



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	863
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	863
51-14(6) - DELINE SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE	863
52-14(6) - HAY RIVER FLOOD RESPONSES.....	863
53-14(6) - UPDATE FROM CMEC MEETINGS.....	863
54-14(6) - DIAMOND ROUNDTABLE.....	864
55-14(6) - SAFE DRINKING WATER.....	865
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	865
MR. NITAH ON CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION IN THE NWT	865
MR. KRUTKO ON TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MIKE ZUBKO	865
MR. DELOREY ON ALARMING IMPACTS OF BREAST CANCER.....	866
MS. LEE ON SENIORS' "WALK FOR MEMORIES" IN YELLOWKNIFE	866
MR. MCLEOD ON COMMERCIAL FISHING AUTHORITY ON GREAT SLAVE LAKE.....	867
MR. LAFFERTY O FRUSTRATIONS WITH THE GNWT CAPITAL PLANNING PROCESS	867
MR. DENT ON RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MINING INDUSTRY	867
MR. ROLAND ON NEED FOR AN EFFICIENT REGULATORY REGIME.....	868
MR. BRADEN ON IMPACT OF MAD COW DISEASE ON NWT OUTFITTING INDUSTRY	868
MR. BELL ON NWT RECREATION AND SPORT BOARD REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	868
MR. STEEN ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF NUNAKPUT STUDENTS.....	869
MR. MILTENBERGER ON AURORA OPEN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT IN FORT SMITH.....	870
MR. ANTOINE ON THOMAS SIMPSON SCHOOL GRADUATES IN FORT SIMPSON	870
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	870
ORAL QUESTIONS	871
REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS	881
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS	883
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	883
NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS	883
BILL 29 - NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION ACT	883
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	883
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	896
ORDERS OF THE DAY	896

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Members Present

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Please be seated. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 51-14(6): Deline Self-Government Agreement-In-Principle

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report to this Legislative Assembly that negotiations on the Deline self-government agreement-in-principle were completed on May 17, 2003. The GNWT Chief negotiator, along with the chief negotiators for Deline and the Government of Canada, plan to initial the agreement-in-principle at a ceremony in Deline later this month. Following that, the GNWT, Deline and the Government of Canada plan to formally sign the Deline self-government agreement-in-principle in the summer, setting the stage for final agreement negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement-in-principle is another expression of this government's support for implementation of the aboriginal inherent right of self-government in the NWT. It will form the basis for the first self-government agreement in the NWT at the community or district level. It proposes the creation of a government that will represent and serve all residents of Deline, while protecting a role for the Dene and Metis of Deline.

The agreement-in-principle describes the potential law-making authority of the Deline First Nation government over a number of territorial-type jurisdictions and clarifies the ongoing relationship between the Deline government, the GNWT and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, with formal approval of the agreement-in-principle, the parties can continue the hard work of concluding a final agreement. I would ask Members to join me in extending congratulations to the three chief negotiators; Fred Talen for the GNWT, Danny Gaudet of Deline and Kevan Flood for Canada, and to their negotiating teams, for a job well done. Most importantly, I would like to congratulate the people of Deline for achieving this important and historic milestone. Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 52-14(6): Hay River Flood Responses

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the excellent work of the emergency personnel from the town of Hay River and the Hay River

Reserve during the flood of the Hay River, which occurred in both communities beginning on April 30th.

I visited both communities on May 1st, where I met with evacuated residents and viewed the damage caused by flooding. Seeing the affected areas in the West Channel area on Vale Island and in the Old Village on the reserve, showed me the difficult situation emergency workers faced evacuating the affected residents when it was realized the area would flood.

Mr. Speaker, the town and the Hay River Reserve's emergency response teams are familiar with responding to flood emergencies during the spring breakup period. However, every emergency response requires coordinated and speedy action.

Both emergency teams worked effectively together monitoring the flood, responding to the flood and organizing and carrying out the evacuation. Each community's follow-up with the residents, while they were displaced from their homes, ensured all were provided adequate emergency food and shelter.

Both communities also worked hard to assist the evacuees to recover from the flood by restoring their property to a livable state. I greatly appreciate the hard work and the concern shown by the emergency teams for ensuring the safety and comfort of the evacuees.

Mr. Speaker, emergency response work is difficult and trying. Emergency officials and volunteers must act quickly to ensure an appropriate response is mounted against every threat or situation. The threat that was posed by the flood required fast action on the part of both emergency response teams to keep residents safe.

Mr. Speaker, I have written to Mayor McNeill and to Chief Fabian to personally acknowledge the good work of their community emergency response teams.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Minister's Statement 53-14(6): Update From CMEC Meetings

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as announced in the House last week, I attended a joint federal/provincial/territorial meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education and the Forum of Labour Market Ministers with the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development Canada. Our meetings were held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where I was joined by my colleague, MLA Steven Nitah.

This was an especially timely meeting for our territory. The focus of discussions centered on how governments can

strengthen their priorities and ensure that Canadians are well educated and prepared to take their place in the global economy.

Ministers recognized that while people are our greatest resource, we need to focus our efforts to strengthen post-secondary education and labour market training. To do this, Ministers discussed the need for a cooperative approach with the federal government to secure additional financial resources.

As Members are aware, my department has been working with the federal government to secure financial resources to expand human resource development in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, this need is not going unnoticed in other areas of the country. In fact, the Minister of Education in New Brunswick made the comment during last week's meeting that the territories must have a more supportive financial arrangement with the federal government. It appears our message is getting through.

In Halifax, Mr. Nitah and I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Stewart. During this meeting, we were able to discuss the proposals placed before her department on oil/gas and mining training human resource development. Members will recall that these two proposals, requesting a federal investment of some \$25 million over five years, were developed and submitted in partnership with various agencies, industry and aboriginal governments.

Minister Stewart was very familiar with these proposals and the need for significant investment in the NWT. During our discussions, she identified the recent federal government commitment of \$25 million over two years for aboriginal skills and employment programs. While the amount of \$25 million is allotted for the entire country, it is not unreasonable, after our meeting with Minister Stewart, to assume the NWT will receive a portion of this funding.

Minister Stewart advised us that any projects approved for funding must be results oriented and targeted to those groups where the need is the greatest. This expectation is not a problem for us. We have a mine training committee in place that offers training for guaranteed job placements for successful participants. As well, we can demonstrate results in our oil and gas sector.

Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of this federal commitment, I have directed my deputy minister, Dr. Loretta Foley, to continue working with HRDC and the mine training committee to ensure success in these collaborative training initiatives.

While these developments are indeed good news, Mr. Speaker, I want to stress that this is not the end, but rather the beginning. As a Legislature, we must continue to press the federal government for continued, ongoing and multi-year investments in this extremely important area. I look forward to keeping the House informed of our progress, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 54-14(6): Diamond Roundtable

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last month, I attended the National Roundtable on Canada's

Diamond Industry hosted and organized by the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, federal Minister of Natural Resources Canada.

The roundtable brought together representatives from the diamond industry, federal, provincial and territorial governments to discuss the potential economic and social contributions of the industry to Canada from now until 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this roundtable is a good indication that our efforts to raise the profile and issues associated with diamonds with the federal government are bearing fruit.

The Honourable Robert Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Minister of State, Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, also attended the roundtable.

Diamond industry representation included exploration companies, mining companies, cutters and polishers, jewellery manufacturers and retailers from across Canada.

Delegates to the roundtable participated in a number of workshops addressing a number of issues facing the diamond industry in Canada. These include valuation, security, marketing of rough diamonds, marketing of polished diamonds, labour force development, business opportunities for aboriginal people and financing.

Observations, conclusions and recommendations were developed. One recommendation dealt with increasing cooperation among governments and industry to develop a skilled labour force, build aboriginal business capacity and ensure coordination, harmonization and financing of activities to build sustainable activities.

Another recommendation dealt with encouraging industry growth through changes to the existing tax structure and the importance of developing systems to maintain the credibility/integrity of the industry.

Delegates also agreed that infrastructure needs in remote northern areas need to be assessed. There was clear support for taking advantage of opportunities to market Canadian diamonds and industry expertise.

A complete report will be tabled at the upcoming federal/provincial/territorial Mines Ministers' conference in September.

Mr. Speaker, while this roundtable is a step forward in identifying issues and opportunities, we must continue to press the federal government and industry to take action. We cannot allow the momentum created by the roundtable to be wasted.

Our government will continue to move forward on the issue of labour force development. We will continue to work with the departments of Immigration and Human Resource Development Canada to develop a plan to address the needs of the diamond industry in the Northwest Territories.

I have also offered to host the next national roundtable on Canada's diamond industry. This will ensure that Northerners, and all Canadians, are able to explore the benefits and opportunities from the development of our natural resources. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 55-14(5): Safe Drinking Water

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, governments across the country have focused on reviewing and improving the systems they have in place to provide safe drinking water to their residents. This government is no different.

While the front line for provision of safe drinking water is the local community government, a number of territorial departments also play a part. Health and Social Services establishes the health standards and monitors the quality of drinking water. Municipal and Community Affairs provides financial resources for reconstruction and operation of community water systems and provides operator training through the School of Community Government.

Public Works and Services provides technical support for the construction and operation of water system infrastructure. Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development contributes to the protection of our water sources. Together, the departments developed and in June 2001, received Cabinet approval for the safe drinking water initiative.

Under this initiative, the departments have completed a review of the roles and responsibilities the various organizations and agencies involved in the NWT drinking water system. They have completed inspections and assessment of all water treatment facilities in all non-tax-based communities with the exception of those where facility upgrades are already underway. They are nearing completion of a good engineering practices manual to guide the design and construction of northern drinking water and sewer systems. They have created a data base of drinking water test results and made those results available online at the Public Works and Services web site.

Municipal and Community Affairs is providing five training and certification courses this year for community water system operators in the communities of Hay River, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. Public Works and Services is providing onsite training and technical support to communities delivering water services. Health and Social Services is monitoring community drinking water quality test results to identify and address potential problems. Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is working with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in updating and developing national water quality guidelines to protect the sources of our drinking water.

Pilot testing of membrane filtration technology has been undertaken to develop cost-effective treatment methods for water plants. Projects are currently in the planning and design stage for Rae-Edzo, Tsiigehtchic, Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope. All these efforts are enforcing a water supply system that is blessed with good quality water sources and a lack of agriculture pressure such as those that contribute to the problems in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Recent media reports might lead you to believe there are problems with the NWT drinking water. This is not the case. The system is working. However, we cannot take the safety of our drinking water for granted. We all have a role to play, whether it is to protect the community water sources from contamination, providing effective treatment processes, or as local building owners who have a responsibility to clean their water storage tanks.

Significant improvements have been made to the NWT water system over the past few years and it is working effectively to provide safe drinking water to residents. Health and Social Services, MACA, Public Works and Services and RWED are continuing to look at the structure of the NWT drinking water system to identify areas that can be further strengthened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further Minister's statements? Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Challenges Of Education In The NWT**

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a pleasure to be back in the chamber after a brief absence. As Mr. Ootes indicated, I just returned from a Council of Ministers of Education conference in Halifax last week. I feel that the North's active participation in these national planning and strategy conferences are essential to education in the North and Canada, if we are to meet the human resources requirements that will make this country one of the best places to live for years to come, Mr. Speaker. Certainly that's a challenge for us here in the North.

Mr. Speaker, this school year there will be two students graduating from Grade 12 in my riding. I am happy to announce that Roland Catholique from Lutselk'e and Amy Miersch from Fort Resolution are graduating from Grade 12 this year. I am pleased to see these individuals persevere and become role models for others in their communities. I would like to thank them and their families for supporting them.

Mr. Speaker, we still have a long ways to go towards improving our education system. We need a system that balances putting the onus on students and families, providing better infrastructure and a system of education that can be delivered at the same standards that we find in our capital and regional centres in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working with Minister Ootes for the last three years on the educational issues in my riding, to address inefficiencies in the delivery of these programs and services. I would like to thank the Minister for his commitment the last few years and towards that end, Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that we will have five graduates coming out of my riding next year and that's a great improvement from the last three years. I would like to thank the Minister and the staff at the schools in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution for making that happen, but we have a long way to go and I hope that we can improve on these five by at least 100 percent in the following years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Tribute To The Late Mike Zubko

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the grandfather of northern aviation, the late Mike Zubko, former resident of the Mackenzie Delta,

Aklavik and Inuvik. This weekend, Mr. Speaker, Mike Zubko was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in Halifax.

He started his career in the North in 1942 with Canadian Pacific, flying into remote communities in the Northwest Territories and the Beaufort-Delta. In 1947, with experience as a mechanic and pilot, he started his own business based out of Aklavik, called Aklavik Flying Service. With a single engine, two-seater aircraft, he flew out of Aklavik, which was the only scheduled aircraft for year-round service. Previously the only service was through Canadian Pacific.

Mike Zubko changed the history of northern aviation. He was the first to offer service north of the Arctic Circle, even though that meant venturing into unmapped territory with no technical or communication support services.

Mike Zubko saved the lives of many people across the North, by providing the first northern medevac service that became essential during the late 1940s with the measles epidemic. In the 1950s, Dawn Smith was the first nurse to be posted in Fort McPherson, and later married Mike Zubko and raised six children. They later moved to Inuvik and Aklavik.

Mike Zubko was highly respected throughout the region and he will always be known for his kind-heartedness. He played a key role in putting Inuvik on the map, and in 1959 the town opened its first airport which is now known as the Mike Zubko Air Terminal, which is greatly recognized by such a distinguished person.

Fifty years later, his son Tom joined his father in the aviation field, and they worked together until Mike retired in 1985. After retiring, Mike Zubko remained grounded to the aviation field. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. After retiring, Mr. Mike Zubko remained grounded in the aviation field. He sat on the federal Civil Aviation Tribunal, and was a member of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board.

The late Mike Zubko passed away in the fall of 1990. His widow Dawn and his family members were present this weekend to see the distinguished honour which is laid upon him by being inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in Halifax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Alarming Impacts Of Breast Cancer

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to focus on what unfortunately continues to be a recurring health problem that affects far too many women in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, the health problem that I am referring to is the large number of women in Hay River who suffer from the ravaging effects of breast cancer. I am pleased to report,

Mr. Speaker, that a number of women have gone on to beat this insidious form of cancer, but we have had to bury far too many women in Hay River as a result of breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, while I was compiling research on the subject of breast cancer, I came across some very alarming statistics. In 2003, an estimated 21,200 women in Canada will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 5,300 women will die of this disease. On average, 407 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer every week, and 102 Canadian women will die of breast cancer every week. In addition, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in Canada in women today.

Mr. Speaker, I know from speaking to a number of Hay River women that the incidence of breast cancer amongst the Hay River women appears to be alarmingly high. I know of women in Hay River, Mr. Speaker, whose breast cancer went undetected for over a year. In this day and age that should not be allowed to happen, Mr. Speaker. Early detection of breast cancer is key to being able to successfully diagnose and treat this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is imperative given the high incidence of breast cancer among women in Hay River, that a mammogram machine be placed in Hay River. In this way, early detection could take place for women throughout the South Slave region.

Mr. Speaker, the point was raised to me by a constituent of mine who is a breast cancer survivor. She stated that the cost to the Department of Health and Social Services for flying her back and forth from Hay River to Edmonton for her cancer treatments could have gone a long way towards paying for a mammography machine in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, we, as elected representatives, are very much aware of our fiscal situation in the Northwest Territories. However, I don't think that you can put a price on saving a life, as this machine would most certainly do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Seniors' "Walk for Memories" In Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I joined the members of the Yellowknife Seniors' Society and the Alberta Alzheimer's Society NWT Chapter for a Walk for Memory. The weather didn't cooperate with us, but the importance of this cause and the urgency did not go unnoticed.

As has been mentioned many times in the House, Mr. Speaker, the need for a facility that would provide programs and services for the elders who are afflicted with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia is becoming urgent. I understand that the Minister has a proposal from the Yellowknife Association for Concerned Citizens for Seniors to expand the Avens Seniors' Centre to accommodate this need, and I would like him and the government to give this serious consideration and find a way to work with YACCS to see this proposal become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal is sound and it will not cost the government extra money. It's about having the vision and foresight to spend the dollars wisely, and I believe it speaks

very strongly to the need for the government to work cooperatively and in partnership with community groups like YACCS to serve the section of the population who is most vulnerable, as well as their families.

The facts are very compelling, Mr. Speaker. The annual growth rate of seniors in the NWT is high at eight percent, higher than any other parts of Canada. By 2012, we will have 2,635 seniors. In 20 years, we will have 4,600 seniors. Sixty-five percent of seniors will be aboriginal and many are moving to Yellowknife to be closer to their families. We also know that one out of every three Canadians over 80 years of age is affected by Alzheimer's disease, and twice as many women as men have it. Currently, Mr. Speaker, 58 percent of all residents in long-term care facilities in the NWT have some form of dementia. A significant portion of that are in moderate to advanced stages.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers should steer us in the right direction. We will need to take care of these elders and a hospital setting is not the answer. It costs a lot more money and it doesn't give the elders the respect and quality of life that they deserve while living with this affliction, and we cannot continue to place all the burden on the families and on facilities not designed for this purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Commercial Fishing Authority On Great Slave Lake

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of commercial fishing on Great Slave Lake has become a concern of many constituents in my riding. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, there appears to be no process for consultation, other than through the Great Slave Lake Advisory Council. As a result, communities in my riding do not appear to be consulted, nor is information getting back from the representatives sitting on the advisory council. People are questioning who is responsible for ensuring proper consultation with communities having claim to the lake's resources. Who is responsible for enforcement with respect to harvesting, and are current enforcement capabilities sufficient? Who is responsible for the overall management of the lake's resources, and does management include aboriginal participation? Is there a long-term management plan in place? Are there closed seasons for protection of fish during spawning? These are some of the questions being asked in the communities for which answers are required.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Great Slave Commercial Fishery has been operating for many years, however the reality is that the aboriginal people have rights to resources and management of those resources in traditional territories. Although the Deh Cho process and other claims are not settled, this does not eliminate the territorial or federal governments' responsibility to consult with and include those communities in the management of the lake and the resources being harvested.

Mr. Speaker, when we hear about the closure of the cod fishery on the East Coast and Nunavut's concern with the allocation of the shrimp quotas, this government should also be concerned with our commercial fishery and the impact of the mismanagement of its resources.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of RWED during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Frustrations With The GNWT Capital Planning Process

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday my colleague, Mr. McLeod, expressed his frustration with the capital planning process. I share those same frustrations. A gap exists between communities expressing their needs to MLAs and government officials, and the decisions being made by deputy ministers which do not reflect the input of Members and residents of the communities, despite Cabinet's assurances that the input of Members and the communities are taken into consideration. This input is not taken into account when dollars are actually spent on projects.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday the Minister of Finance said that as part of the government's long-term planning, a 20-year capital needs assessment is done. He said that this is a needs assessment, not a plan. He stated that it's not a capital plan that the government is committed to for the next 20 years, it's simply assessing what the long-term needs are. Although he says that it is not a plan, sometimes projects are selected and we are told that they are picked because they are in the 20-year plan. At other times, projects are removed from the books without any consultation, and the reasoning is because it is only in a 20-year assessment, not a plan.

I am sure that we can all sense how confusing, disappointing and frustrating this must be to the communities such as Gameti who are expecting an upgrade of their school. At the recent community meeting on capital planning, no one from MACA could explain why the plan for the school had changed. Neither the MLAs, nor the community, nor government staff were involved in the decision, nor do I know why it was no longer in the books.

Mr. Speaker, the current process of selecting capital projects needs to be clear. The input of the community members and the MLAs must be included in the plans, and also the Minister. Not only the deputy ministers should be involved in the selection of projects. This is what we have been elected to do, and by involving all parties in the decision-making process, the government will be both accountable and responsive to the needs of all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of The Contributions Of The Mining Industry

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as most Members in this House are aware, this week, June 9th to 15th, is Mining Week. Mr. Speaker, today is Miners' Day. I would like to salute the significant contribution that miners and the mining industry have made to the northern economy and to this country's economy in general.

Mr. Speaker, mining has a special importance in Yellowknife. Mining was what led to Yellowknife being established and what keeps it growing into the thriving place it is now. Mining has put us on the world map.

Mr. Speaker, mining will continue to play a role in creating jobs and helping to secure the economic wellbeing of Northerners. Not only do we have mining jobs, but mining is leading to spin-off jobs as well, like we see right now in the secondary diamond industry.

Mr. Speaker, the mining industry in Yellowknife alone feeds roughly 300 families, and there are many more Northerners in many communities who also support their families through mining. So you can see that both the social and economic impacts of the industry are very important to the survival and success of the North. Mr. Speaker, miners are also part of the social fabric. They are hockey coaches and community volunteers.

I have great respect for miners who risk their lives to drill for ore and diamonds. They work in sometimes unbelievably difficult conditions to provide for their families and, in the process, improve the economic stability of our communities. Miners make up a good portion of our community, and their dedication, skill and hard work has made life better for us all.

Mr. Speaker, this week there are many community events to acknowledge the huge contribution and importance of miners and mining to our community. There will be street displays, mall displays, rock walks, movies about mining, a picnic and tours of Con Mine. I would encourage everybody to take an opportunity this week to express their thanks and appreciation for the mining industry and the important role that it plays in the North.

Mr. Speaker, even though today is Miners' Day, most miners are at work on their regular shift. Let's hope that today they know that we are thinking of them, and that we recognize the importance of mining in Yellowknife and throughout the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Need For An Efficient Regulatory Regime

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is in the area of regulatory reform. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Hay River North spoke about the regulatory issues that are affecting businesses in his community and will affect operations down the Mackenzie Valley. Mr. Speaker, we know that some time ago our government was involved with the federal government and other regulatory bodies in looking at streamlining the regulatory process used, for example, on the pipeline. We know there was some reporting back and forth, some work done, but I would like to know and will be asking questions later on during question period, what has become of that work and are they continuing to move forward, have they responded to the industry that had a look at that report and made comments back.

Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories, being resource rich, we need to know and industry needs to know if we in fact have

found a regulatory process that's going to be stable and that everybody can start looking at and counting on as being a final product. So during question period I will have questions for the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Impact Of Mad Cow Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

MR. BRADEN: Merci, Mr. Speaker. For several days, approaching weeks now, we've been hearing about the frustrations in the beef industry from Alberta, resulting from the discovery of a single animal with BSE -- I won't try to pronounce the full name -- or Mad Cow Disease and how it's affecting the lives of many, many people across the Canadian farming and meat processing industry. Like a number of other issues of a national and international nature, Mr. Speaker, this is now starting to have an impact here in the NWT. Specifically it refers to the situation that some of our big game outfitters are finding because of cancellations or potential cancellations of US hunters coming into Canada because they cannot bring their trophies or meat byproducts back to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, there is a ban now on the import of ruminant animals and their meat and products. This includes things like the cape and the horns of trophies. Of course, our caribou, musk ox and bison are among some of the coveted trophies that these hunters come up here to seek. The value of hunting to the NWT is something in the neighbourhood of \$18 million, and fully 80 percent of the hunters who come here are from the United States, Mr. Speaker, so we have something that's of considerable importance to our tourism and our outfitting industry.

I'm told that as of today there's some confusion at the Agriculture Canada level with the American government's position and with our Canadian tourism agency as well, and I'm going to be asking the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development the status of this situation during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On NWT Recreation And Sport Board Report Recommendations

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wanted to talk a little bit about an issue that's starting to get quite a bit of attention and a lot of discussion both among members of the public and Members of this House, and that is the NWT recreation and sport board recommendations report, and specifically the recommendation to establish and create an NWT rec and sport board, to slot this extra layer of governance, if you will, Mr. Speaker, over and above some of the existing partner organizations like the Aboriginal Sports Circle and the Sport North Federation. It's getting a lot of debate. There seems to be a lot of concern. But one thing I will say, Mr. Speaker, is I think that intuitively all of us recognize that sports participation and opportunities in our smallest communities are not what they are in our larger communities.

We have to be very careful, and I think there's a danger here, that this issue can become very divisive. I think it's important for us to first look at the problems and try to identify and better quantify those problems. Do we have discrepancies in the areas of funding or program availability? Is it facilities, Mr. Speaker, or is it about the volunteer core and the volunteer base? I think it's important to fully document these issues.

Another question we have to ask is, are all small communities or large communities equal across the Territories, or are there pockets of participation, pockets of success, and possibly best practices that we can look at and build from? I think there are. I think if you look at something like the success that a community like Rae-Edzo has had in indoor soccer, obviously something is going right in that community and something is being very successful. I think we need to look at examples like that and build from them.

I think the real issue, Mr. Speaker, is not so much more governance, more bureaucracy; it's more money. I think what we've got is a small number of organizations fighting and scratching and clawing for the very few, meager dollars that they can get their hands on, and I think that's the real problem. The way in which we fund sport in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, pales in comparison to many of the other areas, many of the other files that we have, and I think it's time that was changed, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as an example of what we expect from our organizations in the area of sport with very little dollars, I wanted to highlight the efforts of Esteem Team North, which was recently created. It takes high profile athletes, some of them former Olympians, and tours around the North and have them present clinics and such to children throughout communities. They've managed to visit a number of northern communities this year. A group of five athletes going around with some staff from Sport North who are in Yellowknife, Inuvik, spent quite a bit of time up in McPherson and I think the MLA...I should know if the MLA, Mr. Krutko, was there. I think he was, anyway I'll give him credit even if he wasn't. I think Mr. Krutko was in McPherson with this group. I think there were also some presentations in Tsiighehtchic and Aklavik, and I understand they were very well received. I think they met something like 1,400 students, Mr. Speaker, on something like a \$9,000 budget. What's that; \$6 or \$7 a student? We don't do anything like that in government, Mr. Speaker.

I think there's a real danger that we jeopardize the efforts of some of these organizations if we decide that we're going to gut an organization like Sport North. So we have to be very careful, and I think it's important that we fully analyze the situation, look at where we have successes and failures, be honest about those and seek to deal with that, instead of just adding another level of bureaucracy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement On Achievements Of Nunakput Students

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this House the achievements of some students from my riding of Nunakput. As the school year closes in some of my communities, or college programs come to an end for the year, graduation ceremonies were held and in some cases diplomas were awarded.

Mr. Speaker, graduation ceremonies were held at Helen Kalvak School in Holman on June 3rd for Lisa Alikamik and Jeanine Arey as they both completed their Grade 12.

In Paulatuk, graduation ceremonies were held at Angik School on May 22nd for Angus Dillon as he completed his Grade 12.

On May 9th, graduation ceremonies were held at Aurora College in Inuvik for John Lucas Jr. of Sachs Harbour who graduates with a diploma in natural resource technology.

Also, Annie Felix and Evelyn Cockney both completed their third year of the Aurora College teacher education program and can now look forward to entering their final year of training.

Mr. Speaker, as well, special graduation ceremonies were held at Angik School in Paulatuk on May 22nd for three Inuvialuit women who graduated from the early childhood development program, namely Irene Ruben, Mary Green and Molly Ruben. This was a four-year training program sponsored by Aurora and Yukon colleges and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, these Inuvialuit grads are some of the first graduates from this distance learning program. For the past four years, these three women have demonstrated strong Inuvialuit character while completing their distance learning assignments, attending to their individual family needs and working at the Paulatuk Child Development Centre on a daily basis. I wish to extend my congratulations and compliments to both the grads and the organizers for completion of a successful program. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, on a more personal note, I am proud to mention here that earlier this spring, my boy, Warren Gus, completed his four-year apprenticeship course at SAIT and NAIT and is now a licensed journeyman automotive mechanic working in Inuvik.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, convocation ceremonies were held at the University of Saskatchewan on May 31st where my wife and partner of 34 years, Betty Elias, obtained her bachelor of education degree.

---Applause

I know I speak for every one of our family when I say we are really proud of her and look forward to having her home again. Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues, please join me in congratulating and wishing all these people a successful future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. From our most northerly riding to our most southerly riding, the honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger, Item 3, Members' statements.

Member's Statement On Aurora Open Charity Golf Tournament In Fort Smith

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend in Fort Smith saw the running of the 5th Annual Aurora Open, the main charity golf tournament for the community for the year. Mr. Speaker, this golf tournament has been a success because of the strong support of the community, but of equal importance has been the strong corporate support we've received over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to acknowledge in this House the support from Canadian North, Northwest Air Lease, Diavik, NorthwesTel, BHP, Enbridge, TransCanada PipeLines, NTPC, Kaeser's Store and the Slave River Journal. Mr. Speaker, this particular golf tournament saw 104 golfers play in a tournament, but the real benefit is first to the charity that they have chosen and that's a non-profit organization that we all know in this House and that's the Western Arctic Leadership Program. For the second year running, we have been able to donate \$5,000 to the Western Arctic Leadership Program as a result of the contributions of the corporate sponsors to this tournament.

I would just like to recognize the work of the college and thank the corporate sponsors. I would like to acknowledge that my colleague Mr. Delorey came over and through a day of fairly intense rain on Saturday, but a nice sunny day on Sunday, he put in his time on the land with the rest of us.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a very big tournament for us. We started planning for this in January and it was a great success. We are very happy to have the Western Arctic Leadership Program be able to benefit. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Thomas Simpson School Graduates In Fort Simpson

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement today with regard to graduation. Mr. Speaker, I was in Fort Simpson, my hometown, on the weekend and attended the graduation ceremony for the Thomas Simpson School. Today I would like to congratulate the Grade 12 graduates of the Thomson Simpson School in Fort Simpson. It was a great honour for me and I was also privileged to attend the ceremony on Saturday, June 7, 2003, in Fort Simpson. I also, once again, today, although I made a speech there, would like to congratulate once again the nine graduates: Danita Allaire, Vanessa Gerlock, Jessica Jumbo, Jennifer McInnis-Wharton, Joy Rodh, Michael Rowe, Christopher Stipdonk, Brendan Tsetso and Lisa Williams.

I would also like to say congratulations to the parents. As a parent, like many of you out here, you know once your child reaches Grade 12, you give a sigh of relief and there's a lot of joy and happiness in it, but at the same time, you know they have to take the next step of going on to college or university. They are still not out of your hair yet. There is still a

continuation of your role as a parent. Up to this point, there was lots of hope for the young people who graduated there, and there is also encouragement to the students who see this and want to pursue that role as well.

I would also like to thank the organizers of the graduation for making the ceremony a very memorable experience for all the participants. They are finished high school. I told them there is a new bunch of people that they have to be very aware of, the ECE group there, Mr. Jacobson and his crew, the band and the Metis. If all else fails, you can come and see the MLA to straighten things out if things don't work out.

So it was a very good occasion in Fort Simpson and I just wanted to recognize the students. Mahsi. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. No further Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Blake Lyons, president of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities.

---Applause

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

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a great pleasure for me today to have you help me welcome my wonderful wife, Marg, in the gallery today.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any other kind?

---Laughter

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to say a special welcome to everyone who is here today. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I said in my Member's statement that most miners would be at work even though it's Miners' Day, but in the gallery today we have a constituent of mine who is also a miner, Mr. Dave Taylor. Along with him is my constituency assistant Allison McCambridge who will be leaving fairly soon for Sudbury. Taking her place is Sahara Pawluk who is also in the gallery. She will be joining my office as a constituency assistant for the summer. She is a student and will be going back to Victoria at the end of the summer. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome to all those folks who have come to see their Legislative Assembly at work. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery On Great Slave**

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of RWED a question as a follow-up to my Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, a number of my communities historically have depended on Great Slave Lake for fishing and for the last couple of years, there is a lot of concern being raised regarding fish stocks and management of the lake and the level of involvement. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the community of Hay River Reserve, Kakisa, Fort Providence and also West Point. I would like to ask the Minister if he can tell me what role RWED plays in the management of the commercial fishery, either alone or in cooperation of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery on Great Slave

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fishery on Great Slave Lake is mainly under the control of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development tries to work along with DFO to make sure that the concerns of the people in the communities are heard, and that the long-term management plan for Great Slave Lake is really the responsibility of DFO. This is the responsibility of DFO, like I said, and it's also been a concern for us in the government, through RWED. There is also a Great Slave Lake Advisory Board which provides advice on the management of the fishery to DFO. There is representation from a number of different aboriginal groups. The Akaitcho have a person on there, the Tlicho, the Northwest Metis Nation, North Slave Metis Association, also the sport fishing lodges and commercial fishing have a role in that. As for who is responsible for consultation in communities, again it's DFO who is responsible for this and we try to encourage RWED to listen to people in these communities.

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

Supplementary To Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery On Great Slave

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. I would like to ask the Minister then if he could explain what this government's policy is with respect to community and First Nations consultation when it comes to issues affecting the resource management when it requires consultation for Great Slave Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery On Great Slave

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories, our concern there through the policy is even though it's under federal jurisdiction, we want to make sure we are heard and that we participate in a lot of discussions with DFO when it comes to dealing with Great Slave Lake and the fishing

that takes place. There is the Great Slave Lake Advisory Board who we work with and through. There are opportunities for representation on that board, although Kakisa and Hay River Reserve are not involved in the advisory board. They must have their own reasons why they don't want to participate, but I think it's an opportunity for them to participate in that area. Getting back to the policy regarding resource management, we want to only encourage and advise DFO to work with the communities and that has basically been our role. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery On Great Slave

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest concerns right now to the communities is that there is very little opportunity for input into the quota or actual involvement for commercial fisheries. I am being told by the communities, that they have had no input for the longest time and it's run totally by an advisory council. The concern is with the fish stocks; we don't really know how stable they are. The reports that come out from DFO and RWED seem not to be very consistent. I would like to ask the Minister if he could assure us, in writing, if there is sustainability of fish stocks in Great Slave Lake for commercial fishing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery On Great Slave

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I will reply to the Member in writing in more detail about exactly what's been going on and the state of consultation, including the type of work that goes on in trying to determine how the fish stocks are and how sustainable the Great Slave Lake fishery is. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 274-14(6): Management Of Commercial Fishery On Great Slave

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the area of commercial fishing, especially in the deep area, for many years now since commercial fishing has begun, we no longer can catch trout. Historically we have always been able to catch trout there. Many of the communities are pointing the finger at the advisory council's desire to have open season year round. There are no closed seasons, not even during spawning. Why isn't there protection for the fish during spawning season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have to take this question as notice. I need to talk to the department about that. Thank you.

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

Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in line with my Member's statement on the regulatory regime for work done by this government to try to look at the processes and streamline them among the regulatory agencies out there. I would like to ask the Minister where that work stands now? Is it concluded or is there further work being done in that area?

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

Return To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Member's question about the regulatory process, we all know it's been a very complex process for any major resource development to happen in the North because of the different agencies that exist out there. The chairs of the boards and agencies responsible for looking at and assessing development in the North today, have done some work on that. They released a cooperation plan very recently. Last year, they released a cooperation plan – sorry – for the environmental impact assessment of regulatory review mainly for the northern gas pipeline. They have done some work on it and will continue to do it, but at the present time, they've come out with a plan that they hope to follow. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us if there is further work going on? A plan has been put out, but has the department had a look at that? Has this government looked at that and responded to it? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. There are three agreements that they had hoped to have completed as a result of this cooperation plan. One of them is between the Inuvialuit and the federal Minister of Environment. I understand that agreement has been completed and there is an agreement that's still being worked on with regard to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Inuvialuit and the federal Ministry of the Environment. Furthermore, they are trying to get an agreement on the regulatory agencies with public hearing functions and other regulations with permitting responsibilities for the project. So this is another complicated area that they have been working on and I understand they are nearing completion in that area.

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

Supplementary To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to what role our government is playing in this process? At one time we went to the table and were quite involved and I believe we have sort of taken a step back and let the process work on its own. So, what role are we now playing in that process? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

Further Return To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this cooperation plan has been worked on by a number of the agencies, and the Government of the Northwest Territories is still a player in this whole cooperation plan, along with a number of other groups and agencies. If the Member wishes, I can give him that information. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell us what time lines we might be looking at for a complete package? Is our government of pushing to bring this to a conclusion so all groups out there will know what they are looking forward to when it comes to the regulatory process? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

Further Return To Question 275-14(6): Streamlining The Regulatory Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the plan here is to complete these different agreements as a result of the plan soon. I do not know what the time line is at this point in time, and once I find this time line out I will share it with the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Antoine. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to Minister Antoine, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, on the issue of the impact on northern outfitters, big game outfitters, of the United States ban on products that may come from trophy animals that American hunters are up here to get. I think the first question that should be asked, Mr. Speaker, is can the Minister assure the assembly here that the Northwest Territories and Northwest Territories wildlife are unaffected by Mad Cow Disease? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Mad Cow Disease or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy - as Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development I should actually know the name -- Mad Cow Disease has no impact on any of the wildlife in the Northwest Territories or any of the domestic animal population that we have, which is very little. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, are we doing any testing or taking any measures here in the Northwest Territories to confirm or monitor and ensure that our wildlife population stays free of this disease? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this mad cow disease or BSE is generally contracted through the feeding of green meal derived from infected rendered animals. It is like a protein to which wildlife in the North have no access. So we do not monitor the animals as such. All the domestic animals that we have, like I say, are very minimal and we are told that they are not being fed this product. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

MR. BRADEN: So, Mr. Speaker, do not feed the animals is a good rule to follow and it sounds like we are staying on top of that one too. Further to the issue of how this is affecting our big game outfitters, Mr. Speaker, could the Minister advise the assembly the status of this issue with the officials of the Canadian Department of Agriculture and American officials who are making the rulings? What is the status of this right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this whole incident came to our attention about 20 days ago when the animal was first detected. They realized the animal had this infection or this virus 20 days ago. Since that time, a number of things have happened to the beef industry and it has, like the Member said, had an effect on big game hunting outfitting for even animal products that are coming across. At

this point there may be effects on the big game hunting sector due to transfer of meat, capes, and antlers across the border into the United States.

We are trying to determine through the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development what the rules are, as they seem to be changing all the time. We have a regular update. The federal Minister Vanclief is convening regular telephone conference calls to provide updates on almost a daily basis and weekly basis. At this stage we are saying that there is going to be an impact, the changes to that will be imminent. We are encouraging people to take their hunting trips of a lifetime in the Northwest Territories. There are no problems with the mad cow disease on the wildlife in the Northwest Territories. There could be an issue with the shipping of trophies, as I said, and meat across the borders, but we believe that the solutions are imminent. Our officials are working hard with the federal officials to try to find out what the rules are with the United States at this point in time, and we want to assure people that we will find a solution very soon. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the issue right now -- as the Minister has said, there are some dynamics going on -- is communication by American officials who are making this decision with American hunters who have trips on the line and, of course, with our outfitters here in Canada and the Northwest Territories who have their livelihood on the line. I am wondering if the Minister can advise, just what are the communication steps that we have in place with those audiences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 276-14(6): Impact Of Bovine Disease On NWT Outfitting Industry

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the official level, on the Ministerial level, we are in contact with federal Minister Vanclief's office and the federal Minister is taking the lead in talking with his counterpart, the United States Secretary for Agriculture, to try to deal at that level. On the different big game hunters and the different sports hunters that are going to enjoy their sports hunting in the Northwest Territories, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is keeping Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism informed, as well as the Northwest Territories Barrenground Outfitters Association and others who are involved in that. So there is a line of communication between Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the outfitter organizations. On the federal level, they are contacting the federal Department of Agriculture. That is the type of communication system that we have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Antoine. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier in my Member's statement it certainly appears that Hay River has

an unusually high rate of breast cancer amongst our women. I do not actually have the figures here, but almost everyone that I know in Hay River has been affected by breast cancer in one way or another.

I am also aware, Mr. Speaker, that there is a mammography machine at Stanton Territorial Hospital here in Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister if there are currently any other mammography machines in place at any other hospitals across the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are. There is mammography capacity in Inuvik. As well, we have a contractual arrangement for the South Slave with the Alberta Screening Program, which is a mobile screening unit. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is that mammography machine in Inuvik up and operating now? And are there any plans for putting mammography machines in other locations such as Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger. Two questions there.

Further Return To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The unit in Inuvik is operational. I understand they do have problems keeping qualified staff due to the low volume. We have no further plans at present to place any new machines in other communities. We are working with the authorities to come up with a pilot project to improve how we currently provide the services that we do. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister please inform the House if he is aware of how many women from the Northwest Territories are receiving treatment for breast cancer on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the Member that my understanding is we do about 1,500 mammograms a year.

How many women are actually being treated for breast cancer, I do not have those figures at my finger tips, but I can provide them. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have demonstrated, I believe there is a tremendous need for a mammography machine in Hay River. In this way, the women of the South Slave region could receive the quality care that they so rightfully deserve. Asking women to go to Yellowknife for mammograms is not the answer, Mr. Speaker, as some of these same women that require regular mammograms very often have to absorb the infamous \$250 co-payment to do this. Would the Minister agree to direct his department to do an analysis to determine the feasibility of having a mammogram machine installed in Hay River to serve the women of Hay River and the surrounding area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 277-14(6): Mammography Capacity In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, there is a pilot project underway looking at how we can provide better services for breast cancer screening. We are spending \$270,000 to do that, working in conjunction with the Breast Health Advisory Committee. If out of that comes a suggestion that we should be expanding the service, then we will look at that. I would point out again that currently there is some difficulty in Inuvik retaining the qualified people they do have to run their mammography unit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes. Mr. Speaker, further to the Minister's statement today and the recent trip to Halifax, can the Minister elaborate and provide the House with some detail on the two proposals submitted to Human Resources Development Canada and what it means to communities of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes.

Return To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government in conjunction with the Mine Training Committee, which has representation from various organizations, and additionally an oil and gas committee, which has representation from industry from aboriginal governments and groups and so forth, developed a proposal to the federal government, specifically Human Resources Development

Canada, for approximately \$25 million in contribution funding to support our funding. We are contributing in mining approximately \$25 million among all the organizations and in oil and gas approximately \$20 million funding. We have asked Human Resources Development Canada to provide funding also to support our particular human resource development programs. Mr. Nitah asked how that will benefit communities. The intent here, Mr. Speaker, is to concentrate funding on the training of our people, people in the communities, that may wish to move into oil and gas, that may wish to move into the mining area. They are both entry-level type programs and also for those who are already experienced to move into types of work that require more experience, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what, if any, indication did the Minister receive from Minister Stewart regarding the funding deadline of these two proposals, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes.

Further Return To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister made reference to us about the availability of the \$25 million program that she has established and that was announced in the federal budget back several months ago, the availability of funding for aboriginal human resource development and skill development. She indicated to me that there is a high probability that she can access funding for us. She did not indicate the amount. It is a two-year program that she has of \$25 million that is already in the federal budget. Now comes the time for allocation. She indicated and left me with the feeling that certainly the Territories are high on her agenda, we just do not know the amount of funding that may be available, Mr. Speaker. I emphasized to her that we do have great need here in the Territories because of our impending possibilities in the mining area for the three diamond mines, and the possible activity of a pipeline and resultant exploration activity. So, there is a lot of potential for us here in the Territories for employment, but a lot of our people need training and that was the intent behind our submissions, but also that is the intent behind the money that Minister Stewart has. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given the long term nature of these proposals, was Minister Stewart interested in looking into multi-year ongoing funding for the Northwest Territories for training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes.

Further Return To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our proposal was for approximately \$25 million over five years. Minister Stewart's funding is \$25 million in total for Canada over two years. She said she can only commit for a two-year period and I spoke to her about that and asked, can you look at further funding for the other three years once we start showing some results? She said that she could not commit at that point, but she said the whole thrust of her funding will have to depend upon results. It will be results oriented, accountability for the funding and tracking for the funding and results at the end of the day. So that was of primary interest to Minister Stewart. As I say, I am optimistic that we will get some money. I do not know how much because she was not prepared at that particular table to say the exact amount. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this conference there are some priority points agreed to by the provinces and territories, the priorities at the national level that would be addressed with Canada. One of those priorities, Mr. Speaker, was aboriginal participation in employment. Can the Minister elaborate for us in the House if and how you will use any funding that is coming from these proposals on aboriginal employment initiatives in terms of training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes.

Further Return To Question 278-14(6): Proposals To Human Resources Development Canada

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the funding that will be provided will come from the aboriginal development fund that Minister Stewart has. We generally approach our programs on an inclusive basis, but I can reassure the Member that any funding that we have used so far, for example in the mine training area where we have contributed and the mine training committee has been very successful -- they have created 365 jobs over the past several years -- 90 percent of those have been aboriginal people that have found employment as a result. The Mine Training Committee reassures me that they are looking at the potential for 600 more Northerners to be employed through their particular programs of which the majority, and when I speak of majority the previous indication was 90 percent out of the 300, I expect that the majority again will be aboriginal Northerners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley. Mr. Speaker, the way the Cabinet chooses projects such as school renovations is unclear. Each Member lobbies hard for his or her riding and community members express their needs to various government officials. Despite this involvement, projects are

chosen which do not reflect the input of community members or MLAs. I would like to ask the Minister, who makes the final decisions on capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the final decisions on capital projects, like the rest of our budget, are made in this House here. We all vote on the budget that includes those projects. Thank you.

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sort of like the answer you gave me, but it does not seem to have worked like that in the last three and a half years. I would like to ask the Minister if he can give me a couple of examples on some of the capital projects that he thinks that we may have worked on together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I am going to disallow the question, Mr. Lafferty, and give you the opportunity to rephrase your question. It is rhetorical. Rephrase your question, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister if he can give us some examples of some of the projects that we made decisions on in the House. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of projects that were approved in the business plans and in the main estimates for the current fiscal year. I cannot get into all of them, but I could tell you that there are lots in transportation and education and all of the departments. All of those have been reviewed in committees and have been reviewed here in Committee of the Whole. So we have all had input or opportunity for input into every single capital project that this government has approved. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not a very good answer.

---Laughter

I am unclear on how projects are cut. You say we have been working together on briefings and other meetings, but then I saw a capital project on my five-year plan for my riding in Gameti where a school was cut. No one told me about that, or I was never briefed on it. I would like to ask the Minister who makes these decisions to cut the projects? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know of any school project or renovations in Gameti that appeared in the five-year capital plan, but we would have to find that information and take a look at it. It may have been in the 20-year needs assessment that Mr. Lafferty referred to earlier on.

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

Supplementary To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you. As I understand, sometimes we go through our business plans and we see projects that pop up. Sometimes we are using the 20-year cycle of a building, sometimes we use the 20-year assessment plan to justify some of the projects. I would like to ask the Minister if he can make sure that, whenever there is something on the 20-year plan and it is identified for a certain year and they are going to cut it, then they should tell the Member whose riding it is in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 279-14(6): Capital Project Decision Making

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some mixing up of the 20-year needs assessment with our capital plans. We do a five-year capital plan. We do a 20-year needs assessment. The 20-year needs assessment gives us an overview of projects that may be coming along in future years. We do not know for sure what we will need in 18 years or 20 years or 16 years, but that gives us an overview and that helps us build a plan. Everything that appears in a 20-year needs assessment does not necessarily happen. A lot of things can change over a 20-year period. I hope Members do not think the 20-year needs assessment is a 20-year capital plan, otherwise that is a complete error in terms of what that document is meant for. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that there has been a cutback to the ferry services in the Mackenzie Delta regarding the time that the ferry is launched to the time that it is shut down for the evening. Mr. Speaker, I was under the understanding that we were not going to cut programs and services or services in general to the public, and the ferry service is essential to the people of the Mackenzie Delta and the Northwest Territories. So I would like to ask the Minister exactly why has there been a decline in ferry services in the Mackenzie Delta?

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

Return To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe the cutback in the hours of the ferry operations that Mr. Krutko is referring to is part of the economizing measures that the Department of Transportation has undertaken. Of course we always want to reassess the impact of these and we will certainly do it in this case. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if there have also been cutbacks in other ferry service operations in the Northwest Territories?

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

Further Return To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not have all of the information in front of me, but I believe there have been some changes in other ferries, as well as the ones on the Dempster Highway system. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hate to waste a supplementary on asking the same question, but is it a yes or no answer? Have there been cuts in other ferry operations besides the ferry operations on the Dempster Highway?

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

Further Return To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I believe there have been cutbacks on the ferry systems. I do not think the one at the Fort Providence crossing has changed, but the ferry south of Wrigley has had some cutbacks and if Mr. Krutko wants a detail of changes we have made then I would be prepared to get the specific information for him. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to look again at these cuts because I believe ferry operations are essential, especially in transportation where we have people travelling from the south to the north, especially when the time lines to travel are important. So I would like to ask the Minister, knowing that you have not implemented this across the board to all ferries, that you either be fair across the board to ensure that we all have

the same service, or basically everyone receives the same cuts.

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

Further Return To Question 280-14(6): Reduction Of Ferry Services In The Mackenzie Delta

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the ferry services that we provide are largely dependent on traffic. I will have a look at the ferry operations on the Dempster. If we find that we are holding up traffic or creating congestion, then certainly we will look at making some changes. Thank you.

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

Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question this afternoon is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, I look at the order paper for today and under first reading of bills I see nine bills there and I know there are a couple more in the hopper. But I don't see anything that would suggest we're going to be hearing about the Wildlife Act. Can the Minister advise this House what the current government plan is for the revisions to the Wildlife Act?

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

Return To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Wildlife Act is currently being drafted by the Department of Justice. We are in consultation with the different aboriginal groups: the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Sahtu Dene/Metis in regards to the drafting of this legislation. We plan to get draft legislation in place so that we can have it tabled or released sometime in September. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, first of all, after the last election we were told that we would see the legislation in the House by the end of 2002. Then we heard it was going to be the winter of 2003, and then the spring of 2003. Now the Minister is saying that all they can do is perhaps get it publicly released by the fall. What's happened? Why can't we see this legislation more quickly?

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

Further Return To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're working with the different land claims agreements. When we talk about changes to the Wildlife Act, the aboriginal people who have treaties see that as infringing on their treaty rights. So we are prepared to move ahead as a government, but you're going to have a problem in dealing with this issue. In order to deal with this issue, you have to consult with the

aboriginal First Nations who have land claims agreements. They have wildlife provisions and they also have Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 that you have to deal with. So as the legislation, those are the issues that we're dealing with today. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it sounds to me like the Minister is laying the blame for us not getting this act done squarely at the feet of the aboriginal organizations and the claimant groups, which I suspect they will be interested to hear. This government spent \$1.5 million in the last four years on consultation, so there has been a significant amount of consultation. It certainly didn't take the Yukon four years to get their legislation to match up with the claims in that region. Why is it taking so long in this region when they've had just as many claimant groups to deal with and they've been able to do it in the Yukon?

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

Further Return To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to make it clear that I'm not laying the blame on the aboriginal groups. The Member asked me why and I told him, and that's the reality we're dealing with. We're not blaming anybody. It's the process that we are involved in with the First Nations and the claimant groups. That is where we're at. We could railroad this thing and have it done, but you're going to have written questions afterwards.

You compare us to the Yukon. Yukon is a different story. In the Yukon they have 14 different First Nations, but they're under one umbrella claim that they've come together on in all the areas. Here you have the Inuvialuit land claim, you have the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, the Tlicho who are just going to be formalizing their final agreement, you have the Deh Cho First Nations who are beginning to negotiate, you have Akaitcho, then you have Salt River First Nations, you have the Northwest Territories Metis Nation, North Slave Metis. I'm not putting the blame on anybody, Mr. Speaker, I am saying this is the reality that we're dealing with. Throwing in Nunavut, Nunavut has one claim so it's easy for them to go ahead and do these things, it's quicker. But here we have to deal with all the different aboriginal governments that have their own specific concerns about the Wildlife Act and the management of wildlife and their traditional territories and their traditional rights that they have under their treaties. So it gets a little more complicated and complex, and we're moving as fast as we can on our side and we're consulting with the First Nations and trying to reach agreement. It's slow, but we're making progress. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in both the Yukon and Nunavut, the governments brought in outside drafters to work with the claimant groups to make sure that everybody was onside through the process. Why has this

government not agreed to bring in outside drafters to help speed up the process? The timetable seems to be slipping. We're now a full year behind when we were expecting to see this done, and the election could overtake us before it takes place. Why will we not use outside drafters?

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

Further Return To Question 281-14(6): Status Of New Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very good question. I think that we looked at that possibility earlier on in RWED and we were working with my Cabinet colleagues here. According to the opinion from the Department of Justice and the legal drafters, the opinion was there to keep it in-house. I guess the argument there is that if we do it for one piece of legislation, then we do it for all the legislation and that would really become very complicated in the long run. Our work right now is that we are working with the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Sahtu. We fund them so that they have legal advice on their side, so that we're working together in a committee as the drafting goes on. That's the approach we have taken. Thank you.

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

Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it's in regards to the Member's statement I made earlier today. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I understand that the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors -- YACCS -- has submitted a proposal to the Minister and had a meeting with him. I would like to know if the Minister could advise the House as to where that proposal is in his priorities and his workload. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I met with YACCS last week. They presented us formally with a completed report, which was a first step in the developing of a plan for a new facility for cognitively impaired patients, clients in the Northwest Territories. We are going to go over what was suggested. There were financing suggestions, there were program suggestions, there are technical and protection suggestions and there are land issues. So they've done a lot of work. We want to take a good at it. It will become part of the overall plan that we're going to develop to look at all the facilities we have across the Northwest Territories that provides services to long-term care, to address the issue of the cognitively impaired and Alzheimer's as the majority of facilities were not designed with that need in mind. So we're going to work on that project overall. The one issue from Yellowknife has a leg up because they've done a lot of work and we've given them \$50,000 which they put to good use. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe that credit should be given where credit is due. I think that great progress has been made on this project with the help of the department's funding of \$50,000 to do this study, as well as the division effort on the part of YACCS and the concerned citizens. Mr. Speaker, I do believe having had a briefing on this proposal, there is quite a timeline schedule, and if this is going to make any kind of time requirements, we need to see something in the business plan coming up in the fall. Could the Minister advise whether or not there is any possibility for this proposal to make it into the business plan this fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we will be ready for the business plan this fall. We will be working with the YACCS to do some further environmental work that has to be done. The proposal that was done is theoretical and has lots of concepts that have to be fleshed out. There is a lot more detailed work that has to be done. We have to involve other departments. Financing, as well, is an issue. As the Member knows, the capital planning resources we have are fully subscribed to any new capital projects. We want to go on with the normal planning process, and it's going to be very difficult, so we are looking at other options as well in terms of the financing. As well, we have to do the broader planning with the whole Northwest Territories, so I can come forward to Cabinet and the Legislature with a plan that addresses the needs not only of Yellowknife, but all of the communities of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that answer sounds dangerously close to being no. Mr. Speaker, I do believe the attraction and uniqueness of this project is that it is not to be in the capital planning process, but to use the money that the department and the Minister and the government will be spending anyway to take care of those elders who are afflicted with some form of dementia. We all know, and it's generally accepted, that keeping and holding these people suffering from Alzheimer's at a hospital is not an answer. In fact, it's a more costly exercise. So I would like to ask the Minister what he means by development work he is talking about other than the capital planning process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I received this report less than a week ago. There is a lot of information in there, as I indicated. It's being analyzed. We are going to look at what's possible. As Minister of Health and Social Services to the Northwest Territories, I am

also very aware that there are issues in this area outside of Yellowknife and I don't want to move ahead in piecemeal fashion. So the answer is not carelessly close to a no. It's recognizing the work that's done. It's recognizing the fact that I have had that document, which is nearly three-quarters of an inch thick, for less than a week and we have spent an hour getting briefed on it. We have to do some analysis on our own. We will be dealing with this issue. It is an issue that will get dealt with, not only in Yellowknife, but across the Northwest Territories.

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

Supplementary To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Minister has to address his mind to needs of all of the Territories, but I don't believe there is any place in the Territories with as dire a need of housing for dementia as it does in Yellowknife. May I ask the Minister to make every effort he can to see if this could make it to the business plan this fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 282-14(6): YACCS Proposal For Care Of Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will make every effort to move this project along and address the needs in a timely way recognizing that we do appreciate...We put \$50,000 into this and we are going to be putting a lot more time and effort into this process as well, but, yes, I will commit to my colleague the issue of Alzheimer's and the cognitively impaired in Yellowknife and the rest of the Northwest Territories will be dealt with.

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

Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today, in follow-up to my Member's statement, is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Vince Steen. I would like to ask him about the NWT recreation sport board recommendations report, which I understand he's accepted and is looking to implement. If I understand it – and I am not entirely sure that I do – but if I understand it, it looks like there are a couple of phases for implementation, Mr. Speaker. The second says – and I think this is very useful – that a program audit of rec and sport boards and systems will be conducted. I assume this is where something like a participation inventory might come in. That happens after the implementation team has been established and developed the terms of reference for the board and the mandate and the operating procedures. I am wondering why it isn't the other way around, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, I believe that what we are trying to do here is get Sport North to sit down with the department and the rest of the departments and hopefully resolve what issues have been raised up to now. I don't want to go into a whole long discussion again on it, but one thing I would like to clarify is the fact that we are not so much trying to suggest replacement of the Sport North board, but rather the new board would be making recommendations to and advising Sport North who would still be administering the programs on behalf of the department. They would be making recommendations on the disposition of the lottery funding. That would have been the main reason for establishing the board. However, there is a long list of what other things that are hoped to be accomplished by establishing the board. But it does involve for allowing for the participation and some sense of input from the smaller communities by the sports organizations into Sport North and how it administers sports and recreation and the fund in the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

MR. BELL: Thank you. I can appreciate the Minister has been over this and I know we will have a chance to sit down and raise a number of concerns with the Minister, regular Members will. Specific to this issue though, Mr. Speaker, is a need to get some baseline data, a need to determine things like participation rates. I guess my real question is, if we are going to implement this new governance structure, but we don't know where our participation rates are, I am wondering how we are going to know if we are successful. How can we evaluate, judge and measure something like this new mechanism if we really don't know where we are now. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the department has a sense of where it is now and also the participants who are recommending the formation of this board feel like they know where they are now as well. What Sport North requested at the annual meeting was information in relation to the department's expenditures as far as recreation programs go in the smaller communities. The department is in the process right now of gathering that and we are hoping to make it available to Sport North in a very short while. Furthermore, I now have a meeting with the president of Sport North tomorrow morning, and I am hoping that we can talk this thing out and see where it went off track.

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

Supplementary To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

MR. BELL: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister's willingness to meet with the president of Sport North to try to resolve this. I think that's a good first step, Mr. Speaker. The Minister

indicated that he thinks the department has a sense of where we are now regarding participation rates and these types of things. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate whether or not the department has ever tried to quantify the value of volunteer efforts in sports, put a dollar figure on the amount of work we are able to leverage from volunteers around the North. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in relation to whether we did any analysis of the benefits dollar-wise of volunteer efforts, I don't believe anybody has ever done this. But I'd just like to make a point here. We're not trying to get rid of volunteers. We know that sports and rec depends almost 99 percent on volunteer efforts. We don't see this as doing away with volunteers. That's not what we hope, anyway. One thing about all this, this is not a department initiative. We put it to the partners and this came back from them, the proposal for a separate board. I assume that they've taken into consideration volunteer efforts from the individual sport organizations. I'm sure they do. So we're not trying to do away with these volunteers. We're trying to make sports and recreation applicable equally across the Territories if we could. I might find out, for instance, that Sport North, even though it's a big outfit, it's still representing only 13 out of 33 communities in their make-up. On the make-up of the territorial sports organizations, 96 is Yellowknife and 66 is for the rest of the Territories. So there is a little bit of an imbalance here that needs to be corrected, and that's what we're trying to do. We're working with the sports organizations to hopefully accomplish this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

MR. BELL: Thank you. I think what we need to do is add more money, Mr. Speaker, because if we have a fixed sum, if we have this fixed pie and we're going to try to slice it a few more ways by adding this extra layer of governance over and above the service delivery agents, we're simply going to have fewer dollars filter down to all of the communities, including the smaller communities who we're really trying to help. Wouldn't the Minister acknowledge that if we're going to make any inroads into fixing sport in the Territories, it's going to be by adding some money? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 283-14(6): NWT Sport Board Report Recommendations

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Members well know that we don't have any more money to put in the pot. All we have is what money we're getting now, added to a program from the federal government. That's the only addition to the whole thing. It is not our intent to put another cost of administration in this. The partners themselves are suggesting that we may do with less administration if we establish this board. So I'm waiting to see how they plan to point this out to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That was the last question and the last answer. Time for question period has ended. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Ootes's Reply

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on an issue of great importance to me. When a politician stands up to speak to other politicians, there is probably a great deal of cynicism. Mr. Speaker, it reminds me of a saying by Nikita Khrushchev; a very famous saying. It said the problem with politicians is they promise to build a bridge even where there is no river. The great actor Peter Ustinov said, politicians are like weathermen who predict bright intervals during a day of unrelieved rain.

But today you can relax. What I have to say to you today is more about a politician's personal journey than a politician's pompous promises. I will start by reflecting back to the year 1964, about 40 years ago. Then as a young man from a small town in Ontario -- Renfrew, Ontario -- I stepped into the 10-storey Kent Albert Building in downtown Ottawa -- then the tallest building in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker -- to start my new job as editor of debates of the fledgling Government of the Northwest Territories. Binx Remnant, who many of you will likely know and may have known, then the deputy clerk of the Council of the Northwest Territories, said to me, "Jake Ootes, you're the first employee on the payroll of the administrative headquarters of the Government of the Northwest Territories." That was my introduction to this fascinating and fabulous land whose administrative headquarters was still located in far-away Ottawa.

It wasn't until 1967 that the government moved its headquarters from the nation's capital to the new capital here in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, when I joined the government I was 22 years old at the time.

For me, the following 40 years have become somewhat of a blur. Nevertheless, they were exciting, memorable years filled with incredible experiences. In many ways, only an adventure novelist could again bring to life many of those events. For me, those 40 years have passed by much too quickly. I think it was John Lennon who said life is what happens when you are making other plans.

Mr. Speaker, during my early years with the Government of the Northwest Territories I was mentored by one hell of a person. Pardon the word, Mr. Speaker, but he was an incredible character: Stuart Hodgson. He became renowned as the benevolent dictator of the Northwest Territories, as he set the North on the road to responsible government, and as the North shed its colonial status from the federal government.

For a number of years I worked as Hodgson's executive assistant. Together we travelled the width and breadth of the NWT, to every community, to every remote corner, and met just about every person of the 24,000 persons in the Northwest Territories at one time or another.

Eventually, I became responsible for the government's Information department, where together with Art Sorensen and Ross Harvey, we handled the government's public relations and communications, its printing requirements, the

establishment of a community radio station program and we developed the NWT interpreter corps. These were among some of the more notable projects.

But in one's life there's always a time when one tries something new, and so as the years rolled I wanted to go out on my own, to move on to the next stage, the next event. I went into business as an owner and publisher of several community newspapers. I'm very proud to say that in 1982, one of those newspapers that I owned was judged the best in Canada.

Later, Mr. Speaker, I established Above and Beyond, now a very well-known northern magazine. I spent 18 years in business. It proved invaluable, providing me with tremendous experience to add to my earlier years as a civil servant, both with the federal and the territorial government.

Like all of you, the call of politics and the political life appealed to me, and so in 1995 I ran as the candidate for the constituency of Yellowknife Centre. I was motivated by the challenges and opportunities of the changing times, from my 1960s and '70s experiences with Hodgson when I saw what could be done and achieved. Division of the NWT and deficit elimination were looming issues that the 13th Legislative Assembly had to deal with. The burgeoning diamond mining industry needed a supportive voice. For me it was important to keep Yellowknife strong and to ensure the continuation of a strong central government. I wanted to make a contribution in the areas I felt strongly about: integrity in government; financial responsibility; responsible division of the NWT; improved government efficiency.

By the year 1999 we were a small territory, one with enormous potential. We had overcome a difficult financial period. The economy was on the upswing with one diamond mine in operation and others on the drawing board. Value-added industries, such as the valuation plant and the cutting and polishing plants were ready to start operating. Employment potential was on the upswing in oil and gas exploration activity. Resolution and direction of constitutional issues with aboriginal governments provided more assurance for everyone of the importance of settling land claims and developing self-government processes.

Mr. Speaker, with four years' political and legislative experiences under my belt in 1999, I felt I could serve my constituents even better. By 1999, my passion was to focus on one of the greatest potentials of the North: the people. I wanted to ensure that major development projects would be contingent on the provision of jobs and business opportunities for Northerners.

Also as part of my vision was for an improved social net, a prosperous economy and strengthened democratic principles for our government. I was fortunate enough to be re-elected and then fortunate enough to be selected by my colleagues to serve as a Cabinet Minister. The Premier assigned me the very important portfolio of Education, Culture and Employment. This portfolio assignment has given me the opportunity to implement the programs of life-long learning that are so essential to developing our northern people. With the recommendations and support of you, my colleagues, and my fellow Cabinet Ministers, we together have been able to introduce effective initiatives in many, many areas: the early childhood and literacy programs; improved funding allocations for the education system to bring down the pupil-teacher ratio and to provide more significant funding for student needs. This is certainly only one of many important areas where improvements have been made.

As in everything, the people one works with are very important, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege and an honour to represent the people of Yellowknife Centre. I've always appreciated the strong support and advice I received from my constituents, and thank them for the opportunity to serve them. They elected me and have faith in me. I'd like to also thank my constituency assistant, Pearl Benyk, who has served me well as a liaison with my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, it takes dozens of people to function as a politician, and I would like to express a special thanks to them for their support and assistance. I want to thank you, my colleagues, who had faith to elect me to Cabinet. I would like to thank my fellow Cabinet members with whom I have built a close acquaintanceship. I would personally like to thank, as well, the Premier, whose task is a very lonely one, and who has supported me tremendously throughout my years of responsibility. He encouraged me all along to work well, to work hard, and he's provided me with a great deal of support and given me great faith that we are moving forward on great things.

Mr. Clerk, I'd like to thank you and your staff for the wonderful job that you continually do both in and out of the House, as well as you, Mr. Speaker, for your dedication and guidance here in the House as well as your role as chair of the Board of Management.

I would also like to thank my departmental staff and all of those in the department whose work is so valuable, as well as those in the field and the district education councils. I would like to thank certainly my deputy ministers. First, Mark Cleveland whose patience helped me absorb the great amount of information one needs to make informed decisions, and, of course, Dr. Loretta Foley whose tremendous skill at developing a strong team at the department has helped me tremendously.

I have been privileged to have an incredible personal staff. They are the true strength of my work. Janet Stewart, my executive secretary, who manages to organize and make sense of the mountains of paper that flow through our offices on a daily basis. Evan Walz, my executive assistant, without whom I would be completely and seriously lost. He does the political contact work, the follow-up work with MLAs, organizes fieldtrips, does contact work with residents and officials. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I have to emphasize this: that he is one of the best. I am blessed to have both Janet and Evan work for me. They are true gems.

Mr. Speaker, I've used the expertise and political knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of Yacub Adam, who is here in the House today. He's a former professor of Political Science and now a consultant here in Yellowknife. He has helped me formulate an approach to some very difficult problems from time to time, and I'm very, very grateful to him.

The role of a political spouse, Mr. Speaker, is not an easy one. Above all other thank yous that I have mentioned, comes one that has the most meaning for me. This thank you is for my dear and loving wife Margaret. She has provided me the security, the foundation for my political life. She is the person without whom I can't function. Marg's support for me on the moral front when it's pressure time, my frequent absences at meetings and of being out of town has been incredible.

I have grown, Mr. Speaker, as an individual from my political experiences. I've been able to adapt to some of the barbs thrown at me from my colleagues on the other side, and it's

tempting sometimes to throw something back, especially with my claw.

--Laughter

As you have all come to realize, politics is sometimes not a good vocation for anyone who is lazy, thin skinned or lacking in a sense of humour. We know politics is adversarial. Joe Clark said recently, "Politics is adversarial. It is about saying what is wrong and proposing how it could be better." But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I believe strongly that along with adversity, we must respect the need to behave like professionals, that we agree to disagree with courtesy and maintain standing and dignity in this House, and I think we have done that.

With the support of all of you, the Premier, my fellow MLAs, Cabinet colleagues, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk and his staff, my DM and the departmental staff, my personal staff and family, I feel very proud of the many important projects that have been undertaken, and the many accomplishments made throughout the North for the people of our territory.

I have two convictions in my heart that I would like to tell you. One is that the Northwest Territories is a marvelous place of opportunity, though we need understanding and continued support amongst all our people and understanding to take advantage of that which is before us. The second is how blessed we are to be a part of it.

I express optimism about the future, despite the looming debt wall. In fact, I see an exciting future and feel great optimism for the Northwest Territories, its people, economy and political development. Over the past month I have considered very carefully my own future. The decision I have made has not been easy. I have been blessed with so much good fortune throughout my life, that the daydreams of my youth have been surpassed. One moves on with nostalgia, perhaps regret and, of course, with excitement about the achievements made and the prospects of achievements still to be made. Therefore, it is with great emotion, great humility, and perhaps many regrets that I am informing you today that I propose to move on to the next exciting phase of my life. I announce that I will not be standing for election in November.

I leave politics a little greyer, like Floyd, like Vince, Joe and a few others around you; a little thinner and maybe a little wiser, Mr. Speaker. I want to try my hand at other experiences. So far in my working life I have restricted myself to eight years at whatever I was doing. That rule I applied as a reporter, as a civil servant, as a newspaper publisher, as a magazine publisher, and very soon my allotted eight years are up as a politician.

Let me assure you that my commitment to this important office will continue unabated for the remainder of my term until the day I leave. I shall look for new opportunities, but not very far from you. Marg and I will remain in Yellowknife, but of course we will holiday at our place in BC and other places. However, I will be continuing to work in Yellowknife to pursue those interests that I've always wanted to. In fact, my experiences, knowledge of the North, its people, culture, politics and economy, perhaps puts me, like the rest of you, in a special place where this experience may be of value to others.

Mr. Speaker, let me close this afternoon, by again quoting Ustinov's cutting wit on politicians like us. He had this to say: "By their very existence, politicians are unpopular the world over. They are seen as devious because of their baggage of confidences and boring because they have little to say and fail

to say it well. Their only freedom is to criticize their opponents to the accompaniment of a public yawn."

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that I have, and we all have, tried to live this image down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to speak today. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Do we see a book about your life in the future? No. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bill 15, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5). Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Dent. Bill 15 is moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you.

Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 54-14(6): Aboriginal Sports Circle Press Release

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a press release from the Aboriginal Sports Circle supporting the efforts of the Minister of MACA in the concept of a new and broader sport and recreation board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 29: Northwest Territories Business Development And Investment Corporation Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 11, 2003, I will move that Bill 29, Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act be read for the first time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Committee Report 12-14(6), Committee Report 13-14(6) and Bill 15, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will call the committee to order. We have several matters to deal with: Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Committee Report 12-14(6), Committee Report 13-14(6) and Bill 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we consider in the following order: Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Committee Report 12-14(6), Committee Report 13-14(6), followed by Bill 15.

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

Minister's Statement 44-14(6): Specialist Negotiations

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Minister's Statement 44-14(6) was referred to Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, June 4, 2003.

As Members are aware, our parliamentary procedures prohibit Members from posing questions or making statements on matters that are already standing on the Order Paper for further discussion. This is more commonly referred to as the "rule of anticipation." The intent of this rule is to prevent the time of the House being taken up with business to be discussed later in the sitting.

However, Mr. Chairman, some Members have indicated they may wish to pose oral questions or make Member's statements on the matter of physician specialist negotiations. Therefore, I would recommend that the Committee of the Whole conclude its consideration of Minister's Statement 44-14(6). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Minister's Statement 44-14(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. We agreed to deal with Committee Report 12-14(6), Final Report of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause. Mr. Antoine.

Committee Report 12-14(6): Final Report Of The Special Committee On The Implementation Of Self-Government And The Sunset Clause

HON. JIM ANTOINE: The special committee had a very challenging mandate in relation to the implementation of self-government. After considering several technical and legal issues, we decided to highlight some particular trends and issues which describe broad categories that will require future detailed study.

We took this approach for three main reasons: we had relatively little time to examine and report on all the specific details related to the complex self-government processes; our mandate required that we not interfere with negotiations or

overlap with other processes such as the Intergovernmental Forum; and self-government negotiations are not complete so there is still significant uncertainty about the nature and scope of some of the emerging governance systems.

An overview approach therefore seemed to be the most appropriate way to go. Our recommendations are a starting point only. For convenience we began by recommending three basic additions to existing assembly and GNWT structures:

Mr. Chairman, at this point, we wanted to know if there were any other general comments from Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Braden.

General Comments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Member of this committee, I just wanted to make a couple of comments or highlights of things that really stood out for me as being a part of this work of this committee. It was especially interesting when it was formed back in the early days of this assembly because as a politician and somebody who has grown up in the North and watched our political systems evolve and change, I was very interested and supportive of the kinds of things that are going on in the Legislative Assembly, among self-government and First Nations and among municipalities in the NWT. So I was very personally interested in the topic that this addressed, which was how we are going to manage ourselves, if you will, as these various new structures are recognized and come into being. It was something that I supported very strongly as the mandate of this committee was being developed, that our job is not to come in and define what the answers should be or how many people should be involved or how many desks or how many telephones we are going to need to implement self-government. That is really not the purpose of this exercise and one that we dispensed with very early.

Rather, it was to help us to prepare ourselves to manage the changes that we know are going to come through the realization of self-government and, Mr. Chairman, the evolution of this institution, the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

With the work of our staff and our researchers and the consultation that we did have, Mr. Chairman, I picked up a very useful perspective on self-government as it comes about in the NWT and that is we should be looking at these agreements and these negotiations and the deals that come out of it as it all comes down to some kind of piece of paper at some point, is beginnings. These are not final agreements, as we so often refer to in the course of our business. Rather they are the beginnings of new things and new ways of doing things and new opportunities.

The report also develops what we have called the five "Cs" or the words community, concurrency, consultation, coordination and cooperation as guidelines, if you will, or words that we should all be using as we think about how these new arrangements are going to become reality and how they are going to start to make a difference in people's lives.

I won't go into the details of those five "Cs," they are well outlined in the report, but page 20 helps illustrate why we are going to need to be more attentive to these ideas of community, concurrency and consultation.

This table on page 20, Mr. Chairman, outlines about 24 different powers, if you will, that our assembly has under the NWT Act and it contrasts that with some 42 different powers that are contained so far in the framework of this example of the Deh Cho First Nations. So I think it's a really good illustration that we are setting up these concurrencies, these potential conflicts and we also have to be mindful of the coordination and cooperation that I think everyone is going to need to make efforts to apply. That's at the federal, the territorial, the aboriginal and at the municipal level, Mr. Chairman.

When we first started looking at this and, with the assistance of ministries like Aboriginal Affairs, started to get a handle on just how complex and how diverse the arrangements are going to be among the different self-government agreements, it really looked like it was something that was unachievable. How are we going to work our way through this? There are so many different parameters. As we learned more about it and started to poke and probe and examine this from different directions, different angles and different points of view, I learned, Mr. Chairman, that this is something that we should not be daunted or intimidated by. As unusual and unique as it is in Canada, perhaps in the Commonwealth, what we have in this report are some tangible ways and approaches of moving to the next stages of doing our part as a Legislative assembly and a Government of a Northwest Territories. After all, we are party to these negotiations and these agreements. We have made commitments that we will need to live up to. This report gives us some tangible ways of how to approach those challenges and how to help make the dreams of the First Nations and a like a lot of people here in the NWT, how to help them become a reality in the years and the decades to come.

So I commend the recommendations of the report to the assembly as we will be getting into shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Braden. General comments. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a Member of the committee, I don't want to abuse that privilege, but I just want to say a few comments about the tremendous experience that it has been for us to work on this committee. Maybe it's the wonderful speech that our colleague Mr. Ootes gave or it's the rain outside or it's the mood here for nostalgia. There is no question, for me anyway, there are many different aspects to the work of a politician and while we spend a lot of time dealing with the bread and butter issues about different funding programs and so on, I believe that the other side of the privilege and the opportunity we have as a legislator is to look at some of the larger questions that come our way and I do believe, as Mr. Braden said, that there are no others like this anywhere else in Canada or around the world. I think we are really breaking new ground here and we are doing things that have not been done before in the scale that is being done and in the numbers that are being done.

There is also the question, at the very beginning stage, this may be the first document that's been produced about the implementation of self-government although we know that this issue has been with us for many, many years. The one thing that kept coming to me that I really wanted to think about and made me think was the tremendous need out there on the part of the people for a lot of answers and information about what it means. The more I heard from the people, I realized we really needed a place for a conversation or a dialogue, a territory-

wide conversation and dialogue, about what it would mean for us to live in a world of post-self-government implementation in the NWT.

As Mr. Braden stated, it's about a beginning, not about an ending of anything and I know that this will give it a good start for us to look at what the NWT would look like many years down the road. I think it became very apparent to us that these changes will not take place overnight, but it will be a process of incremental and step-by-step change and one that the Government of the Northwest Territories has to play an important role in getting ready and preparing our people for, along with the partnership of other governments.

So the image that I am going to leave you with is the fact that this is just the beginning, and it is a beginning of a process that would open up all sorts of challenges and questions and opportunities and to emphasize the need for a territory-wide conversation and dialogue about what all this means to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, since there are no more general comments, I am just going to go right into recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, our first recommendation is based on our view that the Legislative Assembly will need to monitor the implications of self-government agreements on an ongoing basis. Self-government agreements will be negotiated and implemented over many years. As each agreement comes into effect, there will be a need for adjustments in the way the Assembly and the GNWT conduct their business. Therefore, this should be reflected in the structure and mandate of the standing committees.

Committee Motion 88-14(6): That The Rules And Procedures Committee Monitor And Report On The Implementing Of The Implementation Of Self-Government Agreements On The Powers, Structures And Procedures Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I have recommendation one: I move that this committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures be given responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the implications which implementation of self-government agreements will have on the powers, structures and procedures of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, similarly the GNWT, the Government of the Northwest Territories could, in our view, provide a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to implementation of self-government. In our deliberations, we had the benefit of reviewing the Deloitte & Touche report on

headquarters structures. We agreed with their analysis and recommendations in this regard. In particular, it is our view that the significant potential changes in the relationship between the Assembly/GNWT and the communities warrants more planning and communication efforts.

Committee Motion 89-14(6): That The GNWT Designate A Sole Point Of Accountability For Developing A Comprehensive Action Plan For Implementation Of Self-Government Agreements, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the GNWT formally designate a sole point of accountability for developing a comprehensive action plan for implementation. This department, ministry or agency, should prepare the GNWT and NWT communities for implementation of self-government agreements and should oversee this transition within the regions and communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: In addition to the assembly and the GNWT dedicating more effort to understanding and planning for the potential implications of self-government, we believe many of the changes that will flow from implementation of self-government will require innovative approaches to the development of policies, laws, programs and services. New approaches will also be required to coordinate and cooperate in delivery and enforcement. For this reason we think that ongoing research and study by an objective institute or think tank could benefit northern governments and help in this innovation.

Committee Motion 90-14(6): That A Cooperative Arm's-Length Research Body Be Created To Study Governance Systems And Operational Issues Of Self-Government Agreements, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that a cooperative, arm's-length research body or think tank should be created which is dedicated to the study of governance systems and practical operational issues associated with the implementation self-government agreements in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I would just like to comment on this motion because when one reads it for the first time, it seems very broad and academic in its thinking. The motion comes from the experience the committee has had, which we have stated already, is groundbreaking, in terms of numerous aboriginal self-government agreements that are being negotiated and the implementation that will be in effect. There are tremendous writings and reportings that have been done on that over the years, the first one on implementation. It

has been studied for sure. In our efforts to get to it, we found that the materials and lots of studies are all over the Territories and all over Canada. As a jurisdiction that is engaged in something as novel and as groundbreaking as we are in the North, the committee felt that it's very important that we address our mind to having a central location, whether it's associated with Aurora College or any science institute or any places as such, that we should be proud of the kind of work we do here and the kind of ground we're breaking. It is worthy of studying and there should be some resources and ideas put into that area. So that is a little bit of background to the committee motion that I wanted to add for the consideration of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not tried to work out all the details in relation to those three broad structural recommendations, because we believe that the assembly and the GNWT will need to consider a number of factors in putting these in place. Therefore, some flexibility will be required. However, to provide some guidance, we have made recommendations on matters that should be included in the mandates for the rules committee and for the GNWT ministry or department with responsibility for self-government implementation.

These recommendations are self-explanatory, and we begin with the matters that should be included in the mandate of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

We believe ongoing study is required on the emerging law-making powers of all governments. As our report states, concurrency of powers is the model being followed in most negotiations. As legislators, the assembly will increasingly need to be aware of other law-making authorities and implications which concurrent law-making powers will have on its own procedures and processes. For this reason, we believe further work will need to be done to identify, in a systematic way, the legislative issues flowing from self-government.

Committee Motion 91-14(6): Comprehensive Study Of The Legislative Powers Of The Assembly Be Conducted To Address Self-Government Agreement Overlaps, Amendments And Harmonization , Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures conduct a comprehensive study of the legislative powers of the assembly and those set out in self-government agreements and relevant documents, in order to provide a framework for analyzing potential areas where overlap is most likely and where amendment or harmonization can reasonable be anticipated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to recommendation number four, which focuses mainly on what sorts of issues can be expected from the overlap of law-making powers, our next recommendation focuses on ways to deal with those issues in practice. In some cases, self-government agreements might include mechanisms for coordinating and cooperating. In other cases, there may be no clear mechanisms. We believe the assembly will need to consider options in this regard.

Committee Motion 92-14(6): Examination Of Structures And Procedures For Coordinating And Harmonizing Self-Government Agreement Legislation, Policies And Practices, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures examine options for formal and informal structures and procedures for coordinating and harmonizing legislation, policies and practices among northern governments, where no such mechanisms have been identified in a self-government agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in particular, as each self-government agreement comes into effect, the assembly will need to be prepared to adjust to the new governance system in the context of its own procedures and operations, and in light of other self-governments already in place. The dynamics, particularly in relation to consultation requirements, will need to be carefully managed by all governments concerned.

Committee Motion 93-14(6): Review Of Current Legislative Procedures And Processes Respecting Consultation And Consent Processes, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures review current legislative procedures and processes to identify issues and options respecting:

- A. Consultations among governments on their respective legislative initiatives;
- B. Informing the assembly of ongoing legislative initiatives required to implement self-government agreements;
- C. Possible mechanisms relating to consent of an aboriginal party to territorial legislation, where such a requirement is set out in a self-government agreement; and,

D. The appropriate role of the assembly in any such consultation and consent processes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in preparing for implementation, it will be necessary to be aware of laws and procedures that will likely require amendment or change to comply with self-government agreements. For example, wildlife legislation might require changes as each self-government agreement comes into effect. These adjustments will be required on an ongoing basis.

Committee Motion 94-14(6): Identification Of Current Legislation And Assembly Rules Likely To Require Amendment As A Result Of Self-Government Agreements, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures identify current legislation and assembly rules which are likely to require amendment as a result of implementation of self-government agreements. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, consistent with our report, we believe cooperation will be an important prerequisite to success in implementing self-government. We think there may be opportunities for the Legislative Assembly to help build capacity in relation to community and regional lawmakers. These opportunities could be explored in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders at the community and regional level.

Committee Motion 95-14(6): Consideration Of An Appropriate Role For The Legislative Assembly In Building Capacity For Legislators At Local Or Regional Levels, Carried

Therefore, I make a motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures consider an appropriate role for the Legislative Assembly in building capacity for legislators at a local or regional level through joint workshops, seminars, research functions and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In keeping with our view that a more coordinated and systematic approach could be taken to planning for the implementation of self-government, we suggesting the following:

Committee Motion 96-14(6): Action Plan For The Development Of The Legislative Assembly's Internal Capacity To Monitor And Plan For Potential Changes Arising From Self-Government Agreements, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures prepare an action plan for the development of the Legislative Assembly's internal capacity to monitor and plan for the potential changes arising from implementation of self-government agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

Committee Motion 97-14(6): Regular And Systematic Approach For Reviewing Issues Associated With Implementation Of Self-Government, Carried

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures institute a regular and systematic approach for reviewing issues associated with implementation of self-government agreements, similar to the review of GNWT structures and functions which is undertaken as a transition measure prior to each general election. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, finally we have also suggested some fine tuning for the approach being taken by the GNWT to plan and prepare for implementation. As suggested earlier, we think that a more coordinated and systemic approach is required if the GNWT and community and regional bodies are to be ready for the changes, in some cases fundamental changes, which appear to be coming.

The numerous implications of programs and services and operations both require ongoing reorganization for the GNWT. Innovative approaches may be required and new management strategies will need to be developed, particularly in the environment where as many as eight governments will need to be consulted.

Committee Motion 98-14(6): Action Plan For Preparing Communities, Regions And Individuals For The Implementation Of Self-Government, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that an existing GNWT department, ministry or agency with designated responsibility for taking a coordinated approach to implementation should develop an action plan for preparing communities, regions and individuals for the implementation of self-government, including appropriate mechanisms for effective communications and consultations with these stakeholders;

Further, Mr. Chairman, such an action plan should address the need for interdepartmental and intergovernmental coordination; and

Furthermore, consideration should be given to establishing a dedicated policy unit within this department, ministry or agency to deal with transition issues and over-arching implementation issues that might affect the structures and operations of the GNWT and Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, the committee is aware that each self-government agreement with likely have its own committee or body overseeing implementation. However, the task of territory-wide coordination will need to be addressed. We think this issue should be addressed sooner, rather than later.

Committee Motion 99-14(6): Establishment Of Forums For Ongoing Regular Dialogue With The Federal Government, Aboriginal Governments And NWT Community Governments, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that an existing GNWT department, ministry or agency with designated responsibility for taking a coordinated approach to implementation should seek to establish forums for ongoing regular dialogue with the federal government, aboriginal governments and NWT community governments on territory-wide coordination of practical implementation matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the NWT has embarked on the development of challenging, leading-edge governance systems. To make these systems work we believe special attention will need to be given to developing the human resources to understand and operate all of these governments at the community, regional and territorial levels; leadership skills we believe will be particularly important. It is not too early to start thinking about our emerging new realities. For this reason we think resources should be invested in the process of developing the existing and future generations of northern leaders.

Committee Motion 100-14(6): Coordinate With Aboriginal, Federal And Community Governments To Establish Leadership Institute Or Program To Develop Skills For New Governance Systems, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that an existing GNWT department, ministry or agency with designated responsibility for taking a coordinated approach to implementation coordinate with aboriginal, federal and community government to establish a leadership institute or program dedicated to developing skills suited for the governance systems emerging in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, we refer back to recommendation number three, in which we called for ongoing research and study on the implementation of self-government by an objective institute or think tank. We believe the GNWT is best placed to consider the feasibility of such a body, and to work with federal and aboriginal stakeholders to make such a body a reality.

Committee Motion 101-14(6): GNWT Take The Lead To Establish Arm's-Length Think Tank In Collaboration With Aboriginal, Federal And Community Governments, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that an existing GNWT department, ministry or agency with designated responsibility for taking a coordinated approach to implementation take the lead in the establishment of the arm's-length research body or think tank referred to in recommendation number three, and to the extent possible, collaborate with aboriginal, federal and community governments in this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Does the committee agree that Committee Report 12-14(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 12-14(6) is concluded.

Committee Report 13-14(6): Strengthening GNWT Support To Smaller Communities: Final Report Of The Special Joint Committee On Non-Tax-Based Community Affairs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The next item on the agenda is Committee Report 13-14(6): Strengthening GNWT Support to Smaller Communities: Final Report of the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax-Based Community Affairs. General comments. Mr. McLeod.

General Comments

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax-Based Community Affairs is pleased to complete its work, much of which is documented in our interim report entitled, "Strengthening GNWT Support in Small Communities."

Our final report before Committee of the Whole today reiterates 13 recommendations made in the interim report and adds a 14th. On behalf of the Members of the special joint committee, I urge all Members to support our recommendations as they are presented to committee as motions. It is only through the ongoing support and commitment of Members of this House and concrete and positive action on the part of the government that we can hope to make a difference in the lives of the residents in our smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments with regards to the committee report. If there are no other questions or answers, I would like to proceed. Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 102-14(6): Provide Better Capital Planning Support To Small Communities, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, if there are no general comments, I would like to move that this committee recommendations that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide better support to smaller community governments and assist them to do their own capital planning, project management and engineering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 103-14(6): Improve Capital Planning Consultation Processes, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories improve the community consultation process by establishing a meaningful consultation process that is coordinated across departments, regions and communities, and provides useful information about capital planning and funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 104-14(6): Include Community Government Facilities In Capital Planning, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories modify the criteria for prioritizing projects by using fewer and simpler criteria, and ensuring that the capital government facilities are included in capital planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 105-14(6): Document Capital Planning Roles And Responsibilities In Clear Language, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories document roles and responsibilities for capital planning in clear language so that it is explained for GNWT staff, community government and MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 106-14(6): Increase The Capital Budget, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories increase the capital budget to realistically manage the replacement of the GNWT's aging inventory, respond to growth, and make up for previous years of shortfalls. Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 107-14(6): Consolidate Prevention And Development Funding, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories consolidate prevention and development contribution funding into one fund located in one department, and increase the available funding. Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

Committee Motion 108-14(6): Simplify The Administration Of Prevention And Development Funding, Carried

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories simplify the administration of prevention and development contribution funding, and ensure the communities are supported in the development and implementation of a sustained community-based effort to create lasting changes in the lives of community residents, and improve the wellbeing of the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

Committee Motion 109-14(6): Establish Service Delivery Standards In Smaller Communities, Carried

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish service delivery standards in smaller communities and be accountable for meeting the standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

Committee Motion 110-14(6): Increase And Strengthen Access To Policing Services, Carried

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories increase and strengthen access to policing services by expanding support for the community constable program and the First Nations policing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 111-14(6): Increase Access To Homeownership Programs, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories increase access to home ownership programs by developing block funding approaches with local governments and increasing the flexibility of housing program eligibility requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 112-14(6): Emphasize The Importance Of Prevention Programs For Alcohol And Drug Abuse In Small Communities, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories emphasize the importance of prevention programs to increase the response to alcohol and drug abuse problems in the small communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 113-14(6): Implement Changes To GNWT Structure And Organization To Respond To Small Communities' Needs, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement changes in the GNWT structure, organization and operations to ensure that GNWT regional staff can provide more coordinated assistance to the smallest communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 114-14(6): Publish Plain Language Capital Expenditure Reports, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories publish plain language, user-friendly reports regarding capital expenditure, service standards, and programs and services in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 115-14(6): 15th Assembly To Establish A Standing Committee On Small Communities, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly establish a

Standing Committee on Small Communities to represent the interests of and improve the quality of life in the non-tax-based municipalities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Does the committee agree that Committee Report 13-14(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Committee Report 13-14(6) is now concluded. The next item on the list we agreed to is Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. Mr. Handley, do you have any opening comments?

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

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure today to discuss with the committee Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. This bill is the result of a very open and productive process that was undertaken to introduce much needed amendments to an act that has not been substantially changed since it became law over 25 years ago.

Members will recall that a legislative panel was appointed in 2000 to make recommendations for changes to the Workers' Compensation Act and the Safety Act. Made up of representatives from both the NWT and Nunavut, the panel's report, "Act Now," was received by me and Minister Ng in January 2002. The panel consulted extensively with stakeholder groups and other interested members of the public throughout the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and once again I would like to thank them for their work on this project.

I would also like to thank the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, who spent a great deal of time reviewing this legislation. Our discussions with the AOC were constructive and helpful and I thank them for their contributions.

Mr. Chair, amendments to clearly establish the roles and responsibilities of all players in the system are included in the bill, along with the establishment in legislation of the office of the workers' advisory to help injured workers with their claims. The appointment of the workers' advisory will change from the board to the Minister, as will the workers' advisory's reporting relationship. This will create a direct line of communication and accountability from the Workers' Advisor to the Minister.

These amendments will also facilitate cooperation between a worker's health care provider, the worker and the WCB, through the process of early assessment, diagnosis and development of a treatment and recovery plan. From time to time, Mr. Chairman, there can be differences of medical opinions with respect to the treatment plan for an injured

worker. The amendments mandate a cooperative, consultative approach to help resolve these differences. The amendments would also clarify major sections of the act and make it easier to read and understand. The amended Workers' Compensation Act will be more user friendly.

This bill will address over 70 percent of the recommendations that were made in the "Act Now" report. The amendments will go a long way to improving the Workers' Compensation system in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, but this bill does not mark the end of the process. A second phase of legislative amendments, including a complete rewrite of the Workers' Compensation Act, is needed to address the remaining "Act Now" recommendations. I hope these amendments will be introduced early in the life of the next government.

In closing, I'd like to thank the members of the legislative review panel who provided the foundation for these amendments. I'd also like to thank the board and staff at WCB and Department of Justice for their dedication to the project, and also the Government of Nunavut for their cooperation in ensuring that this bill will be ready to go forward during the life of our respective governments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee responsible for reviewing the bill have any comments? Mr. Dent.

Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Comments

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, we do. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight conducted public reviews of Bill 15, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, on April 23, May 7, and June 2, 2003. The committee would like to thank all the witnesses for their submissions, and the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The committee supports the government's desire to bring about much-needed changes to the Workers' Compensation Act, many of which were recommended in the "Act Now" report. This legislation is, however, only a first step, as it does not deal with all the recommendations found in "Act Now." Members strongly urge the government to continue this process in order to bring forward a second phase of the new Workers' Compensation Act for consideration early in the life of the new Assembly.

Unfortunately, legislation cannot fix some of the committee's most serious concerns. Especially disturbing to Members is the suggestion by the "Act Now" report and some witnesses that the workers' compensation system has become adversarial, and that in at least a few cases workers have not been treated with dignity and respect.

Members also heard from one witness that the types and amounts of benefits provided by the WCB are insufficient to allow some injured workers to continue to live independently in the Northwest Territories. Members appreciate that the Minister and board staff did commit to reviewing this issue and look forward to hearing back on the results of that review.

Mr. Chairman, Members also understand that the WCB will be preparing a policy respecting traditional aboriginal healers, following the Act Now recommendation on this issue, once the Department of Health and Social Services has developed a definition. In the meantime, the WCB will continue its practice

of approving treatment by traditional healers on a case-by-case basis.

While the committee appreciates the internal efforts of the board and staff to reorganize, review policies and shift away from an adversarial corporate culture, Members strongly believe there is still a pressing need for a comprehensive operational and policy review that includes public consultation, and would recommend this be immediately undertaken.

During the clause-by-clause review, Mr. Chairman, the committee passed six motions to amend Bill 15, which were agreed to by the Minister. The first motion was in response to a concern raised by the workers' advisor that will require the WCB's governance council to formally establish a process for consulting with people likely to be affected by a policy before the policy is adopted.

The second motion deleted the clause that would have given the Minister the authority to appoint the chair and deputy chair of the Appeals Tribunal. The act will remain unchanged so that the Minister will continue to appoint the chair and deputy chair on the recommendation of the tribunal. This was seen by Members and the NWT Federation of Labour as necessary to preserve the independence of the tribunal.

The third and fourth motions addressed concerns raised by the workers' advisor. The third motion changed the bill so that compensation will not be denied to a worker who does not comply with a request by the board for information, unless the non-compliance was willful. The fourth provides that the board must be reasonable in requiring a worker to participate in rehabilitation.

The final two motions clarify that a review committee must grant an oral hearing to a worker or employer on request.

The committee also proposed two motions to amend the bill, which the Minister did not agree to. The first, in response to a concern raised by the workers' advisor, would have required the WCB to disclose all information to the workers' advisor related to a claimant, regardless of whether the information related to a particular claim. WCB staff assured the committee that anything used to help decide a claim would be disclosed to the workers' advisor. Following further discussions between the workers' advisory and committee staff, Members are satisfied this issue has been adequately addressed.

The second motion was to address a concern with the limitation period for filing claims based on industrial diseases. In some cases, a person may not be aware that a disease was caused by the workplace for several years. An example might be the cases of secondhand smoke diseases, which have only been recognized as workplace diseases relatively recently. Because the legislation currently states that the limitation period begins to run when the disease is discovered and not when the connection between the disease and the workplace is discovered, which may occur some time later, some worker's claims may be foreclosed. Unfortunately, the committee's amendment would have caused other unintended problems with the act. Members feel strongly that workers should not be prevented from making a claim if they do not discover the cause of their disease until after the present limitation period has expired. Because of the complexity of the legislation and the importance of limitation periods, the committee was of the view that further analysis is required on this issue. The committee recommends that this situation be clearly addressed

in the second phase of Workers' Compensation Act amendments.

Another issue which the committee struggled with was how to address the problem of conflicting medical opinions between a worker's doctor and the WCB's medical advisor. The bill currently provides a new process which requires the medical advisor to contact the worker's doctor, so that they can attempt to reach a consensus. If they are unable to do so, the matter must be referred to a specialist for advice.

Members had a great deal of discussion about how a specialist should be chosen under these circumstances. While Members would have liked a requirement for the worker's doctor and the medical advisor to agree on the specialist, concerns were raised that this could result in delays to patients receiving care and/or compensation.

There were some other specific issues raised by presenters which did not result in amendments to the bill, but which the committee would like to make known to the House. The workers' advisor recommended the bill be amended to make it clear that notice of a claim could be provided verbally and did not have to be in writing. The WCB staff told committee that it is already the case, that verbal notice is accepted. For example, an injured worker would be able to provide notice over the phone to the WCB, if necessary, with the assistance of a community nurse and/or interpreter. The committee was satisfied with the WCB's response to this issue.

The NWT Federation of Labour expressed concern about the provisions allowing for the appointment of a deputy workers' advisor and the expense associated with a new position. The Minister indicated there were no immediate plans to appoint a deputy workers' advisor, and that the amendment was made in case one is needed in the future.

The workers' advisor also proposed that the act include definitions of the terms "disability and impairment." However, the committee was made aware that some people would not support such definitions being in the act, as they could make the claims process even more difficult to work with. The committee recommends the WCB and Minister review this issue in developing the second phase of amendments of the act in consultation with stakeholders.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 15. Individual Members, Mr. Chairman, may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

For the record, Mr. Minister, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, with me is Penny Ballantyne, president of the Workers' Compensation Board; Mike Triggs, corporate secretary and general counsel with the Workers' Compensation Board; and, Mark Aitken, director of the legislative division with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We're dealing with Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. Are there any general comments on the bill? Mr. Bell.

General Comments

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take much time. Mr. Dent, I think, has already hit all the points that we had raised in committee. I just wanted to say that I think this does go some distance in addressing many of the concerns that injured workers have been raising, and I'm glad to see this bill will be passed before this assembly is dissolved. I think it's also important to keep in mind here that this doesn't address everything that was proposed and suggested in Act Now, and that there are two phases. This really is phase one of the legislative update and shortly following this, we hope, will be phase two, which will seek to address a number of the other recommendations in Act Now

There is one point that I wanted to ask the Minister about, and that is this issue of adequacy of benefits. The Minister and the staff of the board have agreed to look at this, I understand, but I'm wondering if there shouldn't be some sort of a provision for continual adjustments, that we take into account the cost of living. It's possible that this already exists, but maybe the Minister could answer that and also indicate when the last time was that these benefits were adjusted and looked at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it's a good point. One of the things that this proposed legislation that we have in front of us here does, is move a lot of the provisions for adequacy of benefits into regulation, so that it's easier to make adjustments, than has been the case in the past, when it's in legislation. A lot of the adequacy issues are tied to the YMIR, and we do make that adjustment annually. So the most recent one would have been several months ago when we adjusted the YMIR.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. I know this is slightly outside the scope, but I understand from our research that we're roughly pretty much middle of the pack on benefits, if you compare them across different areas where benefits are provided to injured workers. Given our high cost of living, it does seem inadequate. You would think that we would need to be at or near the top of the pack. Would the Minister agree with that assessment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, maybe I'll let the president, Penny Ballantyne, just give us the information on how we stack up with the rest of the jurisdictions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Ballantyne.

MRS. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in response, the board has as one of its goals always to be in the top three in the country for YMIR, or the year's maximum insurance remuneration. We have stayed in the top three in the country for some years now. When the board is making the recommendations to the Minister on adjustments to YMIR, it sets being in the top three in the country as its benchmark goal.

With respect to some of the other benefits, for example, the clothing allowance, it's true that the clothing allowance is out of date, and one of the reasons for that is that it has, up to this point, been in legislation, so it's been very difficult to change those amounts. We have to come back here to do it. Moving that type of allowance into regulation, along with YMIR, gives us the ability to make those adjustments on a much more frequent basis. So I'm hopeful that in future we'll be able to keep up with the adequacy provisions of the benefits we offer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Okay, thank you for that. I think that certainly is something that we look forward to, and it makes sense that we be able to deal with something that should change more frequently in regulation so that we're not handcuffed in that we need to do this legislatively. I would just like to thank the Minister and the board for bringing this bill forward. I think it is a step in the right direction. I think there's more we can do, and I look forward to seeing that next phase. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bell. General comments to the bill. Does the committee agree to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 3, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 7, clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 8, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10, clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 12, clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 16, clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 17, clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 116-14(6) To Amend Clause 16 Of Bill 15, Carried

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make the following motion, that clause 16 of Bill 15 be amended by (a) renumbering proposed section 21 as subsection 21(1) and (b) adding the following after proposed subsection 21(1):

(2) Advice obtained from a physician or dentist under subsection 19.2(3) is evidence under paragraph (1)(a) and the

board shall consider it in making a decision relating to a claimant's entitlement to compensation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Clause 16, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 17. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 117-14(6) To Amend Clause 17 Of Bill 15, Carried

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that clause 17 of Bill 15 be amended by adding the following after proposed subsection 24(7).1:

Advice obtained from a physician or dentist under subsection 19.2(3) is evidence under paragraph (7)(a) and the review committee shall consider it in determining a review.

Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Clause 17, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 25.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 20, clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 32.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 22, clause 33.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 34.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 35.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 36.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 24, clause 37.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 38.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 39.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 40.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 41.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 42.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 15 is now ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 15 is now ready for third reading, as amended. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses out. We

have concluded the business in Committee of the Whole. With that I'll rise and report progress. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Committee Report 12-14(6), Committee Report 13-14(6) and Bill 15, and would like to report progress with 30 motions being adopted, and Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Committee Report 12-14(6) and Committee Report 13-14(6) are concluded, and that Bill 15 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the committee's report be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do I have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre seconds the motion. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development at adjournment this evening, and at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, at 10:30 of Caucus, and again at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 10, 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. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2003-2004
 - Bill 21, Family Violence Prevention Act
 - Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act
 - Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Safety Act
 - Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act
 - Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act
 - Bill 26, Youth Justice Act
 - Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 - Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, An Act to Amend The Workers' Compensation Act
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned to Tuesday, June 10th at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

