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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Sahtu)

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Minister Responsible for the Status of

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Mr. Leon Lafferty

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, March 13, 2003****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you. Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 41-14(6): Minister Absent From The House**

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House today to attend the signing of a protocol agreement with the Government of Yukon in Whitehorse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Members' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Yellowknife Housing Market**

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I joined about 100 other people from Yellowknife, developers, financiers, politicians and officials with the Canada Mortgage and Housing presentation. I think this is the third or fourth on the Yellowknife housing outlook. I would like to compliment CMHC, Mr. Speaker, for taking the initiative to do this here in the Yellowknife market. They do a good job of analysis and the presentation.

It's a big subject, Mr. Speaker. It covers a lot of ground and, like a lot of things, there is some good news and some not so good news in the views that were given to us last night. The vacancy rates, as we know, are virtually nil. They are going to improve somewhat over this year and potentially next. Forecasts are that they will be in the 1.5 to four percent neighbourhood. That still doesn't translate into a lot of units, even at four percent. That's potentially about 40 apartments. So we are going in the right direction, but if the availability may improve, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't look like the affordability will. However, there are indications that the Yellowknife market is going to come off the double digits rates of increasing rates, but there will still be upward pressure. The time for investment in real estate is good across the country as investors flee the stock markets. So this is a good sign for this market.

On the not so good side are projections that inflation and mortgage rates are going to continue to rise, Mr. Speaker. Trades will be in short supply and building materials will increase in cost. The main barrier to affordable rental housing

construction is going to be the availability of land, Mr. Speaker. Clearly all of us in government have a stake in resolving the main barrier to bringing more housing onto this market, Mr. Speaker. All levels of government have a responsibility to get involved and make a difference in this very dramatic shortage in our market. I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it doesn't stop with just this government. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. Oftentimes eyes turn towards the territorial government and the city government to where the land situation can be solved, but I would suggest that the federal government and, Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal governments are major stakeholders, major interest holders in the land situation and all four levels of government have a responsibility and an opportunity to get together and make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, my final point is that the cost to the NWT of not acting on lands is going to be significant. I am quoting from a survey that was done last summer which suggests that between now and 2006, we stand to lose some \$6.7 million because the housing stock, the trends that see housing constructed, is not going to keep up with the demand. It gets even more dramatic when we look between 2007 and 2011 when our failure to keep up with the housing demand could cost this government in lost federal grants as much as \$67 million. The reasons, Mr. Speaker, for government to act on the land question are compelling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Health And Social Services Breast Cancer Screening Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak on the issue of the breast cancer screening program being designed by the government. The Department of Health and Social Services is moving towards implementing a breast cancer screening program very soon and I would like to commend the Minister and the department for following through on this important area of prevention and treatment.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that the department will be placing a strict limitation on how women would be targeted for screening and it has given me cause for concern. In relying on research that has long been challenged by more recent studies and expert opinions in the field, it is my understanding that the government will not allow mammography screening of women under 50 unless she's in a

high risk category. Mr. Speaker, this would be a big mistake and extremely short-sighted and I would urge the Minister to seriously reconsider this position.

In talking to a medical professional recently, he has indicated to me that he has seen increased incidence of breast cancer in young aboriginal women from small communities in the NWT that would have been easily treated had the cancer been detected earlier. He has also indicated that the technology in mammography is continually improving and it is a highly effective means of detection at the very early stage of the disease.

Mr. Speaker, this is a highly personal issue for me, not only because I am a woman and will be turning 40 shortly, but I have lost two very close friends from university to breast cancer and they were both diagnosed in their early to mid-40s. I know a number of women in Yellowknife who have been diagnosed with breast cancer as well, and none of these women belong to the conventional high risk category.

My point, Mr. Speaker, is that the evidence is before my very eyes. So to me, the government's insistence that the screening will only be available to women over 50 doesn't make any sense at all and, I would say, is even reckless. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that there is a need for a cutoff somewhere and I understand that the priority should be given to women aged 50 and over, however I must insist that women under 40 years of age be given the opportunity of screening if they so wish. At the same time, there should be a comprehensive public information campaign to let them know this service is available and it is advisable for them to take the test as soon as they turn 40. 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 Decentralization Of GNWT Positions

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this being our 23rd day, we have covered quite a bit in the last five weeks. Mr. Speaker, through harmonization and other initiatives that we discussed in this House, some harsh words were said and I would like to apologize to anybody that I offended in this House, especially the Ministers on the other side who we have to grill.

Mr. Speaker, harmonization took a lot out of us. I used that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to point out the inequities of regional centres, the capital and our communities. Option is something we don't have in the communities. We passed a budget that is worth almost \$1 billion. Somehow we don't seem to address the real issues in our communities. We skirt around and fund the same organizations over and over again and they come up with ideas that they don't know how to implement. I believe the only way we are ever going to make a big bang for the dollars we expend in this territory is by putting people in the communities to work, people who understand our programs and services and how we deliver them. We cannot do that by telling them through mail or e-mail or sending them a message. We have to make an impact.

I challenge this government to make that impact. They know how to do it, they just don't seem to want to do it. There doesn't seem to be the political will. We have a transition document and now we are putting the next government on hold. We are challenging the next government. We still have a few months left in this government. I don't want to put everything in a transition document, Mr. Speaker, and have somebody else do it for us. I think if we are going to put everything in a transition document, we do it and tell how we are going to do it, why we are doing it.

The people I represent in the 28 non-tax-based communities do not want to be welfare cases. They do not want to go begging to the government and saying I want a few dollars for this month, so I can eat, so I can feed my family, so I can clothe myself, so I can pay my bills. No, they want to get educated. They want to have the respect and dignity that every human being in this territory deserves. But we don't do that. We would rather prop up government in regional centres and administer a social services delivery system in our smaller communities. That is not acceptable anymore, Mr. Speaker. It can't go on that way. My people don't want it. My constituents don't want it. The people in the North don't want it anymore. So I challenge this government, before the next government to come up with ways. Tell them when you are going to do it and how you are going to do it. Don't leave it to the next government.

Today is our last day here. In June, we will be back. I would like to see some direction by then, Mr. Speaker. The people of the NWT deserve and want to see the direction from this government, some leadership, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Wildlife Act Concerns Of The Inuvialuit Game Council

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I received a copy of correspondence sent by the Inuvialuit Game Council regarding the Wildlife Act legislation. It was sent to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, they are quite clear on their concerns about how they felt the Wildlife Act went, or didn't go, according to what was laid out. Mr. Speaker, it was long ago, just for this Assembly. When they first came in, there was a lot of hope and work being done to get the Wildlife Act done in the life of this Assembly during many committee processes, meetings, business plans, it was said that we would be able to get this done. Money was put aside to consult with aboriginal groups, so we could be prepared and have this legislation finished in the life of our Assembly. So it is with disappointment that we hear that there will be draft legislation tabled, but not pursued.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of concerns raised by the game council. They have been consulting with the aboriginal groups on areas they have issues with or the process used in trying to draft legislation and what was used or not used, who was able to come to the table and take part in that. I am aware the Minister, during the business plan or the draft main estimates portion of his department, referenced that they have come up with a system now that should be able to move it along. That's something that I will have questions on later during question period, trying to find out if it is something that

will be addressing the issues of concern raised by the Inuvialuit Game Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On GNWT Support To Northern Business

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about government support for the northern business community. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard Mr. Handley – actually many days – talk about the importance of jobs in our communities, in terms of how they contribute to the circulation of money, in other words the spin-off effect, where one job leads to another and another and so on. He's noted that the salaries circulate in local economies stimulating economic activity and growth. Mr. Speaker, the Minister and the government often talk about the need to support our northern business and the need for business development in the North. It's a constant theme we have heard, but is it any more than talk?

A few days ago, we spent a considerable amount of time talking about \$1 million plus contract for computers that went south. Northern suppliers believe they could have filled the order. The Minister of Public Works justified the award in part because it would save money. He even complained that Members told him he should do things less expensively, so we shouldn't complain when he saves money.

Not long ago, Mr. Speaker, the government proposed changes to the BIP. When they were rolled out, the business community saw little to cheer about and told the government that. Nevertheless, the push to implement changes was brought forward, even though there was no economic justification for the changes presented. Again, we heard the new and improved BIP would save us money. At the last minute it was put off.

Mr. Speaker, last summer, the government waived the BIP on the second phase of the correctional centre, again to save money. When the smoke had cleared after the bids came in from that project, it is impossible to say there had been any significant savings. In fact, we may have lost money. Mr. Speaker, the government has never made a meaningful effort to figure out what the benefit of supporting northern business might be. Without quantifying the economic impact, how do we know which Minister is saying the right thing? We have Minister Handley talking about how important it is to support northern business and not even mentioning the \$17,000 per person we get in transfer payments for every man, woman and child who lives here. Then we have Minister Steen suggesting that his top goal is to save money, even if that means sole-sourcing contracts to southern suppliers. Mr. Speaker, last year Cabinet approved waiving the BIP, again saying it was most important to save money. No wonder there is a crisis of confidence among business people in the NWT when it comes to the GNWT. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, a recent survey conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business found a significant number of business owners in the NWT felt that the Government of the Northwest Territories did not understand entrepreneurship. Mr. Speaker, we need to get our act together. The government needs to do their homework, so we all know the value of supporting northern business. We need a cost-benefit analysis that is reliable. Only with good information will we be able to really prove that Mr. Handley was right when he talked about the importance of northern business in all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On The Importance Of Rail Transportation In The North

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, rail transportation to the North is a topic we don't hear a lot about and it's not very often talked about in this House. However, today I would like to bring some attention to rail transportation in the North. As we all know, rail transportation in the NWT was put in place back in the mid-60s when Canadian National built a rail line to serve Pine Point Mine. It's kind of ironic that CNR would build a railway to service a CP mine, but that's what took place.

Back in those days, Mr. Speaker, the railway was known as the Great Slave Lake Railroad and I have many fond memories of the Great Slave Lake Railroad, having worked for them for some 30 years. Mr. Speaker, although Pine Point Mine no longer exists, rail transportation is still a very important link to our infrastructure in the Northwest Territories and the role that it will play in future developments that we have going on in the Territories right now.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of attending a meeting in Hay River on that very issue, rail transportation to the Northwest Territories and the role it will play in future developments, specifically the Mackenzie Valley pipeline or the mining industry, the role that it plays in the resupply of many northern communities and for the mines right now.

Mr. Speaker, there were many representatives at that meeting yesterday. There were representatives from Transport Canada; from Alberta Transportation; Northern Alberta Development Council; the economic development officer for the county of Grand Prairie; the mayor of Grand Prairie was there; the mayor of High Level; the chair of the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency; the vice president of Mackenzie Northern Railway, which is now known as Rail America but operates under Rail Link in Hay River right now; the mayor of Enterprise; the mayor of Hay River; representation from NTCL and representation from our very own Department of Transportation. I would like to thank the Department of Transportation of this government for initiating that meeting yesterday and starting some talks between railway people and different businesses.

One of the very important topics that was discussed yesterday with the representatives from Alberta was the need to work together and the acknowledgment that whatever development happens in the North, whatever is good for the NWT, is also

good for Alberta. It is very important that we are aware of everything that is happening and support each other in that endeavour. One of the other representatives there was a guy from Hay River, who is an entrepreneur promoting a passenger train to go from...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Delorey, your time for your Member's statement is up and, like railroads, we must keep on time. Mr. Delorey.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Members' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude, Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. When I was involved with the railway, we tended to be a little over our time as well. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, one of the guys that made a presentation there yesterday is Mr. Glenn Pangborn from Hay River and he has been promoting a passenger train to the North from Edmonton to Hay River in the year 2004 to celebrate 40 years of rail transportation to the North. It would be a tourism venture that would transport some 300 passengers to Hay River via passenger train. I think it is a very worthwhile endeavour, Mr. Speaker. I know the government has showed some interest in supporting this endeavour and I would like to encourage Mr. Pangborn to continue with his endeavours with this passenger train and I would like to encourage this government to lend some support wherever they can for this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Concerns With Resource Allocation And Financial Management Processes

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last June in this House I made a statement on the way consensus government is supposed to work. I pointed out that consensus government is a system where each Member is allowed to vote as he or she wishes on any subject matter. Consensus government is a system where our approval of any decision requires agreement by the majority of Members. Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in June, I was disturbed. Although we are elected to practice consensus government, this is not what was or is actually practiced.

During session last June, the Deputy Premier stated that as a government, we have a responsibility to make sure that our budget is in place and is followed as closely as possible. Despite these words, Cabinet continues to use supplementary appropriations, special warrants, to transfer money from project to project in certain ridings. Because of this practice, regular Members spend a lot of time asking questions about why and how money has been moved around in Minister's ridings. By Cabinet doing this, I feel the political process is undermined. Regular Members have no knowledge or input on where these

funds are moved. We are left out of the loop of the decision making process, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we sit in this House and on committees to work for our regions and to work for the Territories as a whole. Each Member lobbies hard to ensure that the needs of his or her riding are addressed and that government money is allocated fairly. It is disrespectful when Cabinet ignores this process and chooses which project it will fund without any input from Members.

Mr. Speaker, as elected Members we are writing the last chapter of the 14th Assembly and creating a transition document for the next Assembly. In this document, I think we need to include the things that have worked well during the last three and half years and the things that need improvement. The continuous disregard and exclusion of input from Members in the funding process needs to be addressed. As well, the inability of Ministers to freely vote is of great concern to me. My understanding is that this procedure is new to the Assembly. It is inconsistent with the concept of consensus government and it is geared towards party politics.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to say that I have seen one instance of consensus government in action. Of course, I am referring to the decision made by most of my colleagues to defer the implementation of the harmonization strategy. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member seeks unanimous consent to conclude his Members' statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays, you may conclude your statement, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, of course I am referring to the decision made by most of my colleagues to defer the implementation of the harmonization strategy. In doing what we did, we voted on something that we agreed to. It makes us work better together but there is still a great concern when Cabinet is voting as a block. It is party politics when you are not allowed to vote but you have to vote as a solid Cabinet. Mr. Speaker, at this time I say that this will allow time to answer the many concerns of ours that were raised when we dealt with this harmonization. Certainly Members were concerned that we were given an opportunity to look at it again and maybe this way we can work for the Territories in a much better way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Benefit Performance For The Hay River Youth Resource Centre

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today for a few minutes about an event that is going to be taking place in Hay River this weekend. We have a Youth Resource Center in Hay River, which is managed by a local youth council in conjunction with the Soaring Eagle Friendship Center. They have been funded for a number of years by some programs under the federal government and they are uncertain of their future. So some very well known musicians in the Northwest Territories have

agreed to come to Hay River and put on a performance on Saturday night, which would raise funds and the proceeds would go directly to the Youth Resource Center in Hay River.

The Youth Resource Center performs a very important function in the community. It provides tutoring for students after school and has a fitness center and many other activities that give our youth something to do other than hanging out, perhaps getting into mischief that they shouldn't. So, it does provide a very worthwhile cause for people to get behind and get involved in. I would like to thank people like George Tuccaro and John Tees and John Landry, Pat Burke, Paul Andrew, Premier Kakfwi, Commissioner Hansen, quite a number of well known Northern performers that will be coming to Hay River on Saturday to have a jam session in the afternoon with the youth and then put on a performance for the public in the evening.

So, anyone in Hay River who is watching this, Mr. Speaker, I encourage them to come out, it's well worthwhile for the \$12 ticket, and also I would like to invite my colleagues who happen to be in the South Slave this weekend to join us for this. We hope to be able to hand a fair amount over to the youth center. I also would like to thank the youth who named the music festival Northern Friends, and who also have been out distributing posters and selling tickets and very involved, not just waiting for somebody to do something for them, but getting actively involved themselves in fundraising. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement On Mackenzie Delta Muskrat Trapping Tradition

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a bit of a story to my Member's statement today so I will begin by saying this is a special time for many residents of my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes who engage in the art of trapping muskrats and beaver. Many enjoy the cold morning wind chill as they travel to the lakes of the Delta. Here they shovel the snow off the muskrat-pushup, and break open the door. If it's a live house, the trapper proceeds to set a rat trap. The trapper closes the push-up with lots of snow so it doesn't freeze. Later in the evening, it's time to visit the traps, and the trapper repeats this practice day after day.

Mr. Speaker, this is a familiar story for this time of year in the Mackenzie Delta. The people are out enjoying what is a custom for many of us. Mr. Speaker, it's not only about the trapping of muskrats that makes life so enjoyable, it's about families participating in this seasonal lifestyle. The trappers refer to it back home as "ratting season." If I may, Mr. Speaker, my friend would come home and talk about nothing but rat, rat, rat.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a nice history to this tradition. It's about being out on the lakes making a nice fire, having hot tea with bannock and Klik. Mr. Speaker, besides getting a nice windburn, we also have the wind that blows the campfire smoke into your face, which forces you to move your branches. Mr. Speaker, there is a moral to this story and there is only one Member in this House that can tell it and I am certainly not that one Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. You aren't going to tell us who that is? Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Range Lake.

ITEM 4: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 11-14(6): Interim Report Of The Special Committee On The Implementation Of Self-Government And The Sunset Clause

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure as one of the co-chairs, that I present to you the interim progress report of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause.

This is a story about the search for the "self" in "self-government". "Self" government has meaning for all of us. We all want to be self-governing. We all want to keep our identities as individuals and groups, but we live closely together. Together we make up the communities of the NWT and the governments that serve them.

In our committee's view, this is the starting point for understanding the systems of governance that have evolved in the NWT in the past, and for examining what potentially lies ahead as a result of negotiations to establish new systems of governance in the Northwest Territories in the future.

When the resident territorial government was established in 1967, it came with a federal government promise of greater self-government. However, as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples has documented, while the system of territorial government in the NWT has been better than most in Canada in responding to aboriginal peoples' cultures and values, it has not gone far enough. A central purpose of self-government agreements is to ensure that aboriginal peoples gain more control over decision-making on matters that affect them.

We have been working to understand the new systems of government that are emerging from self-government negotiations. We want to understand these agreements so that we have a sense of how things will change for the Legislative Assembly and GNWT, but more importantly so we can have a territory-wide conversation about what all NWT residents can expect in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions of a single self-government agreement are sufficiently complex that good forecasts about its implementation are not entirely credible. When two, three, six, seven or more self-government agreements are factored into the equation, the process of mapping out implications is even more difficult.

Even though self-government agreements are generally quite detailed, these documents, and the other legal and political side agreements required for their implementation, will in all likelihood only provide a framework, rather than a script, for governance in the NWT. The literal wording of every provision of self-government agreements will probably not be strictly implemented. This does not mean these agreements will lose their legal or political force. Simply put, over time practical approaches will need to be taken by all governments in the

NWT if governance is to be effective, as has been the case with the Constitution of Canada itself.

So while the situation is not entirely predictable at this point, a clearer picture is emerging as each new agreement is concluded. These agreements will result in fundamental changes to many aspects of the way the Assembly and GNWT now do things, including:

- law-making
- policy-making
- government decision-making
- government operations, including program and service delivery
- human resources management
- land and resources matters
- financial management including taxation and other revenues
- capital assets and other facilities
- intergovernmental relations.

There will be fundamental changes in the relationships among the community, regional and territorial levels of government. Responsibilities for law-making and for the delivery of several programs and services will change. Self-government agreements often involve systems for delivery of programs and services to all residents. The people we will hold accountable will consequently change. Governments will be required to consult more with each other and to coordinate and cooperate in their activities.

We have also been struggling to understand the practical issues surrounding implementation of self-government agreements. Again, the expression "implementation of self-government" can be misleading. Describing the evolution of a system of governance in this way can make it sound like a process that is done once or that can be completed in a specific time. By contrast we are unlikely to describe the political, economic and social processes that go on continuously in Canada as "implementing public government".

Government is simply the way we organize ourselves to achieve our common goals. Everyone is now talking about "partnerships", "stakeholder cooperation", "co-management", and "shared jurisdiction". We are all involved. We share responsibilities for finding common objectives and addressing competing interests.

We know that many people in many organizations and levels of government are thinking about these potential changes and are trying to find practical ways to manage a smooth transition. It is important to remember that change will occur over many years rather than completely and suddenly on a given date.

There was a time in the NWT and across Canada when communities were relatively self-sufficient and self-governing. One of the strongest trends of the 20th century has been the increasing involvement of many levels of government in virtually every aspect of our daily lives. How did this happen? One reason is that collectively we have chosen to organize ourselves in ways to improve the standards and conditions in which we live. Most of us now expect governments to deliver a broad range of important programs and services such as health, social services, education, transportation, housing and so on. If these roles and responsibilities are not carried out, we blame "government".

But again, who is the government? We are. In the NWT, with its small population and close-knit communities, the government is potentially every one of us, our friends and our neighbours. We, the residents of the NWT, make up all northern governments, whether it is the territorial government, bands, aboriginal councils, community governments, regional boards and agencies, and so on.

How can you help? In delivering this interim report, we want to encourage a full dialogue or conversation about how we can work together to make the NWT a better home for all residents. Most of us think we would do things differently if we were in charge, if we were the government. What would you change and what would you want to stay the same?

Imagine you have the opportunity and responsibility to make such choices...because in fact you do. This is what self-government involves, for all of us. Self-government agreements will place the emphasis back on the communities and the people. The futures of all NWT communities will be linked together even more closely than they are today. The new relationships that will develop among our northern governments will depend on our attitudes, and our relationships with each other.

Mr. Speaker, our committee welcomes your views on these important matters. That concludes the introduction to our interim report.

Motion That Committee Report 11-14(6) Be Received And Adopted By The Legislative Assembly, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the interim report of the Special Committee on Implementation on Self-Government and the Sunset Clause be received and adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a very special person in the gallery today and if you will bear with me, I'd like to say a few words about her.

Heather Crowe worked for 40 years as a waitress in different cities in Eastern Canada. For much of her career, she worked 60 hours a week to provide for herself and her daughter. Ms. Crowe has never smoked and never lived with a smoker but, as Heather herself says, "the air was blue with tobacco smoke where I worked."

Ottawa's 2001 bylaw banning smoking in workplaces including restaurants came too late for Heather. In the spring of 2002,

she was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. In the fall of 2002, she was awarded compensation from the Ontario Workplace Safety Insurance Board that accepted her claim that lung cancer was caused by life-long occupational exposure to tobacco smoke. She's now the subject of a powerful Health Canada advertising campaign calling people's attention to the dangers of second hand smoke. Ms. Crowe has said, "I want to be the last person to die from second hand smoke at work." She is now doing volunteer work with Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada actively campaigning to help create smoke-free workplaces everywhere in Canada. Along with Ms. Crowe, Mr. Speaker, are Neil Collishaw with the Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada and also Shawn McCann, a public relations officer with the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery and in the Speaker's gallery of Margaret Bertulli from WCB; and, Dr. Andre Corriveau, the chief medical health officer of the Northwest Territories. Please welcome them.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, rarely do I have the opportunity to introduce someone in the gallery from the constituency of Inuvik Boot Lake. Today I have the privilege of introducing Mr. Brian Campbell and Mr. Brian McDonald.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all have people who work behind the scenes in our offices, not visible here in the Legislature. I would like to introduce someone today who is the daughter of Hilda Camirand; Andrea is visiting us today.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Andrea. Andrea and I used to share a lab table together in high school in science class. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my constituents in their homes in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity again to welcome you all to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following my Member's statement on the Wildlife Act and the concerns raised by the Inuvialuit Game Council, I have questions to be directed to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, correspondence from the Inuvialuit Game Council raises a number of concerns. I know it's very recent correspondence, so the Minister probably hasn't had a chance to look at it, but the council's concern is about the processes used. The Minister did state that they had come up with what he felt was something that could move this along. So I would like to know from the Minister what has been put in place that would move this process along and would be satisfactory to all partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Wildlife Act, we have been working for a number of years, as I indicated in a previous session. I did meet with the Inuvialuit Game Council in January. This was my first contact with them and this was following extensive consultation in the work we carried out as RWED. We were directed by Cabinet to take an approach in drafting new legislation and the drafting process follows how the GNWT prepares legislation. Of course, the legal counsel from Justice are directed to work only with client departments. This is the process we are into and are going by the direction of Cabinet. This is the way it is. We did meet with the Inuvialuit Game Council and heard their concerns. The first time I heard their concerns about the different approaches taken in the Yukon and Nunavut, I asked the department to check it out because I wanted to familiarize myself with what happened over there. Of course, it's two different jurisdictions. I have directed RWED to work with the Inuvialuit Game Council within the parameters that were defined for us in Cabinet. There is some flexibility there and we want to make sure we accommodate their concerns and this is the direction I have given to RWED. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that this consultation has been ongoing for a couple of years now by the Department of RWED. In the correspondence from the game council, they use the Yukon's example saying they had managed to do that within six months and bring legislation forward. So is the model being used now? As the Minister stated, he just directed his staff to work with him. Is that Yukon model being used?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: I am not familiar with the Yukon model at all. The Yukon is a different jurisdiction and we have more complicated arrangements with the different First Nations. We have land claims agreements with the Inuvialuit, which is separate and different from the Gwich'in and the Sahtu. We have the Salt River First Nation that has claims. So it's negotiating with the aboriginal governments like the Tlicho, Akaitcho, the South Slave Metis and the Deh Cho that makes it even more complicated. That's why we have an obligation in the NWT to address issues with non-beneficiaries as well. To compare Yukon to us, I understand Yukon has one umbrella agreement that encompasses all 14 First Nations. I understand there are some that haven't gone into that agreement yet, so there are differences there. To compare is different.

I think what they are driving at is, Yukon went with the concept of hiring an outside independent drafter and that process is outside the mandate I have. Cabinet directed me to take a direct approach on how they do legislation here. So that's the dilemma that I find RWED in, in this case, as well as the fact that we are pretty far down the process already to make any changes. Within the parameters that we have, I have instructed RWED to try to work with the Inuvialuit Game Council to see if we could accommodate their concern of having their own legal counsel directly involved in the actual drafting of the Government of the Northwest Territories bill. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister stated on behalf of their own legal counsel develop some of the drafting. My understanding is that even our own drafters have not been at the table when discussions have been ongoing. Is that correct? If it is, is that going to change so that we won't be able to bring drafters to the table? So that, instead of meeting one time to discuss issues, going back to the Justice department to discuss them, and bringing them back to the table and taking care of it in one sitting, is that process going to be taken into consideration now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. RWED has Cabinet direction to share draft legislation with aboriginal governments to address requirements under the existing land claims agreements. So if it's within the Inuvialuit land claims agreements, then we have to honour that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question now is, when discussions are happening with the land

claims groups, will the Department of RWED have Justice staff at the table at the same time so that they can speed the process along?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 228-14(6): Inuvialuit Concerns With The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the meetings with the different representatives of the different aboriginal groups, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and Sahtu, they have some funding for some legal advice and counsel with regard to the Wildlife Act and the Species At Risk. My understanding is there are meetings that take place with RWED and the different representative groups and give drafting instructions on the way we want to craft the legislation. So specifically which counsel is sitting at the table, I am not too familiar with that. I will have to check who is at the table, whether it's a counsellor or RWED representatives. I am not familiar with that.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I think that we have come to understand that as we approach the end of this Assembly, there is major legislation that has fallen off the agenda. One of them is the major amendments to municipalities and it is raising a concern among municipalities and the Association of Municipalities that this is not going to make it in the life of this Assembly. I would like to ask the Minister to state for the record and make a public statement about why this legislative proposal and amendment fell off of the agenda. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the process MACA is using is to assure that this legislation is passed by this Assembly. This is the fastest process we have in hand right now. We table it in this session, we are hoping to introduce it in the June session, the committee will do their work over the summer and we could debate it and have the final reading in the fall session.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That might be contrary to what the common understanding of the people is. Mr. Speaker, I think that all of us are operating under the assumption that any major legislation that has to see the light of the day has to get a second reading in this session, so that it could have a proper public consultation process to assure a third reading by June. If the Minister was prepared to table it as

a tabled document, why did he not introduce it as a bill in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, we did hope to introduce it in this session. However, we are having problems with the translation aspect of it and the amount of work Justice has because it's such a thick document. The best we can do is what we are doing right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going by the Minister's answer then, is it entirely possible that this legislation will see the light of the day and the Minister is still working to have it come into effect by the end of this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. We are really hoping to see this legislation in place by the fall session, at the end of the fall session. As we've said, the draft legislation and initiatives have all been through the consultation process now since 1995. So there has been a lot of consultation done on it. The municipalities definitely would like to see this sped up because it not only saves them money, it saves the government money as well. We have to keep funding them any time insurance costs go up. This new legislation would put some brakes on what municipalities would be liable for. So there are definitely advantages to both municipalities and the government. The only piece of legislation that is not being introduced that would be part of the package in June would be the settlement legislation. We haven't completed that yet, so it would be ready for introduction in June and the whole package would then be taken by the committee to the public for consultation. But because so much consultation was already done, we expect that there shouldn't be any... We are not foreseeing any difficulties in putting the legislation in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, by the Minister's answers it appears he's well aware of the importance of the issue and the beneficial aspects of getting it into law. The only thing that's getting in the way of this law becoming law is getting translation done because all other aspects of the work have been done. May I ask the Minister for a commitment that he will keep working on it to make sure that bill is introduced in the June session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 229-14(6): Amendments To Municipal Statutes

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no problem making that commitment because we've been given some assurance by Justice that they have the ability to handle it by June. So I will make sure that I will work with my colleagues to make sure this is ready for introduction in June.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier in my Member's statement this afternoon on support for northern business, I said, I believe and I think most Members of this House believe, it is important to support northern business. Right now, we really only have our gut feelings to go by. So we have programs like the Business Incentive Policy and we have the Development Corporation and BCC, and we have loan guarantees. They are all funded because we think it is important to support northern business. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of RWED. I'll start with the Minister of Finance. Has the Minister discussed with his staff developing a method to assess the net economic impact of government taxes and other economic measures like the BIP that some would call, perhaps, a macro economic tool. Has the Minister discussed developing that kind of tool?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I have discussed that with my staff. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

MR. DENT: Simple direct answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise the House what the result of that conversation was please?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the results were very positive. Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, we have discussed this for a number of years. In fact, very early in the life of this government the Member raised with me the notion of doing macroeconomic models for the Northwest Territories. Given our limited fiscal ability, given the limited ability for taxation and royalties and so on, it has to be somewhat limited. So, Mr. Speaker, we are working on a number of fronts on that. Trying to assess, for example, the benefits of BIP or even the benefits

of a northern manufacturing policy and so on are pieces of it. Mr. Speaker, it is a very complex task and I don't have a document that says here's a macroeconomic model and its implications for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government puts a lot of money into economic programs and the Minister is always looking for new revenues. So taxes, tax rates, tax changes and new taxes are always under consideration. Has the Minister considered approaching the Minister of RWED and combining staff from Finance and Economic Development to see if they can't develop such a tool that would help us assess the value of our programs?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, not necessarily for the specific purpose the Member refers to, although we could have a good discussion between the economics people in RWED and our people, especially in the bureau of statistics. I know they work very closely on this kind of modeling and I would urge them to continue to work along those lines. I take the Member's suggestions very seriously. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response that he sees the importance of this. Does the Minister hold any hope that he will be able to develop a tool that might be useful before the end of this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 230-14(6): Modelling The Effects Of GNWT Taxes And Incentives For Northern Business

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as we look at the organization structure of our government, one of the things that we want to do is to ensure that we have maximum efficiency. Will we have a tool that is completed before the end of this government? I don't think we'll have a completed one. I think this is an ongoing exercise that changes as we change our fiscal relationships among ourselves, the federal government and aboriginal self-governments. As we're negotiating devolution, resource revenue sharing and all of those pieces keep changing any kind of model that we would be looking at. Will we have a completed model? Not likely, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the NWT Public Service as well as the Minister of the Financial Management Board. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that to teach a person to fish he'll be independent but keep on feeding him fish, he'll always be dependent. Mr. Speaker, the Good Ship NWT and the NWT has been fishing with almost a billion dollar fishing tackle and fishing rod and they have been sending fish to our communities. Now I ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, would he undertake an exercise and report back in a progress report in June how we could put some of those fishing rods in our communities so that we could create employment and an economic base? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister Responsible for FMB, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly I will cooperate with all the Members and especially the special committee on small communities to try to achieve what Mr. Nitah is referring to. Mr. Speaker, I say that although knowing that we have given an interim response to the special committee's interim report and I understand that that committee will be reporting back in June. I've offered to meet with the committee several times and I'll do that. I'd like to work cooperatively with the Members of that committee to figure out ways we can achieve what Mr. Nitah is referring to, where we help people to become much more self-sufficient. I think our government has to work well with the committees of this Legislative Assembly on those kinds of exercises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

MR. NITAH: Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Special Committee on Non-Tax-Based Communities was set up to include the relationship, mostly the financial relationship between this government and the communities. I'm not talking about that, Mr. Speaker; I'm talking about government employment in our communities. Move some of the government employment from top to bottom. That's what I'm talking about. You know, it's not fair for taxpayers that we don't employ people from our communities. It's not fair to the taxpayers that we keep people on social services in our communities. All I'm asking the Minister to do is see what kind of positions from this government we could put in communities across the Northwest Territories so that we can create an economic base in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister Responsible for FMB, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Member has asked me to provide him with a list of salaries by community that has been provided today. I don't know if he's seen it yet but it has been provided, and that outlines the amount that we are putting in salaries into each community. We have our deputy Ministers committee that is looking at the structure and organization of our government. Hopefully that will give us some assistance as well. Mr. Speaker, when we look at the terms of these special committees and so on, I interpret those terms as broader than just the financial arrangement. I'd like to look at how we distribute the wealth in the Northwest Territories more equitably as something we as a government and also the special committee would work together on. I'm certainly willing to work with the Member. I will bring forward what I can in terms of my thoughts on how we do that and how we can get jobs into the communities. I think we all have to work together on it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the Minister is willing to work with communities and Members on this issue. I think it is very important to all of us that we start putting government positions into communities. We need an economic base in those communities. I would like to stand up and argue, like Mr. Dent, on contracts that have gone south because they're not giving my constituents an opportunity. I'd love to have that argument in this House but I don't because there are hardly any businesses in my communities that take advantage of that. I'd like to ask the Minister... I don't want the Minister's personal opinions, I want the governments' position on this. Would he report the government's position in June? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister for FMB, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly I would take that back to Cabinet. I'm not the government; I can't make a commitment on behalf of government. I have to talk to all of my colleagues on Cabinet to make any kind of commitment to table anything in June but I will review the Hansard and try to pick out exactly what the Member is asking, and refine it so we can agree on it and I'll take it to my colleagues on Cabinet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I'm talking about is, instead of sending an income support worker from Fort Smith into my communities or any regional centers into communities in the Northwest Territories, send somebody that is going to create a job so that people in our communities

have the option of applying for a government job instead of income support. That's what I'm talking about, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister Responsible for FMB, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 231-14(6): Decentralization Of GNWT Programs And Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, if the Member wants this, instead of sending income support workers to the community, send someone to do job applications, we will do that. I don't think that's what he means and I think it's more than that. I want to speak with the Member more to understand what it is we want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, the Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development announced that a long-standing dispute had been settled with Sirius Diamonds Limited regarding the use of the polar bear logo. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he could advise me of some of the background to this deal. The business arrangement that was announced says that Sirius is going to be the only diamond manufacturer to hold a licence for a four-legged polar bear design for ten years. Could the Minister advise, Mr. Speaker, what was the business basis of this exclusive arrangement? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not familiar with the details. I wasn't involved in the negotiation of the final settlement or exactly what the details were for the arrangement to give Sirius the exclusive right to use the polar bear. I believe the Minister of RWED can provide the information to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to repeat the question. The Minister has referred it to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I would like to inquire what was the business basis for the arrangement whereby Sirius Diamonds obtained a ten-year exclusive deal for the polar bear symbol on its diamonds. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think most of the Members of the House know we were involved in a dispute over the polar bear trademark with Sirius Diamonds for a number of years and I wanted to say that we have negotiated an arrangement with Sirius. Some Members of the House here were very concerned about it two months ago and through negotiations, we are able to come to an agreement that's mutual to ourselves as the Government of the Northwest Territories and to Sirius Diamonds. The part of the agreement is that we are able to, as a government, say that Sirius Diamonds have developed their own logo, which is a polar bear which has four legs. Our official trademark is a polar bear that has three legs. It's facing west and theirs is facing east, or whatever. So part of the agreement is they be allowed to use their polar bear trademark, even though it's similar to ours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues here concerns the use of the bear and some 30-plus years of investment that the GNWT has made. It is a world-recognized symbol of the Arctic. It is the ability, then, of Sirius to use their four-legged bear on their diamonds. It is their mark. The question I have, Mr. Speaker, is can other manufacturers also use polar bears or are we granting an exclusive umbrella agreement for a polar bear to Sirius? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the three-legged polar bear is our trademark and it will continue to be our trademark and it's always been our trademark. Part of the problem there was the way the trademark was registered. Although it's been our trademark for so many years, we just assumed everybody knew it. However, the legal aspect of it was overlooked in some ways, but we were able to resolve that. The details of it have been worked out. The only concession we managed to get to resolve this whole issue was that Sirius will have the exclusive use of their four-legged polar bear on the girdle of their diamond. Any other company that is manufacturing diamonds in the NWT could use a polar bear in their advertisements and displays.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make my question as specific as I can. Can other manufacturers also use a polar bear on their diamonds?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 232-14(6): Polar Bear Diamond Logo Dispute Settlement

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, the arrangement we got was that, for a period of 10 years, Sirius would have exclusive use on the girdle of their diamonds. I don't know of any other company that wants to use the polar bear on their diamonds. The other manufacturers have chosen to use other symbols to identify their diamonds. I don't know if this is as big a problem as it seems, but for the time being, we were able to come to a settlement and this is one of the conditions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for the North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Jim Antoine, Deputy Premier. My question is going back to the June session when I asked the Deputy Premier if he would ensure that all his Cabinet Ministers get a briefing on how consensus government works. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if that has been done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we didn't have a briefing exclusively talking about consensus government. I don't think we practice consensus government, our form of consensus government which is different from any other type of government in this country, in other jurisdictions except for Nunavut. So we understand the concern there. We actually practice it, so I don't know if we need a briefing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We may be practicing it. We haven't gotten down to the key, I guess, if you can say that. We say everyday in the House here we have to ask questions on expenditures on behalf of the NWT being done without input of other Members through supplementary appropriations and special warrants, funds being transferred from project to project. During the next few months, we are creating a transition document. I would like to ask him if he can make sure that the Cabinet is briefed on how consensus government works and how we can go into the next government with a real consensus government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Member is concerned about the way we operate as a government and we have been very open and transparent as we can be, as a government, more so than at the beginning of the session. I think we have developed processes that we work

with Members on the other side through the whole budgeting process. In fact, we go through the budgeting process twice behind closed doors before we take it out here with the process we just ended a few days ago with the main estimates. There are different situations that arise and different requests that come. There is the request of the addition of dollars in one project or another in different communities. Those types of issues come to Cabinet and we consider them. If it's money, it goes to FMB and perhaps the question there is that Members would like to know as soon as possible when different requests for additional dollars go before Cabinet and FMB. Perhaps that is what the request is. If I am anticipating the concern properly, perhaps we should find a mechanism to inform them as quickly as possible whenever a project is considered that is of an emergency nature and there are extraordinary decisions made above and beyond the normal process. Perhaps that is the thing we should be considering here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my questioning in June, the Deputy Premier had given me an answer. "As a government, we have the responsibility to make sure that our budget is in place and that we should follow it as much as we can. Major initiatives are required up here, especially the infrastructure money, we all need that." In this session, we've had so many questions coming up on how things were done and how things were not done, also initiatives that raise question marks. If we were a consensus government, we would have been able to get all these answers ahead of time before the expenditures, but that isn't happening. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier... we are going into an election soon and there's a document out there that Members have input in, if he could make sure he has input into that and try to make some changes, so we would have a better government in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Member is referring to the initiative of the preparation of transition document. We will be looking at what we are doing here in terms of the different initiatives and what may be flowing after the next election. I don't know the time frame of when this document is going to be ready, how it's going to get ready. I will check on that and get back with that information to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask once again if he could make sure that briefings on consensus government and how consensus government is done will be available for future governments, so they can have that input into the transition document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-14(6): Briefing On Consensus Government

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I will check on this document and see what stage it's at and make sure that, at some point in time, once it's put together or even before it's finalized in the development stages, the MLAs are included in the process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 234-14(6): Inuvik Gas Pricing

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board. It concerns the utilities companies in the community of Inuvik. Inuvik Gas is established and delivers gas to many households and companies now. I would like to know from the Minister if the Inuvik Gas Company is regulated by the PUB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister Responsible for PUB, Mr. Allen.

Return To Question 234-14(6): Inuvik Gas Pricing

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my knowledge, from previous decisions, Inuvik Gas is excluded from the Public Utilities Board. The rationale is that the fluctuation in gas prices varies dramatically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 234-14(6): Inuvik Gas Pricing

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us what would need to be done to pull them under the Public Utilities Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister Responsible for PUB, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 234-14(6): Inuvik Gas Pricing

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the process, but I believe there is a regulatory process that has to be considered and I will check for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 234-14(6): Inuvik Gas Pricing

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister can, when he has that information, would he forward it to me so I can provide my constituents that information? We are looking to see if there might be increases coming up and people want to know what processes they can look to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister Responsible for PUB, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 234-14(6): Inuvik Gas Pricing

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that a written submission should be made to the Public Utilities

Board and they will respond to the specific questions and the details, and I will communicate that to the chairman with respect to the Member's question.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, my question this afternoon is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, my colleague, Mr. Steen. It's about the land issue in the city of Yellowknife and making affordable land available so that affordable housing can be built. The question I would like to ask is, in general terms, could the Minister describe how GNWT, commissioner's lands, are transferred to the City of Yellowknife? How does that process work, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in general, if it's in an area outside the municipal boundaries of tax-based communities where there was a block land transfer to the city or the town, the normal process is that MACA would lease the commissioner's land to the applicant and eventually, if it's not in an unsettled claims area, it's just a formality of allowing the applicant to buy it if he would prefer that option rather than leasing. In relation to land within the city, MACA generally transfers all the land to the city and then the city does all the administration of the land under the city rules. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I would like to ask now, along with the ability -- and it sounds fairly straight forward -- to transfer lands to a municipality, are there any provisions or any options that the GNWT can offer for helping to develop that land, and enabling building and further development to happen on that land? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further to Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe we would have any options in tax-based communities other than to support or request debentures. We don't have the ability to assist land developers in tax-based communities. We have no policy in relation to that type of question from Ms. Lee. I believe I committed to looking at putting together a policy where we could assist land development in tax-based communities but I would have to take that to my Cabinet colleagues. At the present time, the short answer is no, we have no options to assist land developers. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister is willing to take a step to look at developing some options. I think this would greatly assist in, at least, a cash flow requirement if not some of the risk that is involved with going ahead with development but I didn't detect in his answer any real urgency on this, Mr. Speaker and there is, in Yellowknife, a crisis in getting affordable housing built. As the study demonstrates, we're at real risk of losing potential revenues and residents because we can't house them. How quickly is the Minister going to address this crisis?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department can get to work on a policy and have it ready for presentation probably in the next business plan. However, we have to be realistic in whether or not this is going to get support from my colleagues because what's driving the price of land up in Yellowknife, for instance, is the market. It's not anything else. So it's going to be a real challenge to this government to start interfering in the market. Normally we just leave the market to decide for itself and find a settlement on what the cost of developing land is. It is all driven up by demand. For instance, the same demand for land, I'm sure, in Sachs Harbour, is not going to be anything compared to what it is in Yellowknife. So, it is a matter of supply and demand. I don't want to give anybody false expectations; it's the market that is driving the price. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

MR. BRADEN: You know, the Minister has pointed out that real progress is a chicken and egg thing. If there was a way to get land available affordably, then the demand would plateau and we wouldn't see this continuing upward pressure. The next business planning cycle, that puts us at a year away. Is there no way that the Minister can accelerate this kind of thing to bring these kinds of options to the market place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 235-14(6): Yellowknife Land Available For Housing

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to have my officials sit down with the city and see how we can accelerate this, if we can accelerate it at all. I do know that land outside the city is available for anybody to apply for it and within the city, of course, it's zoned and it is controlled by zoning and development permits, whatever. I am prepared to have my

officials sit down and see if we can assist the city in any way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and they concern the Business Incentive Policy. Mr. Speaker, the Business Incentive Policy has been an issue that has been debated quite heavily throughout the life of this government. It continues to raise some problems every now and again. We don't seem to be able to do much with it but, Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development could inform me whether his department is involved in all government contracts that come under the Business Incentive Policy. Does this department have direct involvement with all the departments in this government when it comes to the Business Incentive Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department I'm responsible for, the RWED department, is responsible for managing the policy and I think the departments themselves are responsible for bidding contracts and they work with Public Works and Services to do that, but our responsibility here is to manage the BIP. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if different departments have the right to just administer the policy as they see fit. One part of the policy, in particular, Mr. Speaker, concerns the local adjustment that they have within the Business Incentive Policy. Are departments free to apply the BIP or the local adjustment on a government contract as they see fit, or are all departments treated the same when it comes to government contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, the Business Incentive Policy is a policy of this government and all departments have to go by the criteria under the Business Incentive Policy. However if there is going to be an exception, then that has to come back to Cabinet which very rarely happens.

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

Supplementary to Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of any departments that do not use the local adjustment on certain government contracts, that remove the local aspect from government contracts? Do departments have the right to do that without coming back to the Minister? Is the Minister aware of any departments that do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, the Business Incentive Policy is a policy that all departments are mandated to follow. They have direction to follow the criteria of the Business Incentive Policy. I don't know if there are any exceptions; I'm not aware of any. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if a company is bidding on a government contract and comes into some problems, saying that all of the sudden the local is not being applied to this contract and it is something that is coming out of the blue, how does a company voice a complaint that they've lost a contract because all of a sudden the department is saying we don't apply the local contract to this tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey, The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return to Question 236-14(6): GNWT Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if that happens, if there is a situation like the Member laid out here for me, then there is a problem there. The people who have that concern should put in a complaint to the department. It initiates a process to look at it.

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

Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of days ago in my statement I spoke about the Bathurst port and road. My question is for the Honourable Joe Handley, the Minister of Transportation. In my statement, I spoke about a road from the north coming down and it's going to affect all business opportunities and resupply to the mines. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation, what is the department doing about putting their own road up into the mining fields? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT Department of Transportation does not have any authority on the road going from Yellowknife area north. There is no jurisdiction. The same would apply to any new road going north from any other location. That is federal jurisdiction. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask him again, has the department looked at putting a road into the mines and diamond fields or anywhere up north of Yellowknife? Has Transportation done anything on that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation and I, as Minister, have communicated with the federal Minister of DIAND and his department, who are responsible. We wanted him to transfer the authority for the winter road from Tibbett Lake north up into the mining area to the GNWT. Recently, the Minister of DIAND decided to turn the authority for that road over to a private consortium made up of the mining companies in that area. We have no jurisdiction and he has decided not to give us any jurisdiction for the time being. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if there are any plans for an all-weather road through the Slave Geological Province going into the mines or connecting the communities? Has there been any talk about that by this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago in our non-renewable resource development strategy, we made reference to the need to have an all-weather road somewhere that would connect our highways, our Highway No. 1, Highway No. 3 and so on, into the Slave Geological Province. That was essentially the last time that we have put that proposal forward to the federal government. At the same time, we talked about the road along the Mackenzie Valley and a number of other

ones. Mr. Speaker, we still believe strongly that there should be an all-weather road connection into that area or at least some form of surface transportation, a railroad, for example, could be an alternative if it made more sense. We are interested in doing it, we were interested in going on the route north from Tibbett Lake. As I have told the Member on a number of occasions, if the leaders in the Dogrib area agreed, we would even work with them to put together a proposal to have a road go through that route if there was agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to inform everyone in this House, the port road is going to happen if we don't do anything soon, and I think it's time this government took a step forward and made a decision on this. I would like to ask the Minister if he can take the first step and start communicating with the leaders out there. Obviously he works under direction and I would like to ask him if he could take that first step and start this process for the road into the resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 237-14(6): All-Weather Road To The Slave Geological Province

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I would be very interested in doing that. The initiative to develop a road from Bathurst Inlet south is something that happens in Nunavut. I really can't do much with that one, but when it comes to building a road from the south, north then we, as a government, feel that that should be our jurisdiction. We are the ones who should benefit from the resource development, along with the aboriginal self-governments. So if we are going to build a road and it goes through the Dogrib areas, I would like to work with the Dogrib government and make sure they are onside with us and will support us in doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Time for question period has ended. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5... It should be item 7. Let me, for the record, clarify that. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, what is your request?

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, cataracts are getting to me, I think. Mr. Speaker, I am asking for unanimous consent to return to item 7. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

REVERT TO ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS**Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities**

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since we put the harmonization to bed for the time being, we haven't asked any questions of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. We don't want him to feel neglected, do we, Mr. Speaker? I would like to ask the Minister how local housing authorities are governed? Are they governed by a board of directors who are appointed or elected by the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two processes. One, board members are duly elected by the community under the local housing authority. They function under the Societies Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, housing is a very important issue in all our communities. I would like to ask the Minister what are the rules and regulations regarding the number of meetings or AGMs that the local housing authority have in a year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am reiterating my response of a few days ago. The LHOs are governed by their own set of by-laws and are approved under the NWT Housing Corporation Act. They normally hold a housing meeting once a month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary To Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what happens to a housing authority if the board of directors don't meet for a month? What are the consequences? 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 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, by legal statutes, they have an obligation to their constituents in accordance with the bylaws. If they haven't been following

them, there is an appeal process to find some answers to those questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary To Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister to revisit those bylaws and regulations, set down strict regulations and bylaws so boards of directors do meet regularly so they can address the needs of their constituents. Also, Mr. Speaker, at the same time, would the Minister look at ways to approve the accountability of local housing authorities so that maybe you could elect a few or appoint a few so you could have disparity that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 238-14(6): Local Housing Authorities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly on a proactive approach, we want to make sure the LHOs function at the highest possible level. Certainly I will be able to provide sufficient advice and also the resources to help them overcome some of the basic problems.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 239-14(6): Polar Bear Logo Agreement

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue a question to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It concerns the issue of the trademark deal with the polar bear. My question is whether, in the business arrangement that was negotiated, Sirius Diamonds Incorporated paid anything for the exclusive use of the bear?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 239-14(6): Polar Bear Logo Agreement

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question as notice. I think there are some provisions with regard to confidentiality.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Item 7, oral questions. No further oral questions? Item 8, written questions. Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Allen.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and fellow Members of the Assembly. I have the great pleasure today of

introducing Frank Carpenter, the district director of the Beaufort-Delta Housing Corporation office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome to those gentlemen who have arrived here and are visiting your Assembly. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 5-14(6): Child Protection Protocol

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three written questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. What is the status of the Child Protection Protocol Review?
2. What is the consultation and communications process for involving and informing the public and social agencies?
3. Will the Minister make public the revised Child Abuse Handbook, protocol agreements and Standards and Procedures Manual for Child Protection Workers?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Written Question 6-14(6): Ndilo Community Status

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs:

1. What is the basis for the current arrangement between the City of Yellowknife and/or the Government of the NWT and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, regarding the status of Ndilo?
2. When does this arrangement end?
3. What is the amount of the payments in lieu of taxes from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and/or the Government of the NWT to the City of Yellowknife for the municipal costs of Ndilo?
4. Does the City of Yellowknife account to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the dollars received in lieu of taxes? What are the expenditures over the past three years made by the City of Yellowknife on behalf of Ndilo?
5. Most government of the NWT departments consider Ndilo a separate community from the City of Yellowknife. What would be required for Municipal and Community Affairs to also recognize it as a separate community?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, Returns to written questions. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion.

Item 15, notices of motions for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 11-14(6): Extended Adjournment Of The House To June 4, 2003, Carried

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Thursday, March 13, 2003, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, June 4, 2003;

AND FURTHER at any time prior to June 4, 2003, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon, the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Workers' Compensation Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Workers' Compensation Act in response to the reports and recommendations of various review panels and standing committees of the Legislative Assembly and in recognition of the need to amend outdated provisions of the act.

Some of the key provisions of this bill are concerned with:

- establishing the board as a corporation that is distinct from the persons who manage it;
- establishing a governance council of directors of the board;
- establishing the office of president of the board;
- clarifying the application of the act, in part by clarifying the definitions "employer" and "worker";
- providing for the appointment of a workers' advisor and deputy workers' advisor;
- providing that the appeals tribunal may hire staff and contract with advisors;
- setting out the matters that the board shall consider in making decisions respecting claims and providing that review committees shall consider those matters in

- determining reviews of board decisions respecting claims and assessments;
- clarifying the provisions related to giving a notice of an accident and injury and providing that receipt of a notice of an accident and injury by the board constitutes a claim;
- standardizing time limits for filing claims;
- providing for a co-operative approach to the treatment of an injured worker;
- providing for a process to address conflicts in the opinions of the board's medical advisor and a workers' health care providers;
- increasing from 16 to 19 the age at which a child of a worker is still considered to be a dependant;
- repealing the provisions relating to silicosis, leaving the general provisions relating to industrial diseases to govern;
- clarifying the provisions respecting disclosure of information obtained by persons under the act;
- providing that certain amounts and other items, including the amount of the year's maximum insurable remuneration, will be set out in regulations;
- providing for the appointment of a review panel to conduct a review of the act;
- increasing the penalties for contravention of the act and the regulations and providing that an officer, director or agent of a corporation who directs, authorizes, assents to, acquiesces in or participates in an offence committed by the corporation is guilty of the offence.

The bill also makes certain amendments to remedy administrative and enforcement difficulties that have arisen under the Workers' Compensation Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. The principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief comment in favour of the principle of this bill. The issues surrounding various aspects of the workers compensation are something that come to my desk a lot in my office and I have been working closely with a number of injured workers as they work through the workers' compensation system. I have also watched the work of the legislative panel very closely and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for wading through the maze of the legislative agenda that is in front of us and make sure this bill gets introduced in time for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I realize now that this bill is introduced, we will be going through a public hearing process and there probably will be a number of suggestions from the public about ways to improve this, but from what I see and based on the Ministers' statements in this House, I believe this is a very good start. I think 61 out of 85 recommendations is a very good step forward, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, we would have liked to have done 100 percent, but I think it's good that the Minister decided to do what he can and not leave everything behind like we have seen in other cases. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good bill and I would like to thank the board and the staff and officials in the government who have worked on this.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I think it's a very good thing to have a workers' advisor appointed by the Minister rather than a board. I know the present incumbent and everyone before has worked really hard but there is a perception out there that's

very real in the workers I have talked to who are hesitant and not 100 percent trusting about what the workers' advisor can do for them. I think having a Minister appoint them and then having a direct communication link between the workers' advisor and the Minister is a huge step forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the occasion to communicate directly with the workers' compensation office as an MLA and I think that for some of them it was a surprise to get any kind of communication from the Member. So this will go a long way in establishing a critical and important link between the worker and the workers' advisor.

The second thing I like in this bill that the Minister has mentioned is that there will be a process in place for an injured worker to have a team of people, including health care advisors and providers and I am assuming that would include a family doctor and other people who could intervene and look at what the extent of the damage is and what is the best way to treat the injury or damage. Often this is the area of most controversy. There is a lot of dispute about what the state and extent of the injury is and what is the best treatment. Sometimes the workers don't agree with the opinion given by the Workers' Compensation Board. So I think this is going to be a great improvement in the workers' compensation process and it's one that I will support.

Mr. Speaker, in large sense, what these amendments will do is bring it forward in changing the corporate structure, in a sense. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has mentioned that this bill is 25 years old and society has changed a lot in 25 years. The president of the corporation, in her statement to committee, said that she is working to change the corporate structure to be more friendly to the workers. Whether it's real or not, the perception has been out there and I believe that these amendments will work towards a change in the corporate culture so workers' compensation is seen as more friendly towards workers.

I should also note here that I do believe that by and large the Workers' Compensation Board gives a great deal of service. Most employees who are injured at work are able to go there and get benefits and remuneration for lost wages. It is those who fall between the cracks and those who are injured in a manner that's questionable or who are denied benefits for a number of reasons. I have dealt with these injured workers in very close situation and emotional situations and it's real people with real problems that we are here to help. I believe this will go a long way in addressing this.

With that, I would just like to congratulate the Minister. I look forward to getting involved in the public hearing process to make sure this bill and any improvements that might come about will be incorporated. I believe that it is good work and I am glad our Assembly will address this major legislative initiative before we fold as an Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19: consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 11, committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), 5-14(6), 6-15(6), and 8-14(6); Motion 10; Minister's Statement 28-14(6); tabled documents 26-14(6), 31-14(6) and 41-14(6); and by the authority given the Speaker by Motion 4-14(6), the House is resolved into Committee of the Whole to sit beyond the time of adjournment until the committee is prepared to report with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the committee to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I recommend we consider Bill 11, followed by Committee Report 6-14(6), then Committee Report 8-14(6), then committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), and 5-14(6); then the balance of the items on the order paper, there are five I believe, that refer to harmonization and deal with them concurrently following all the other items.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The chair will call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 3: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the Committee of the Whole to order. I will ask the Minister of FMB if he wants 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.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in, please.

Mr. Handley, for the record, would you introduce your witness, please?

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are reviewing Bill 11, tab 11 in your binder, page 9. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expense, \$1.603 million, not previously authorized, regional operations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, \$1.603 million not previously authorized.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On page 10, Public Works and Services, operations expense, expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$3,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Asset management, not previously authorized, \$216,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Systems and communications, not previously authorized, negative \$82,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$4.127 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to dispute or decline or vote against this appropriation, but I would like to spend, for the record, a little bit of time exploring the nature of this fund, the petroleum product stabilization fund and the supporting mandate or policy that surrounds it. I believe, Mr. Chairman, we have a rather flimsy, very open-ended piece of financial administration here and it deserves to be tightened up. My understanding of this fund, Mr. Chairman, is that this fund absorbs any loss or profits that the petroleum product revolving fund sustains as we provide petroleum products to 15 communities, mainly the small communities, off the road network, Mr. Chairman.

This fund has a limit of \$5 million. The more I understand it, Mr. Chairman, is if there should ever be profits accumulated up to a maximum of \$5 million, then those profits will then be redistributed back to the customers through pricing.

Conversely, when losses accumulate to \$5 million, and we are just about there, something has to be done to either go back to the customer and start collecting enough money to reduce that accumulation or, as the government is proposing here, to go to the taxpayer and collect \$4.17 million and, in effect, give this as a subsidy to the fuel customers in small communities. To a very large extent, Mr. Chairman, I think it's worth noting that the GNWT, through its own infrastructure and public housing policies, is its own best customer. But, Mr. Chairman, my concern here -- and this is where I will try to craft a question for the Minister -- is what are the criteria that FMB uses to decide how to balance out this fund? Why is it that the more obvious option, which is going to the customer to recover the money, is not being used and why are we just going right back to the

taxpayers pocket for what I believe is an ill-defined subsidy to some people in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the petroleum products revolving fund is to have a fund which would be able to absorb losses and, theoretically, if there were revenues in a particular year to balance that out in a way so that the consumers would not have these price increases and decreases. So that fund was set up a good number of years ago. It was set up as a stabilization fund. Over the years, going back... And my note goes back to 1996-97 with a \$3 million deficit... It's faced losses all the time. So the fund deficit has continued to grow. In December, we corrected that to a large extent by charging all the government users the amount they should be paying, so they are at least paying their full amount. So that will help move it closer, as you can see on the page, to breaking even. We have that \$4.7 million that's accumulated. Unless we intend to recoup it from consumers, then it's carried on and on as a deficit. If we are going to collect it from the consumers, it is going to be a big hit on people living in the small communities. If we are not going to collect it, then the proper way of accounting for it is to take it off here and put it into our books as being a deficit that we've accumulated and recognize it as part of our deficit. We don't leave it hidden in this revolving fund, otherwise we are going to be accused of not accounting for it properly. Our view right now is that we are not going to be able to collect the \$4.7 million from the customers in PPD communities, so write it off and we start over again. We should be able to maintain a balance by the correction we've made in charging governments the correct amount that they should be paying.

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, that's the kind of discussion that I think we should have on this issue and we should continue to have. To highlight an area of concern as referenced by the Minister, when he said that in our view -- and I am assuming this is FMB's view -- that the best way to manage this is, et cetera, et cetera, with the measures that have been put in place, and I think those are good measures to charge the government the true and the full cost, so that we may see more stability in the stabilization fund.

Mr. Chairman, this still doesn't satisfy me to the principle that I am trying to pursue here, which is that this really is an open ended subsidy to some people in the NWT. I am not at all against the need of the people in the small communities to have some help with the cost of something as essential as fuel, the way in which we provide this subsidy really needs to be better defined and better managed so that everybody comes out with a knowledge of how and to what extent we are going to provide a subsidy.

I would leave my discussion and maybe the Minister could comment on this. I'm looking at report that comes from the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly in Nunavut, Mr. Chairman for the year 2001. In one of the discussions here, and in reference specifically to their petroleum products revolving fund, I understand it was duplicated essentially from what we have.

May I make a suggestion here that what we do suggest is that PPRF or the petroleum products revolving funds accounting be changed to include all costs including harmonization

associated with the government sale of fuel. This will show the Legislative Assembly and, I would mention the customers, Mr. Chairman, the total cost of the fuel program. Let's include in that the tankage, the liability, the insurance, the management, all the things that we already subsidize but don't pass the cost on. Let's do the accounting properly and fully and openly, Mr. Chairman, and then we can make a good decision on how to manage any subsidy or system that is going to be given to those small communities. Thanks Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member that if we really want to know what is the true cost of providing fuel in all of the communities, then you have to add in all of the costs including the tankage, everything that goes with it. We had a discussion in the committee about this issue and I agree as well that this probably isn't the best way to provide a subsidy. If the way we are doing it is subsidizing the cost of fuel to consumers, this may not be the best way of doing it. If we're going to do that and if we want to show the true costs, then we need to design some form of territorial fuel subsidy program that would keep the cost of fuel in small communities at a reasonable rate. That is something that I think in the future we need to look at, or the next government has to look at, to figure out how we do this, and I think there is time for us to do some work in the life of this government but we may not resolve it all. It's complex because we don't have POL in every community, and how do we work it all out, but I think it is good advice for moving on from here. My view is we are not going to collect the \$4.1 million from the small communities. Let's not pretend we're going to do it. Let's take it out of here and put it into our books properly, charge the government and the housing corporation the full cost and try to maintain this at some level of break even without hitting the private customers and all the small communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm in agreement with my colleague, Mr. Braden. I don't think the communities people that are not on income support are and are not in public housing can afford full cost of fuel. Mr. Chairman, we've been in business as a government for a while now. We can almost predict what kind of subsidy is required to maintain affordable fuel for people in the community.

Mr. Chairman, one of the cost drivers in this area is the management of the revolving fund. There are 11 employees that manage that. I think we've come to a time and age where we could reduce that and just give the ownership and responsibility to individuals or community corporations in these smaller communities with a subsidy managed by the Financial Management Board. That will, in my opinion, save a million dollars a year right off the top just on salaries alone. I think that if we could realize those savings and give a larger role to the communities, it would be a positive step, recognizing that there is continued subsidization required. If we could give some kind of comfort with some kind of agreement to these communities, I think they will be open to it. Any other cost associated with global politics then could be addressed by the business entity at community level and would not have to go through the Financial Management Board and all the political hoops that we have to go through to do so. I would make that

recommendation to the Minister to explore that possibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're always open for suggestions on how we could do this efficiently and certainly, if there was private interest or a community corporation interested in taking over the responsibility for the provision of fuel, we're open to looking at whatever the proposal would be. We've done it in some communities already, in Tuk and McPherson and Wrigley, and I would welcome a proposal. If there is discussion about including a subsidy in there, then we need to look at how that would work as well but, Mr. Chairman, we're open to that. Thank you.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess Cabinet would not have to lift the new privatization of this revolving fund that is directed to the FMBS and I think this will only work if we realize savings by eliminating administration that is costing us a lot of money. I think it will only work if you do it in every community. It won't work if you do it in Lutselk'e and you have to follow the same process in the other communities. You won't see a savings then. So I think if you want to see a savings you have to do it in a one shot deal, and maybe it should be incumbent on the Financial Management Board to explore that option to see what kind of cost benefit there would be and see if it is feasible.

At the same time, you could go consult with the communities to see if there is interest there. I know the community I represent is interested in something of this nature but because of the new privatization direction given to the FMBS by Cabinet, we can't get into a discussion and I won't bother to encourage a private entrepreneur or a community corporation if there is not going to be the political will on the Minister's or the Cabinet's side. I don't want to encourage people to spin their wheels for nothing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Cabinet has looked at this. We've looked at options such as privatizing to the private companies, turning it over to the power corporation and so on but we weren't able to come up with anything that would result in savings for us. So the direction presently from Cabinet is that we are not going to do that but, having said that, I'm open and I believe everyone in Cabinet is open to any proposal that would say here is how you could do it more cost effectively. We're ready to spend some time and energy looking at those and exploring those options if people have a way we could do this. I don't think the provision of fuel to private individuals is a business that government necessarily wants to own. We'd be happy to turn it over so, Mr. Chairman, yes I'll make a commitment that we'll look at it and we'll certainly entertain any proposals that are out there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We're on page 10, Public Works and Services, operation expenditures, petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$4.127 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$4.264 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 11, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, negative \$106,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Program delivery support, special warrants, \$418,600. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of days ago, I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services about whether or not they have been successful at hiring new medical personnel. The answer I got indicated that they had not been very successful. Why did we need a special warrant if they haven't been able to hire a lot of new doctors and nurses for this amount of money? Has this money actually been spent today?

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, is the Member looking at the nurse recruitment program, the \$806,000 or are we looking at the \$418,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent, could you clarify that?

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had understood, Mr. Chairman, that you had called the amount of \$418,600, which was done as a special warrant. My question is has all this money been spent? As I understand it, the need for a special warrant is justified by circumstances that mean there is an immediate need for the money. Therefore, it can't come forward as not previously authorized. When I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services whether or not they had been successful in recruiting health professionals, his answer was by and large no. So if we haven't been successful in recruiting them, why did we need the special warrant to have the money if it hasn't been spent?

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the \$418,600, that's for hiring the health care professionals and the social workers. The \$806,000 I was referring to is later on the page for doctors. Of the amount of money that is in the special warrant for health care professionals and social workers, the total amount is \$1.6 million with an internal reallocation and balance of \$418,000. I don't know how many health care professionals, nurses, have been hired or how many social workers. I am assuming this is moving, that most of the money either has been spent or is committed. I think with the doctors, it may be more of a challenge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't question the initiatives. In fact, I support all of the initiatives the money was to be spent on, but as the Minister will know, regular Members have been quite critical of the use of special warrants as opposed to the use of what we call 'not previously authorized.' In other words, not actually getting approval for spending the money until it's been approved by the Legislative Assembly. So my question was whether the need for this money was so urgent that it has actually been spent as of today or if it could have waited to come forward as a request not previously authorized.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: A good chunk of money has been spent. If the Member wants the exact amount, we can get that. If we look at the items in the professional development fund for nurses, that money has been allocated already to the nurses. The health and social services bursary program, that money has either been committed or been spent, the same for both northern and southern students. The staffing mix and job evaluation, I assume most of that has been spent or committed. So, Mr. Chairman, I don't expect there is much free money in this one because this isn't dealing with direct recruitment, it's dealing with how to make our nursing and social work staff much happier people, who stay with us longer. So a lot of that money has been spent or committed, but I don't know the exact amount, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, I support all the initiatives. You don't have to justify the initiatives to me. My question is simply whether or not there was a need to do it as a special warrant or if we could come forward in a different manner. The Minister has offered to provide details and I look forward to receiving that information. I had expected that it might not all be necessary because of the internal reallocation of the total \$1.6 million being spent, \$1.2 million is being reallocated from within. So I am looking forward to the Minister providing me the information on how much of it has been spent to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair will recognize Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on that item as well, the \$701,000 under professional development in particular. I wonder if the Minister could provide more detail on what is entailed on this \$701,000 expenditure. What has that money been spent on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the \$701,000 was meant to enrich an employee development program. So that entitles them to one professional development opportunity per year for up to five days. We get financial assistance at \$2,000 for professionals in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and \$3,000 per employee for health professionals living in all the other communities. So that money has been committed to the health professionals who are presently in the system.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds to me like this is an area where this initiative is benefiting, the retention part of recruitment and retention of health care professionals. I was talking about nurses in particular lately and I made this point in a Member's statement yesterday, I believe. The government's recruitment and retention strategy is inadequate. It may deal with a recruitment element of that strategy by way of bursary programs and other things that are indicated here. Other than the professional development aspect of it and making it possible for the health care professionals to take advantage of some programs that would enhance their skills or their expertise in a certain area, there is not a whole lot there to retain our health care professionals.

As I said in my Member's statement, this is not playing out very well. I know the Minister of Health is travelling, but I know that he will be advised of concerns that I am expressing here. That is that we have to do more to retain staff that we already have. What I am hearing is what's happening with the new recruits, especially nurses who are going into the system, is that they are replacing older and more experienced nurses. I have already stated that it's a good policy to recruit new nurses and to guarantee them a job, but I think the Minister has to be concerned if fresh graduates out of nursing programs are replacing the experienced nurses because then there is a lack of mentoring and training that is required and can only be provided by the experienced nurses.

I think the Minister has to be reminded again that all nurses are saying that there has to be an equitable mix between the experienced and inexperienced in any nursing environment so that proper treatment can be provided. I really think that the Minister has to look at what incentives he can provide to experienced nurses so that we do not lose them to southern markets or somewhere else. That is one thing, because we have to retain the nurses as well as recruit them and the Minister should really look at providing additional incentives for experienced nurses so that they will stay and that they are compensated for providing the mentorship and the training that the Minister is asking those nurses to take on.

The Minister and the government say they are going to guarantee jobs for new graduates. The Minister has to follow that up. He has the duty to follow that up with adequate compensation for those that he is expecting to train these new graduates.

I just want to reiterate... and that this is a really crucial element, and I realize that the Minister is addressing some aspects of this by reclassifying nurses... but I tell you, the information I am getting is that the experienced nurses have not seen a real increase in their pay and it is hardly comparable to what is being offered down south. Unless we fix that we are going to continue to lose experienced nurses and that would be a real loss to our health care system and a loss to the new graduates who need the mentorship and training by these experienced nurses.

I just want to reiterate that and ask the Minister of Finance to pass that message on to the Minister of Health and Social Services and I will be after the Minister of Health and Social Services to come back in June or in the interim to make sure that he addresses that gap. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Minister of Health and Social Services will get the message. I will mention it to him, as well. I am sure it will be answered.

The issues that Ms. Lee is referring to go beyond this particular item to a bigger issue of total compensation and so on. I think a lot of this is working. In the last week I have talked to two nurses who have expressed appreciation for the professional development fund. They like it. They find it is useful. Their biggest concern now is trying to figure out what is going to be the best way of using that money.

In terms of the return of service money for northern and southern students, the bursary program, it is too early to tell whether that is successful yet. We will find out, I guess, and see how many actually come to the Territories and stay and work with our system.

I might say on the mentorship issue that each time we bring in young, inexperienced nurses there is an opportunity for a more experienced person to earn up to \$10,000 for mentoring the less experienced people. We have built that in here as well, Mr. Chairman. This is not going to resolve all the problems, but I think in terms of its purpose in supporting professional development and encouraging new recruits to stay and work in the Territories, this is what will prove successful. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Handley. We are on page 11, Health and Social Services, program delivery support, \$418,600. That is a special warrant.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed. Health and Social Services, not previously authorized, \$381,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$248,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, special warrants, \$418,600.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, \$27,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 12, Justice, operations expenditures, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, negative \$305,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$305,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. May I have permission to speak on the \$450,000 negative expenditure for the Commissioner's office, Mr. Chairman?

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just been advised by the esteemed Member for North Slave that we may have another opportunity to discuss this item later on, so I will defer to that. Sorry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Page 12, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$305,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On page 13, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$199,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Education, Culture and Employment, not previously authorized, \$325,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$524,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On page 14, Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$582,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Highways, not previously authorized, negative \$111,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Ferries, not previously authorized, \$93,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Community marine, not previously authorized, \$8,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$572,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On page 15, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations expenditures, resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$43,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$63,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 16, Legislative Assembly, capital investment expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$61,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$61,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 17, Executive, capital investment expenditures, Executive offices, Commissioner's office, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand that this expenditure is for renovations to new office space. The Department of Justice is in need of the office space currently occupied by the Commissioner's office on the sixth floor of the Courthouse building. So the plan would be to rework what is currently the Commissioner's office into additional offices for Justice and that the Commissioner's office would be relocated to a different location and that the \$200,000 would be required for the renovations.

Mr. Chairman, in our discussions about this particular expenditure we were wondering about the advisability of

spending that kind of money on an office renovation where you would also be required to pay rent probably for a long time, you would be investing a significant amount of money and then paying rent on the space as well for a long period of time. It is not uncommon in other jurisdictions to have a Lieutenant-Governor's or Commissioner's residence with working space contained within the residence. The residence which is currently used for the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on Matonabee drive is not a very large home and it is not a home very conducive to entertaining dignitaries, officials, ambassadors, those types of people who come to visit in the Northwest Territories.

So, I was wondering if it would be more advantageous to look at what could be realized from the sale of the existing Commissioner's residence. The land immediately adjacent to the current Commissioner's residence is a large piece of residential property which is owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories and was intended to be used for the Commissioner's residence at some point in time but was never developed. So, this government already owns the land. There is the equity in the existing residence and the market right now is quite good. And there is also the \$200,000 for renovations, plus whatever the on-going operations and maintenance is for the rent for that office. As I said, it is not an uncommon practice to have the working space of a position like this contained within the residence. So, I would like to see the option explored of combining these sums of money and looking at a better Commissioner's residence, one that is more conducive to the type of official functions that would fall within the responsibilities of a Commissioner.

So, if that were the case then it would be necessary to re-profile this \$200,000 for renovations and look at new construction, a new development, instead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not disagree with what the Member is saying in principle. I think it could be done. It would, however, mean some delay because we could not begin it and have something as quickly as we could by renovating an office and making that adjustment. So there would be a delay in it and I suspect that we are probably talking about considerably more money if you are going to build or buy a building that is going to be suitable for this kind of purpose. You are probably looking at \$400,000 to buy it, plus renovate, because you still have to do the other half. You still have to spend the \$200,000 or so to renovate the space currently occupied by the Commissioner for Justice's needs.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that this would actually save money, because here is where you are going to get the money for the new residence. You are going to sell the existing residence. So, let us say you are going to get between \$300,000 and \$400,000 for that. You are going to save the \$200,000 for the renovations. Now we are up to \$600,000. You already own the land where it could be built, which is probably worth at least another \$100,000. It is a large lot on the corner of Matonabee Street and Gitzel Street, I believe. So now, how

much rent are you going to pay over the course of the next five or ten years? Add that all together and you are probably talking \$1 million that you already have into this. I am just saying, would that be more advantageous an expenditure than spending \$200,000 on somebody else's building and then paying the rent on top of that. I am saying you are already in for \$1 million. Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, certainly from my perspective we will look at it. I would like to ask if the Minister of Justice has any concerns if we were to go with this approach because the main implication to me... if the argument can be made that it is not going to cost us more money... then the main implication is just going to be the delay in doing the renovations on the Justice building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Handley. The Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Allen, do you have any comments?

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to speak directly because this specific allocation or request has been made through the Executive, but in respect of the Justice department's needs, we certainly do require immediate office space as we have assumed a number of different portfolios over the years. So, certainly from our own perspective, timing is an issue. We need to house many of our staff as it is growing through a number of changes. So, certainly I want to see that we proceed with the renovations so that we may be able to get housing for some our own staff with the agreement that we would assume the Commissioner's space in its current location. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it takes, in terms of the renovations required to be done in the new location for the Commissioner's office it takes time to design and develop and do the construction associated with those renovations as well. If the need of the existing Commissioner's office is so urgent to the Department of Justice perhaps, and I do not know if it would be possible to find some kind of short term, temporary office location for the Commissioner's office if the plan is to go ahead with a working office for the Commissioner within a more elaborate residence.

Well, elaborate because we are suggesting that it is more than just a home, it is a place where official functions would be accommodated and it would be more in keeping with what they have in other jurisdictions in Canada, that is for sure. I have been to a number of other homes of Lieutenant-Governors. I think of Edmonton with Alberta House and different places where official functions are held. Certainly we do not have any space available like that in the existing Commissioner's residence. That is my only response, I guess, to the need for... seriously, we get a lot of ambassadors from foreign countries here. We have a lot of people that come through here and we are always looking for someplace to host functions. I just think if we are going to spend the money we should look at it a little bit more carefully than Justice needs the space, therefore we must rush out, therefore we must make a rush decision on a

new Commissioner's office space. I think we need to look at it a bit more long term.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he is familiar with the land I am talking about on the corner of Matonabee Street and Gitzel Street, which is owned by this government? Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we are willing to look at it. It is, to me personally, I think it is not a bad idea, it is a good idea. We have not had time to talk about it in Cabinet, so I cannot speak for all of Cabinet but, if it can be shown that it is not going to cost a lot more money and we have the land available already, then it is not bad, particularly if the Commissioner was in agreement to go into some sort of temporary quarters for a period of time until this could be done.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that I asked the Minister is, is the Minister familiar with the inventoried land that I am talking about that is at the corner of Matonabee Street and Gitzel Street? It is a large, treed parcel. It would be a nice curb appeal for a Commissioner's residence. On a corner like that you could have a circle drive. You could have something that looks more like a Commissioner's residence than what we have now, which looks like every other house on the street. Is he familiar with that lot? Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am familiar in the sense that I have driven by it. I know where it is. I do not have much detail about it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Handley. The Chair will recognize Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few simple little questions. Yes, no, what are the numbers? Right now, what is the rent going to be for the new Commissioner's office per month or per year? How long is the renovation going to take for the Justice building expansion? Where are the Justice people working right now? Is the Commissioner aware that she is being moved? Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I assume that the Commissioner is aware of this plan. So, if she is aware of it, nobody has given her notice that she will be evicted from that space or anything like that, but she is aware that we are looking at this.

In terms of the cost of the renovated space, what will be the lease cost, I think the going price in Yellowknife is about \$30 a square foot per year. The space that we are looking at for the Commissioner is around 1,600 or 1,700 square feet times \$30 a square foot. Thank you.

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister gave us a bunch of numbers and we do not have a calculator here. So, it is very hard to make a decision on something we do not know. Also, how long is that renovation going to take? How long will the Justice department be out if the Commissioner does not move right away?

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I would estimate that it is probably taking six months to build a new quarters for the Commissioner, so that is how long we would have. I am estimating. I am not a builder, I do not know, but by the time you tender it and have someone build it I expect we are looking at somewhere in the neighbourhood of six months.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that this supplementary is for this fiscal year, which means that the money has to be spent in the next two weeks. So, are we actually going to spend the money on these renovations in the next two weeks? Does that mean that we have started already?

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no, I do not believe all the money is going to be spent, but we need to have approval in order to be able to let a contract. So I do not expect it all will be spent, it will be carried over. I do not know if the Minister of Justice has any more detail on the time frame for this.

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

MR. DENT: Okay, thank you. I just wanted to confirm, Mr. Chairman, that we have not actually let the contract, so we do still have time to take a look at re-profiling these funds and approaching it perhaps in a different way.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have not let a contract yet.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments. Perhaps, I think it would be worthwhile for the government to consider the options being suggested by Mrs. Groenewegen. I think that the numbers should be looked at to see whether, because there are good suggestions being made there. The house that the Commissioner resides in right now is in a prime real estate location in town. It is probably worth at least \$300,000 to \$400,000 and if we already have a lot, I guess my point here is that when I first became aware of this, I had a problem with the Commissioner's office being moved into Northwest Tower. I mean, nothing against Northwest Tower,

but in town Northwest Tower is just an office building. For the Commissioner, whose office is the head of this government I thought an office on the sixth floor of the Courthouse seemed to be more acceptable for some reason. I do not know.

I just want to put it on record that I have a problem with the Commissioner's office being located in the Northwest Tower and spending \$200,000 on top of that, that is just problematic for me. I realize that the Department of Justice needs extra space, but if this is a space for workers and just staff, they could be moved into other office space either in the Panda Mall or any of the other office spaces that are available. I would say that one option we could look at is just to keep the Commissioner where she is right now. It is designed for a Commissioner and it has space there. There is the option of building a whole new building as long as the net effect is working with the dollars that we have. So building a whole new building is one option. Keeping the Commissioner where she is is another. It is just that I have a problem with the Commissioner's office being located in just any old government office. I think that office deserves more recognition in a place. I just wanted to put that for the record.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. Lee. I did not hear any questions in there, but Minister Handley, did you want to comment? Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any comment, but the Minister of Justice has been waving at me. Perhaps he has a comment. Thank you.

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

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do hear a good argument from the other side and I think it is important that we do substantiate our reason. The Department of Justice requires additional office space, as I indicated. There is a chronology of events that indicate or substantiates a need for more office space. Certainly my contacts will want to ensure that we do have some consideration here that we do require that space. Again, we have been working with the Commissioner's office to agree to certain terms on her relocation and, from my understanding she has, so I do not think there is a problem with the Commissioner herself. Again, as the department grows, we are going to require more space as we take on more responsibilities. We do say that the current Courthouse has an acute need that has been growing over the past seven years. That is my statement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Allen. Mr. Lafferty.

Committee Motion 79-14(6): Recommendation To Reprofile Commissioner's Office Space Funding, Carried

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the government reconsider and re-profile the expenditure of funds identified for new office space for the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

And further, this committee recommends that the government examine a wide variety of lower cost options for this office space, including space within the Commissioner's official residence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): There's a motion on the floor. The motion being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not need to change the motion to say this, but I just want it understood from my perspective that this committee recommends the government examine a wide variety of lower cost options for this office space, including space within the Commissioner's official residence. I mean, I would dare say there is no space within the existing residence, but if it said, "within a potential new Commissioner's official residence", that would make more sense to me. But I guess we can vote on it the way it is. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarification, I would like to ask for the wording of the motion to define or describe "re-profile" here. The motion reads, "I move that this committee recommends that the government reconsider and re-profile the expenditure." Re-profile to what? Okay, I am looking for some clarification here. We are taking the money from someplace and putting it where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion as written. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, can I hear the motion as it was amended? I thought Mrs. Groenewegen amended it. No? Okay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): To the motion as circulated. To the motion. Ms. Lee. Correction on that. The chair will recognize Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to propose an amendment to the motion. So, the motion would then read, "I move that this committee recommends that the government reconsider and re-profile the expenditure of funds identified for new office space for the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. And further, this committee recommends that the government examine a variety of cost-effective options for this office space, including space within a new Commissioner's official residence." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The chair will have to call a short break while we get the amendment printed.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I call Committee of the Whole back to order. I would ask Mrs. Groenewegen if she could read her motion into the record.

Committee Motion To Amend Committee Motion 79-14(6), Carried

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Amendment to Committee Motion 79-14(6). Mr. Chairman, I move that Committee Motion 79-14(6) be amended by deleting, "wide variety of lower cost", and substituting, "variety of cost-effective". And further, by deleting the word, "the", immediately

following "space within", and substituting, "a new". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The amended motion has been circulated. The amendment is in order. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

On page 17, Executive, capital investment expenditures, Executive office, Commissioner's office, not previously authorized, \$200,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 18, Financial Management Board Secretariat, Directorate, not previously authorized, \$237,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, regarding this service desk and asset management software, am I right in assuming that this is software that replaces message pads? In other words, it just tracks phone calls?

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

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The software is a bit more sophisticated than that. It does track calls, it logs calls, it gives the help desk a mechanism for forwarding on work orders and call requests. So it is a very sophisticated package to be able to efficiently take the incoming calls, manage them, assign them and follow up on them in an efficient way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Dent. Thank you. Page 18, Directorate, not previously authorized, \$273,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$437,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 19, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, negative \$378,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, negative \$378,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 20, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, special warrants, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, special warrants, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 21, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services program, special warrants, \$499,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$237,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise us if this \$237,000 or monies sufficient to start up an integrated disease registries system, vital statistics system and a medical travel system were included in the main estimates that we have just passed?

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

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several of these projects are multi-year projects, so there would have been an element of them potentially in the 2003-2004 main estimates. The department is giving this money up because the projects are not as far along as they had anticipated. The projects will still be completed and finished in the coming fiscal year. The department believes it can finish the projects off by managing it within the existing 2003-2004 appropriation that they just secured and, if it becomes necessary to look for additional resources, it will be within the overall allocation that the Financial Management Board Secretariat has approved for IT projects for 2003-2004 and is in the 2003-2004 main estimates. So no new money would be asked for for these projects.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$237,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, special warrants, \$499,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, negative \$237,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 22, Justice, capital investment expenditures, service to the government, not previously authorized, \$250,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could we find out from the Minister how many square feet are being renovated for this \$250,000 and what the average cost per square foot is for renovations? Could we also find out what the government typically has paid for other renovations in office buildings in Yellowknife per square foot?

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, approximately 3,000 square feet of space will be renovated. The amount that we are estimating, which is the average of our experience recently in these kind of renovations, is \$85 a square foot.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Minister said that this is based on an average cost of \$85 a square foot, which is what is typical for leasehold renovations in Yellowknife. Is that correct?

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct for general office space.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Handley. Justice, capital investment expenditures, services to government, not previously authorized, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 23, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, negative \$130,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Education, Culture and Employment, not previously authorized, \$271,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$141,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 24, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, special warrants, \$335,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized \$134,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, special warrants, \$335,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, \$134,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We'll go back to the bill itself, the beginning of tab 11. Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 3, schedule, part I, vote I, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$9,212,600.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Part II, vote II, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$1.492 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total supplementary appropriation, \$10,704,600.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 11 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank the Minister and his witness for appearing.

The next item on our agenda is Committee Report 6-14(6). Mr. Dent.

Committee Report 6-14(6): Report On The Review Of The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Commissioner's 2001-2002 Annual Report

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Committee Report 6-14(6) is the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's Report on the Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report, 2001-2002.

Mr. Chairman, this report has been read into the record already. There were a number of recommendations, six recommendations, made in the report that we would like to make in the form of motions before we conclude the report.

Committee Motion 80-14(6): Establishment Of NWT Privacy Legislation To Deal With Private Sector Businesses, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish privacy legislation dealing with private sector businesses in order to exercise territorial jurisdiction in this area of law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 81-14(6): Review of the Federal Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act, Carried

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories review the effect of the federal Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act on the NWT as soon as possible rather than in 2006. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 82-15(6): Protection From The Disclosure Of Personal Information By Private Health Care Companies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the government either expand the current NWT Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act or establish new legislation to protect NWT citizens from

the disclosure of personal information by private health care companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 83-14(6): Deemed Refusal Amendment To ATIPP Legislation, Carried

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the government adopt a "deemed refusal" amendment to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The committee further recommends that should the head of a public body not respond within the required 30 days to the commissioner's recommendation(s), the head is deemed to have refused access to the records in question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 84-14(6): Comprehensive Package Of Amendments To ATIPP Legislation, Carried

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the government introduce a comprehensive package of amendments to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 85-14(6): Comprehensive Response To Committee Report 6-14(6), Carried

MR. DENT: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to Committee Report 6-14(6) within 120 days in

accordance with Rule 93(5) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly. Merci, Monsieur le President.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Committee Report 6-14(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go on to Committee Report 8-14(6). Mr. Dent.

Committee Report 8-14(6): Report On The Review Of The "Report Of The Auditor General To The NWT Legislative Assembly For 2000 And 2001"

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for 2000-2001. This report too has been read into the record. There was one recommendation in the report, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to make in the form of a motion now.

Committee Motion 86-14(6): Comprehensive Response To Committee Report 8-14(6), Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to Committee Report 8-14(6) within 120 days in accordance with Rule 93(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee report agree that Committee Report 8-14(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The three committee reports on the review of the main estimates are still on the order paper. As we concluded consideration of the appropriation act on Tuesday, would Members agree that consideration of committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), and 5-14(6) are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Consideration of committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), and 5-14(6) are concluded. Does the committee agree that Motion 10-14(6), Minister Statement 28-14(6) and tabled documents 26-14(6), 31-14(6) and 41-14(6) are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): That concludes all matters before committee of the whole. Therefore, I shall rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. May I have the report of committee of the whole?

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 11, Committee Report 6-14(6) and Committee Report 8-14(6) and would like to report progress with eight motions being adopted and that committee reports, 3-14(6), 4-14(6), 5-14(6), 6-14(6) and 8-14(6), Motion 10-14(6), Minister's Statement 28-14(6) and tabled documents 26-14(6), 31-14(6) and 41-14(6) are concluded and that Bill 11 is ready for third reading and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. May I have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Range Lake seconds the motion. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Consumer Protection Act, Carried

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Bill 9: Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 9 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 11. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Handley. Proceed.

Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, Carried

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11 has had third reading. Colleagues, we are going to take a short recess here to await the arrival of Her Honour the Commissioner. Please respond at the bell.

---SHORT RECESS

COMMISSIONER (Hon. Glenna Hansen): Please be seated. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, this time in our northern calendar is always so incredibly busy. These past two months have been no exception. While you have been meeting in this Legislative Assembly, athletes from the Northwest Territories have been competing in the Canada Winter Games in New Brunswick. For the young NWT athletes who travel to these games, this has been the culmination of much dedication and training.

While all NWT athletes who competed at the Canada Winter Games have our support, I wanted to take this time to recognize two skiers in particular whose performances have cast a positive national spotlight on the NWT ski program and whose achievements will be a source of inspiration and pride for those who are following in their trails.

Mike Argue of Yellowknife became the first NWT skier since 1975 to win a medal at the Canada Winter Games, finishing second in the men's 10-kilometre mass-start classical race. Three days later, Mike was on the podium again, this time to receive a bronze medal for his performance in the men's 7.5-kilometre pursuit.

That same day, Mr. Speaker, Sarah Daitch of Fort Smith also won a bronze medal for her outstanding effort in the women's 7.5-kilometre pursuit.

I have long been an advocate of the role that sports and recreational programs can play in the healthy growth and development of our young people. It is for this reason, in particular, that I have been happy to support the launch of ESTEEM Team North. Sport North introduced this northern chapter of the national ESTEEM Team program in November of last year. It allows our high profile athletes to travel to schools with positive and inspiring presentations that advocate healthy choices and positive lifestyles. I would especially like to recognize the participation of Joe Dragon and Sharon Firth in the program, two athletes whose success was a product of the NWT sport and education system. It will be my pleasure to accompany Mr. Dragon and Ms. Firth along with former and current Canadian Olympians and members of ESTEEM Team North in a tour of the Beaufort-Delta March 22nd to 28th.

I was also privileged last month to be part of yet another competition as 13 to 18-year-old junior rangers gathered in Yellowknife from across the NWT to compete in the first ever regional air rifle competition. Directly associated with this event was a ceremony unveiling a Canadian stamp commemorating the ranger program that has so strongly symbolized and represented our northern autonomy for years.

My only regret in being a part of all of these activities is that I was unable to join you here in the Legislative Assembly for the awarding of this year's Wise Women Awards. I would also like to take the time now to recognize the work of the five extraordinary individuals who were chosen to receive the Wise Women Awards this year: Lena Anikina from Tuktoyaktuk, Edith Squirrel from Fort Providence, Florencia Dacanay of Yellowknife, Janet Grandjambe of Fort Good, and Leslie Paulette from Fort Smith.

Each, through her wisdom and experience, has inspired others to achieve their dreams and in doing so, they have provided exceptional role models for our young female leaders of the future. As a society, we must continue to do what we can to encourage the young women in our society to take on greater leadership roles at all levels in society.

As we prepare to leave the House today, I thank you again for your continued commitment to the principles of consensus government. In particular, I would like to commend you for the commitment you have made collectively to give priority to the issue of family violence and the creation of legislation to address this tragic issue in the NWT.

In the coming months, I urge each of you to continue to work together and with the NWT's many communities, its business communities, aboriginal communities, community governments and community leaders.

I pray God will grant you travelling mercies and look forward to seeing you here again in June of this year.

Now as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act; Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act; Bill 6, Electoral Boundaries Commissioner Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Elections Act; Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act; and, Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, colleagues. At this point in the order paper, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pages who have been so faithfully serving us over the last several weeks.

---Applause

From the many schools across the Territories and we look forward to greater participation in Page participation in the coming months. I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have made our jobs so much easier in the past few weeks.

---Applause

Before we do break, I would like to wish you a very safe trip home and back to your families and a refreshing interim before we meet again and when we meet again.

Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 4, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Replies to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House now stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 4, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:55 p.m.