want to leave this line

item and go on to the others, that is fine with me. It is as the committee wishes.

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

**Committee Motion 32-14(5): To Defer Consideration of Regional Operations, MACA Special Warrant in Bill 26 (Withdrawn)**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would like to move a motion.

I MOVE that we defer consideration of special warrant in the amount of \$1,300,000 under regional operations, Municipal and Community Affairs, in Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2002-2003.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. We will have to take a short break and get the motion drafted so we can circulate it. The Chair will call a short break.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to call committee of the whole back to order. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this time I withdraw my motion, I did get the information from the Minister that I requested. I would have hoped to have received it earlier, but at this time I would like the information I received from the Minister to be circulated to the other Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The Member has withdrawn his motion. Can we have the information circulated to the Members? Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We are on page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, continued operations expenditures, regional operations. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, in my last question he said the money was given for widening the road at one time, and then he is saying it was because it was deteriorated. I would like to ask the Minister, how wide were they making the road? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley, you are referring the question to Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the road was just being brought back to standards. The hamlet, in their efforts to repair the damage to the road were pulling in the shoulders until the road was getting too narrow for two trucks, and that is why it had to be widened out again. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister again, how wide did they widen the roads to?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I believe it amounted to about six feet.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, six feet added to what? What was the width of the road before? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, we are reaching beyond my capacity here, I did not go out and measure that road. I know from visuals that they are adding roughly a truck width on the side, roughly six feet. How much the road was pulled in originally, I do not know.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. The reason I ask these questions is there are certain standards for municipal roads, there is a certain standard for access roads and highways. I was just wondering, did they add a third lane to this road?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the road was a standard, municipal two-lane road.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister, where did he get this standard municipality two-lane road when he could not tell me to the previous question that it was beyond his capacity? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have no idea what the measurements are for a standard two-lane road within a municipality versus a highway. I do not know what the Member is talking about. All I know is that they are bringing it back up to a standard two-lane road within the municipality.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just change my line of questioning as it is obvious that I will not get any answers. The road damage occurred last year like the Minister said, at this time of the year. The Minister and the department and Cabinet had two sessions since then to bring this forward. Why did they bring it forward only now? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, the hamlet only realized how much damage was actually done to the road when the road started thawing out in the spring and early summer. It was at that point in time that the hamlet realized that the road was down to the matting because before that it was cover with snow.

After the snow melted, you could start seeing the matting in the road and at the same time it was decided that the best way to find out the cost of repairing the road is to bring in engineers to do the actual survey on the road to see whether it was going to

be a cost to the hamlet to bring it back up. That was in June. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the Minister is telling me that they knew the road was damaged but they could not tell how much damage. If it was damaged at this time of the year it would still be the same when it thawed out because it was damaged before freeze up. So why would it be any different than the previous winter or the previous fall when it broke up and froze all through the winter? It could not have gotten any more damaged than what was already there? How can he tell me it changed, because it was frozen after they noticed the damage. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, the road was frozen. The surface of the road was frozen when the damage was done but it did not matter to the trucks with chains. They were digging in the ruts even though the road was frozen. Those ruts, over the winter, were filled with snow. They were not visible anymore until actually in the early summer when the road thawed out.

It was at that point in time that the hamlet realized that it would take more than just pulling in the shoulders to do repairs to that road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is telling me that the road was full of snow and the community did not use any of their own O and M dollars to remove that snow, so they should have had enough money to repair that road. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I did not hear a question there, a comment. We are on page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, continued operations expenditures, regional operations. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to phase 2 of the project, the \$800,000 it says the winter gravel haul to provide gravel for construction and resurfacing... I would like to ask the Minister, where exactly is this gravel going to be hauled from?

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the only source of gravel that is comparable to what was used from the airport stockpile is at Ya Ya Lakes, roughly a 60 mile haul.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not catch the mileage with regard to Ya Ya Lakes, I would like to ask the Minister to restate the mileage to Ya Ya Lakes.

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, the mileage is roughly 60 miles.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Also, the next item, \$380,000 to replace 6,000 cubic metres of gravel provided by the Department of Transportation. I know the question was raised by my colleague, Mr. Lafferty, in regard to communities having access to the Department of Transportation granular stockpiles which may be in our communities. In regard to this precedent being set here, will the Minister or the government consider offering this same similar arrangement to all communities in the Northwest Territories where such stockpiles exist today in our communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, to the first part of the question, this gravel has to be replaced, it is not free. The community has to replace this gravel. To the second part, I refer to Mr. Handley.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we will treat all of the communities the same. If they are in a similar situation we treat them the same way. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it is needed in our communities, especially the communities that have a hard time accessing gravel, communities such as Aklavik and I would like to get assurances from the Minister, if we could get something like that in writing by way of change of the department's policy in regard to in most cases they may restrict you from accessing this gravel.

I also understand from the Minister that it has to be replaced and I think it is appropriate. I just have a question to the Minister of Finance, what does a Member have to do to receive similar treatment? We all know we have bad roads in our communities and I mentioned the problem that we have in the community of Tsiigehtchic because of traffic from the oil and gas development that happened there, where they had to construct a bypass winter road around the communities because it was ripping down the power lines.

I would like to ask the Minister, if this project has been available to the Minister's riding, what are you going to do to ensure communities have similar opportunities to access funds similar to this to construct roads because of the effects of development in our communities?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, if there is a similar emergency, or an emergency in any community, then the appropriate Minister should be advised. The Minister would then bring it to FMB and treat it the same way that this emergency or urgency was handled. So it would not matter which community it was, whether it was Tuktoyaktuk or N'dilo or wherever it may be. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is pretty ironic that the Minister makes that comment, because the community of Tsiigehtchic, when requesting that they receive revenues to build this access road, they were given \$50,000. So it is amazing that a community building an access road, because of the effect of the development on their community, is only accessed \$50,000, yet a community to approve the road to their sewage lagoon because of damage to construction gets \$1.3 million.

I would like to ask the Minister again, how fair do you think it is that one community gets \$50,000 to work on an access road, yet another community gets \$1.3 million?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, certainly we would treat an emergency different than we would a potential economic opportunity, so it depends on the situation. If it is an emergency in the same way this one was, we will treat it in the same way. If it is just an economic opportunity for someone to get access to a gravel source somewhere, whatever it may be, then that would be treated accordingly.

I think all Members should bring to our attention any situations that they feel are emergencies and should be dealt with in this way, and we will treat them accordingly. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this is the process, where we bring our problems to the Ministers through committee of the whole and he takes us seriously and he does something. He is the Minister also responsible for Transportation.

I would also like to ask exactly from that comment, why is it there are different priorities set to Members' concerns versus Ministers' concerns?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** There are no differences, Mr. Chairman. They are all treated the same way. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Well, I believe there definitely is a difference in regard to an access road in the community of Tsiigehtchic because of public safety and also a road upgrade in regard to enhancement of an existing road by adding another lane. For me, it is the development of infrastructure in the community to the benefit of a Minister and his riding.

So again, I would like to ask the Minister, under the Financial Administration Act, is there a process that you follow when it comes to allowing for supplementary appropriations in Ministers' ridings?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, let me say again that the Financial Administration Act, the provisions for special warrants, supplementary funding does not speak to Ministers' ridings versus other people's ridings and so on. They are all treated the same way. If the situation in Tsiigehtchic is an emergency or there is a danger to the public, then I would like to know more about that and we will deal with it accordingly. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is amazing the basic resemblance of a similar supp, a dollar amount that was in a previous supp, for the construction of the winter road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk in regard to a similar arrangement of using the argument that it was to access a gravel source, build a road to the gravel site. Again, here we are talking about the hauling of gravel from a particular pit in regards to a similar arrangement.

I would like to ask the Minister, is this a way that the community can eventually develop infrastructure out of their communities, such as roads to their gravel sources?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the project was undertaken because there was an emergency, an urgency to repair that road, the existing infrastructure. If we did not do it, there is a possibility that the community would be denied use of its sewage lagoon and its solid waste facility and so on. The part of the special warrant was to replace the gravel that MACA had borrowed from Transportation. The commitment was made when this project was undertaken to replace that gravel. So it was treated as one project. We did not pull out little pieces and say okay, let's do this differently.

In any case, we would have had to have had, even if we did break it out, which would be an unusual practice, we would have had to have a supp or some means of financing at this fiscal year, because we could not wait until after April 1<sup>st</sup>, when next year's budget is approved in order to haul the gravel. It would have been too late. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see the information they are giving us is conflicting, where they say the project was not funded through their usual capital plan like Mr. Handley said because the deterioration happened in one season. They knew that it was in one season, and then they say it was critical to proceed with the road repair components of the project before the end of the construction season.

To me, if I look at it without knowing all of the information, I would think that construction would have been completed by now. But then, we see a winter haul happening. As you know, in the North, we have a long winter season. This could have gone through regular planning, capital planning. Now, why did they not use the regular capital planning? They have conflicting information here. One is a winter haul, one is saying that they have to finish the road during the season. It is not finished. So why did it warrant a special warrant? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, if this had gone through the regular process, then the next appropriation for the 2003-04 year does not begin until April 1<sup>st</sup>. The absolute earliest you could begin the work would have been in April. It is quite possible we would not have been able to replace the gravel as was required, so the work was done this year, since the commitment had already been made in any case. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says under phase two that the public tender in December, so you are going to do a public tender in December and it is going to take a while, and by the time the tender process is all done, the company is geared to do the work, you would have been into the new year anyway. Why are you using a special warrant for some work that is going to be done next year? Because we do have a long winter season and, as the other Minister said, they did not find out until June when the engineers came in that it was in really bad shape. If they did not find out until June, then you had until June to do the job, the winter haul and the repairs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lafferty is losing me on some of his rationale and which months he is talking about, but we did not know the condition of the road, as Mr. Steen has said, until after the engineers had looked at it and issued their report. The engineers were in the community in June, and issued their report some time after that. Then following that we have gone through and done some of the work already. The intention here is to go to public tender in December for the gravel haul. It will not take until the end of March to get that tender out. I would expect that that gravel haul is going to happen in January, February or March, somewhere in there, but it will certainly happen during the winter months. Thank you

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister seems confused, but I am sort of confused myself with the way they presented this to us. They are saying that they are doing a winter haul in February, but in February the material is frozen solid. It is going to cost you more money to do a winter haul in February than it would if you did a winter haul in October. Why is this department making all these bad decisions? As a department you should have been trying to save money. When you identified the special warrant in September, the tender should have been out right away. That was your rationale for the special warrant, so you could get it done right away, but here it seems you are waiting until the coldest month of the year to do the work. It does not seem right to me. What is happening is that this money is being put into a Minister's riding because the Minister wants that money. I will move a motion to scratch this money from that section.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Lafferty, are you moving a motion? Is that your intention?

**Committee Motion 33-14(5): To Defer Consideration of Regional Operations, MACA Special Warrant in Bill 26 (Defeated)**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Yes I am, Mr. Chairman.

I MOVE that this committee defer further consideration of this special warrant in the amount of \$1.3 million under regional operations, Municipal and Community Affairs, in Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2002-2003, at this time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There has been a motion circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I would just like to get some clarification on what this motion means. It says to defer further consideration at this time. I don't know what the intention is here. Defer it until when?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion on the floor is strictly to defer it. There is no time limit on it. If it is deferred it will be deferred until the House is ready to reintroduce it. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to seek some clarification. I had understood that we had already covered this item yesterday. We had voted on it. I do not have Hansard in front of me, but I believe we are on record as having approved this particular item, so I do not know -- does our practice allow us to take something like that and put it aside? Is there some other part of the approval process for the supplementary where the motion could come in? I am not arguing against it, at least not yet, Mr. Chairman, but I am looking for process and procedure. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Braden, we did follow proper procedure. The Member requested to go back to this item and it was granted, so we are on this item as we speak so the motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated. We are on page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditure, regional operations, special warrants. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with regard to the information we just received I believe the Minister was not aware that a portion of this road is outside the municipal boundary of Tuktoyaktuk, yet he stated that the road was within the municipal boundary. From the information the Minister provided it clearly states that this sewage lagoon is outside the municipal boundary and that the portion partly outside the municipal boundary is on Inuvialuit administration lands. I would like to ask the Minister, is the road in the municipal boundary or outside the municipal boundary?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley is referring the question to Mr. Steen. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think there is some confusion in the information in relation to whether it is Commissioner's land or whether it is private land, rather than whether it is outside the municipal boundaries. It is my understanding that the municipal boundary has always been six miles out from the centre of town and roughly three miles wide. As far as the information I have, this road is within the municipal boundaries, but a portion of it is on

private lands and a portion of it is on Commissioner's lands. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not too sure who we can believe here. The Minister is stating one thing and the document that he presented to the Members says another. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is true? Is it your comment or the document that you presented that clearly states that the sewage lagoon is outside the municipal boundary?

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I already gave my explanation as to what I believe are the municipal boundaries of the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk. It extends six miles outside of town. What we are referring to here is Commissioner versus private lands. That is what is being referred to in that information item. The road is within the municipal boundaries.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Handley, do you want to add to that?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Steen has mentioned it, but I think that where the mix-up may be, and it may be in this paper -- but Mr. Steen did say that the sewage lagoon is on private land. It is not on Commissioner's land. It is within the boundary and it is on private land, it is not on Commissioner's land.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I hate to state that anybody is misleading the House here, but from the information received it says that the road lies partly in the municipal boundary on Inuvialuit administration lands. The sewage lagoon is outside of the municipal boundary.

This is the information that was provided by the Minister. On the one hand we are hearing the Minister say one thing, we are hearing the Minister of Finance say something else, when basically this information that we received... is the information that is being provided to us true, to the specific budget item that is in front of us?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the information we have was provided by some staff within MACA. I do not know for sure, but they may misunderstand. They may believe that Inuvialuit -- there is no Inuvialuit land within the municipal boundaries. In fact, that can be the case, that is the case. I do not think there is any intention to mislead anyone. I think if anything, this is someone who wrote the briefing note who did not understand the difference between Inuvialuit lands and municipal lands and Inuvialuit could possibly be within the boundaries, so they made an assumption here. I do not know its relevance here. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, another point in the information provided, it says the Department of Transportation will directly manage the winter gravel haul. Who will pay for the construction of the winter road into this gravel source, which is 60 miles from the community?

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, the winter road would probably be for at least 50 miles, the road would be the normal winter road into Inuvik, because Ya Ya Lakes is on the road to Inuvik. There might be a ten-mile section that would have to be constructed by the contractor, but basically it is all under the contractor's responsibility, whoever that is.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could either Minister provide us with information on what the cost of constructing a winter road into this gravel pit will be so we can see exactly what the cost of that is, and will it come out of the \$380,000 for the replacement of the gravel?

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is assumed here that the hamlet is going to have one contractor that will be hauling both sources, both for the DOT replacement and for the road surface of \$420,000. So that one particular contractor would include in his price the construction of the winter road to the gravel source.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also see in the information provided that \$28,000 for the Department of Transportation for travel and accommodation is built into this amount. I would like to ask, is this a joint venture between the Municipality of Tuktoyaktuk and the Department of Transportation? Thank you.

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the funding, the \$1.3 million, was given to the hamlet in a contribution agreement. It included whatever cost was associated with Transportation doing the engineering and the management of the road. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation or the Minister of Finance, are there any other expenditures that may come forth from the Department of Transportation in regard to this project from the Department of Transportation which may not be in this information we have in front of us right now. Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no there will not be any other expenses incurred by Transportation. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the materials that were taken from the airport in Tuktoyaktuk, will they have to do any landscaping to fill in the spot that was used to take out this gravel or is there just simply going to put it in a stockpile? Are they going to be doing any work upgrading the airport in Tuktoyaktuk since this is where the material came from?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no they will not have to. The gravel that is being taken is from a base that was built there by hauling gravel in for a hanger during the DEW Line days. So when they take the gravel out they do not dig a hole, it will be dug back down to a level area. There is no need to landscape. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We seem to get conflicting information here. In some of the information we received earlier the material and everything was coming from an old DEW Line site, and then we see here that you have to replace 380,000 cubic metres of material. Now, where did you get this material? Did you get it from the Transportation stock pile? Did you get it from the DEW line site? Where did you get this material? And if you took it from the DEW line site, how much did you pay for it and who did you pay?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the gravel that has to be replaced is gravel that comes from the old DEW Line site hangar base right on the airport site. That gravel would have been transferred to us when the airport was transferred to us. DOT does not charge MACA anything for the gravel but requires that MACA replace the gravel that they take because DOT needs it for the runways. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very puzzled here. This last year, a Member asked about a gravel source that belonged to Transportation and it was told to contractors in the community that they could not access any of the gravel source because it belonged to Transportation.

Now, why is it okay for Tuktoyaktuk to have access to this gravel source that belongs to the Transportation department, but it is not okay for the community of Rae or the town of Inuvik? What is the difference here? Can the Minister tell me that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the answer is very simple and very basic. We have an emergency. We have to rebuild a road. If we had given the gravel to, or sold the gravel to contractors to use in various projects around the town, we would not have had it to meet this emergency here.

The reason we are doing it is because that piece of municipal road had to be replaced. It is an emergency. The contractor requests last year were not emergencies. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. I am really glad that the Minister said that it was an emergency because last year when the community of Rae asked for access to a gravel pile from Transportation it was an emergency. They had no source. They had to sand the roads in the winter, but it was not considered an emergency then. You call this an emergency. What is the difference in emergency? Is it an emergency when a Minister's riding is affected and not a Regular Member's? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the alternatives were for the community of Rae or whichever one Mr. Lafferty is referring to, but in this case, the road had to be repaired. There was very limited sources of gravel in the community, and this was one of them. There is no other gravel. The community and the contractors cannot haul gravel, except by winter road.

There is no alternative here, Mr. Chairman. The arrangement was made to loan the gravel to MACA on the condition that they pay for the cost of replacing it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. It is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. The Chair will rise and report progress.

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

#### ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. DELOREY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2002-2003, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes seconds the motion. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS****Bill 27: An Act to Amend the Elections Act, No. 2**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. There is a motion on the floor. Is the House ready for the question? Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 27 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 24, 2002:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 20, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act
- Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2

18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 35-14(5), Social Agenda: A Draft for People of the Northwest Territories

- Bill 1, Human Rights Act

- Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act

- Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2002-2003

- Committee Report 10-14(5), Report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs on Bill 1, Human Rights Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2001-2002

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Just a reminder, the Speaker requests your presence in the Members' lounge immediately after adjournment. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 24, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.