



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**6<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 29**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2003**

Pages 929 - 964

**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>929</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>930</b>
59-14(6) - REPORT FROM WESTERN PREMIERS.....	930
60-14(6) - NWT DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK .....	930
61-14(6) - RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT .....	931
62-14(6) - COMMUNITY FIRE SERVICE AWARD WINNER 2002.....	931
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>932</b>
MR. DENT ON TEENAGE HOMELESSNESS IN YELLOWKNIFE .....	932
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON THE VALUE OF A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY IN THE NWT .....	933
MR. BRADEN ON GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT .....	933
MR. DELOREY ON CONCERNS WITH THE NWT SPORT AND RECREATION BOARD .....	934
MR. MCLEOD ON PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED ON FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES .....	934
MR. NITAH ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT REVIEW .....	935
MR. KRUTKO ON TAKING ADVANTAGE OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES .....	935
MR. LAFFERTY ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT IN THE DOGRIB REGION.....	936
MR. BELL ON CANADIAN NORTH BALSILLIE CUP OLDTIMER HOCKEY TOURNAMENT.....	936
MS. LEE ON COST OF FAILED NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIALIST PHYSICIANS .....	937
MR. STEEN ON HONOURABLE MENTION FOR TUKTOYAKTUK STUDENTS AT NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR.....	937
MR. ALLEN ON TRIBUTE TO THE 2003 SAMUEL HEARNE SCHOOL GRADUATES.....	927
MR. ANTOINE N HAPPY 26 <sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO WIFE CELINE.....	938
MR. ROLAND ON LEVELS OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN NWT COMMUNITIES.....	938
<b>RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>938</b>
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>939</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>939</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>949</b>
<b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>949</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>949</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>950</b>
12-14(6) - EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 .....	950
13-14(6) - DISSOLUTION OF THE 14 <sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY .....	950
<b>NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>950</b>
BILL 30 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, No. 2 .....	950
<b>FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>950</b>
BILL 28 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT.....	950

<b>SECOND READING OF BILLS.....</b>	<b>951</b>
BILL 21 - FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT .....	951
BILL 22 - WASTE REDUCTION AND RECOVERY ACT .....	951
BILL 23 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE SAFETY ACT .....	952
BILL 24 - MIDWIFERY PROFESSION ACT .....	953
BILL 25 - MUNICIPAL STATUTES REPLACEMENT ACT .....	953
BILL 26 - YOUTH JUSTICE ACT.....	954
BILL 27 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT.....	955
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS.....</b>	<b>955</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.....</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY .....</b>	<b>963</b>

**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2003**

**Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**Speaker's Ruling**

**SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Good afternoon, Members. Before we begin the regular orders of the day, I would like to provide my ruling on the Point of Order raised by the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee, during question period yesterday, June 10, 2003. Ms. Lee rose on a Point of Order under Rule 23(h),(i) and (j) with respect to answers given by the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, to her earlier questions. Stating her Point of Order, Ms. Lee said, and I quote from page 2087 of the unedited Hansard: "Minister Miltenberger in answering my questions stated that I was sending out misleading information or falsehood or words to that effect, that I was unduly scaring the public out there when I was making a statement about what my constituent had said and she was interviewed in the paper."

Ms. Lee went on to reference a response Mr. Miltenberger made to a question from Mr. Bell. I, again, quote from page 2087 of the unedited Hansard: "he said there was a concern raised by the general practitioners about the specialist locum and that he has just dealt with that issue at noon today. So the Minister just admitted that there was a concern expressed."

Specifically, as clearly as the chair was able to ascertain from a review of the unedited Hansard, Ms. Lee contended that Minister Miltenberger had contravened Rule 23(j), which states that a Member shall be called to order if the Member charges another Member with uttering a deliberate falsehood. As I indicated, the chair has carefully and thoroughly reviewed the unedited Hansard and to put this matter into some context, I will refer to a number of quotes.

On page 2073 of the unedited Hansard in responding to Ms. Lee's question about the locum contingency for obstetrics and gynaecology, Mr. Miltenberger stated: "Every locum we hire who is qualified to practice in the Northwest Territories is registered as a medical doctor. There has been misinformation, deliberate or otherwise unfortunately it would appear, that leads people to believe that that is not the case. We've also had the unfortunate occurrence last week during Seniors' Week to have a locum's reputation and capability questioned because of his age."

On page 2074, Mr. Miltenberger went on to state: "I would just hope that people would put out the best facts they have, and not cause alarm and not make statements questioning the locums when we know in this House that we don't hire anybody but qualified doctors. We can't. Our rules are very clear. We should not be causing needless apprehension among patients and people, women and pregnant women."

On page 2074 and 2075, Ms. Lee asked the following supplementary question: "My question to the Minister is that

we know, and I know, that he's been getting e-mail and correspondence that I have, that says that the family doctors in Yellowknife and the parents who are expecting babies have no faith in the locum contingent. I'd like to know what he has done, since this has been revealed, to accommodate their lack of faith in the locum contingent."

Mr. Miltenberger's response is found on page 2075 of the unedited Hansard, and I quote: "...first let me be very clear. I do not know these people Ms. Lee refers to. My comments were directed specifically at the Members here who have been making comments, who have been making these comments in this forum, in this House." Mr. Miltenberger furthered stated, again I quote from page 2075 of the unedited Hansard: "...there are a lot of forces at play here, and to come into this House and call into question the credibility of all the locums is, I think, unfortunate."

Very clearly this is a highly charged issue and it may be safe to say that at the very least, the facts may be in dispute. This is not an unusual occurrence in our line of work. In fact, it happens regularly because the facts of any matter are often in dispute, the parliamentary authorities recognize this and make allowances for it. I refer respectfully to Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Citation 494 on page 151: "It has been formally ruled by Speakers that statements by Members respecting themselves and particularly within their own knowledge must be accepted. It is not unparliamentary temperately to criticize statements made by Members as being contrary to the facts; but no imputation of intentional falsehood is permissible. On rare occasions, this may result in the House having to accept two contradictory accounts of the same incident."

It is evident to the chair, from the comments made by both Ms. Lee and Mr. Miltenberger, that there is a divergence of opinion and that the facts of the matter are in dispute. It is not for the chair to ascertain who is right or which interpretation is correct. Therefore, the chair will confine itself to a determination of whether any of the comments made constitute a breach of any of our rules, specifically Rule 23(j.)

In carefully reviewing unedited Hansard, I note that while Mr. Miltenberger does make a number of references to the dissemination of information contrary to the information in his possession, he does not go so far as to name any particular Member until he states that his comments: "Were directed specifically at the Members here who have been making comments, who have been making these comments in this forum, in this House," as taken from page 2075 of the unedited Hansard. This point causes the chair some concern in that while Mr. Miltenberger did not refer to a particular question, his comments did call into question whether a Member or Members were uttering falsehoods. When this is coupled with the fact that Mr. Miltenberger earlier, on page 2073 of the unedited Hansard stated, and I quote: "There has been misinformation, deliberate or otherwise, unfortunately, it would appear, that leads people to believe that this is not the case."

Taken together, these comments infer that there has been a deliberate attempt to disseminate misleading or inaccurate information by a Member or Members of the House and, therefore, I find that Ms. Lee does have a Point of Order under Rule 23(j.)

---Applause

Order, please. I am not finished. I want to take this opportunity to remind all Members, and to caution you, that while the House is prepared to accept more than one version of events or issues, or more than one set of facts as Members believe them to be, the House is not prepared to accept charges from Members that any misinformation is brought to the Chamber deliberately. I urge all Members to choose your words carefully and wisely, especially in dealing with emotionally-charged issues.

I am also going to take this opportunity to make a rather important point about your duty and responsibility to protect persons who are not Members of this House by refraining from making comments that could cause injury to persons outside the House.

I would like to quote a short passage from page 524 of Marleau and Montpetit's "House of Commons Procedure and Practice."

"The House has ruled that Members have a responsibility to protect the innocent, not only from outright slander, but from any slur directly or indirectly implied and has stressed that Members should avoid as much as possible mentioning by name people from outside the House who are unable to reply and defend themselves against innuendo."

The chair is aware that a member of the public was not named directly. However, it is also very clear that we are a small constituency and the medical community is a smaller one still. Naming a particular individual is not necessary for serious damage to result. I want to strongly advise all Members to refrain from further reference of this nature and encourage you to be extremely vigilant in this regard.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

### Minister's Statement 59-14(6): Report From Western Premiers

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the past two days, I have been away meeting with my colleagues at the Western Premiers' Conference which was held at Kelowna, British Columbia. Before I left, I indicated to you there were three issues of particular importance to our government and the Northwest Territories: diamonds, devolution and federal economic development funding in the North. Today I would like to report on the progress made at the conference.

I am pleased that we secured the support of the western Premiers to work together to launch a national diamond strategy for the expansion of Canada's growing diamond industry.

In an effort to ensure that Canadians receive the full benefit of Canada's diamond resource, Premiers agreed that a national diamond strategy which addresses exploration, mining and value-added is required.

We also agreed to invite the federal government to join all the provinces and territories in the development of a Canadian diamond strategy including the open exchange of issues associated with the promotion of a Canadian secondary diamond industry.

Another important topic of interest to all Premiers was how to improve the provincial and territorial relationship with the federal government. We agreed that improvements could be made without constitutional change. For example, annual First Ministers' meetings with jointly negotiated agendas would be an important first step to improving federal/provincial/territorial relations. I am proud to report to you that my colleagues have lent their unequivocal support to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to negotiate a fair devolution agreement with the federal government, which includes a fair share of resource revenues. All Premiers agreed that the territories, like provinces, should manage and control their resources and benefit from their development. Premiers also agreed upon initiatives on Senate reform and participation in international negotiations.

The three territories continue to be the only jurisdictions in Canada without a federally funded economic development program. Premier Fentie and I lent our support to Premier Okalik, who succeeded in securing western Premiers' support for northern economic development agreements.

A major issue for the western Premiers was BSE, mad cow disease. Premiers recognized that the closure of the American border has had an impact not only on the cattle industry, but also on the outfitting industry as the export of wild meat to the US has been banned. Premiers called upon the federal government to take immediate action to open the border as soon as possible. Our Ministers, federal/provincial/territorial, of Agriculture will meet in Vancouver on Friday, to continue discussions.

Mr. Speaker, healthcare funding also continues to be a priority issue for western Premiers and they called upon the federal government to increase its share of healthcare funding in line with what was identified in the Romanow report.

I was encouraged with the sense of cooperation among western Premiers to deal with difficult issues. I look forward to further advancing the interests of the NWT at the annual Western Premiers' Conference next year in Inuvik and as well at the beginning of July at the Annual Premiers' Conference which will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

### Minister's Statement 60-15(6): NWT Disability Awareness Week

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most of us do not give a second thought to starting a vehicle, running up a set of stairs or picking up a few groceries. These tasks, along with many others, are part of our everyday life, but that is not the case for 13 percent of NWT residents who are living with a disability. People living with a disability may often feel a loss of independence. However, proper programs, supports and services can help meet the challenges of daily life.

Mr. Speaker, June 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> is NWT Disability Awareness Week. This week's theme is Access Benefits Everyone. We know people with disabilities have a right to access the same services and facilities as non-disabled individuals. To ensure this is being done, I ask Members of this Assembly and NWT residents to consider what they can do to enhance the lives of the disabled in their community.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is also taking action to address the needs of persons living with disabilities. The Disability Steering Partnership was created in 2001 to develop a draft NWT disability framework and companion action plan. This partnership is made up of representatives from the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Municipal and Community Affairs, as well as representatives from non-government agencies including the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities, Yellowknife Association for Community Living and the YWCA of Yellowknife.

The partners prioritized key areas to guide the development of effective programs and services for persons with disabilities in the NWT. Those five building blocks are: education; employment; income; disability supports; and, housing.

The draft framework was released in November 2002 and subsequent focus groups were held in Yellowknife and Inuvik in December to review the framework and action plan. The feedback has been positive and the working group has been lauded by non-government agencies and steering committees as a model of a successful partnership.

Mr. Speaker, the framework and action plan will be ready for final approval this fall. These two documents will be our guide to ensure people living with disabilities in the NWT enjoy greater independence in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Minister's Statement 61-14(6): Response To The Special Committee On The Review Of The Official Languages Act**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update Members on the government's plans for addressing the recommendations put forward by the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act in its report, One Land, Many Voices.

First of all, I would like to thank the Members of the committee for their efforts. The committee's report provides many recommendations on ways the Government of the Northwest Territories can help preserve and strengthen languages in the Northwest Territories. Some of these recommendations will be relatively easy to implement during the remaining term of this government. Others are more complex and will require further study.

One of the recommendations we believe we can accomplish now is to amend the Official Languages Act. The committee included a draft bill in its report for this purpose. Many of the proposed changes would clarify terminology and more clearly establish roles and responsibilities relating to the Official Languages Commissioner.

We recognize that the current act is over 10 years old and needs some updating. I would like to advise Members that the Government of the Northwest Territories will introduce a bill to amend the Official Languages Act and that this bill will adopt those recommendations that can be implemented at this time without further study. Minister Ootes will be introducing this bill for first reading later today.

Some other legislative changes may be required to implement some of the committee's recommendations. These include some of the recommendations related to education, which may require changes to the Education Act. The Government of the Northwest Territories believes it is important to address these changes in an orderly fashion and will consider further legislative initiatives as it considers how to implement the committee's recommendations.

Not all of the committee's recommendations will require legislative change. Many of the recommended changes can be accomplished through existing government programs and processes. However, some of the committee's recommendations are relatively complex and may have financial and organizational implications for the government. They may also affect the services and programs of a number of different departments.

Determining how to best address these recommendations will require an interdepartmental approach. It will also be important to address these in a careful and orderly fashion. Taking the time to study these changes will allow us to fully understand their potential impact before we undertake them.

Changes that will require significant reallocation of or new financial resources or changes to programs and services may best be dealt with through the government's business planning process. This will allow the government and Members of the Assembly the opportunity to consider how to best implement and finance changes recommended by the committee in the context of overall government priorities and our financial position.

Mr. Speaker, there is a Minister responsible for each piece of legislation passed by this legislature. Currently, responsibility for the Official Languages Act rests with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Jake Ootes. Minister Ootes will continue to take the lead in responding to the report of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act and its recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to preserve and support the growth and use of all the NWT's official languages. During the remaining months of our term, the Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to strengthen our commitment and work on ways we can do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

**Minister's Statement 62-14(6): Community Fire Service Award Winner 2002**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, 2002 was the first year of the fire service merit awards program.

This program was designed to recognize important contributions of community firefighters and fire departments in protecting individual residents and communities from the devastation caused by fire.

The department recognized the contributions of four individual firefighters on October 10, 2002, with the announcement of the first regional winners of the individual fire service awards, as well as the first territorial service merit award winner.

The department also called for nominations for the 2002 community fire service merit award. The community fire service merit award is presented to one community to recognize the efforts of the fire department and the entire community to improve the local fire protection system. The deadline for this award was extended to December 31, 2002, to ensure all nominations for communities could be included in the selection process.

Five communities have been nominated for this award. They are: Fort Smith; Fort Resolution; Hay River; Fort Simpson; and, Norman Wells.

The process of determining the winner of the community award involves completion of an assessment by the office of the fire marshal in cooperation with regional fire service officials.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce at this time that the 2002 winner of the community fire service merit award is the Town of Norman Wells. The Norman Wells Fire Department was nominated for improvements to its training program, its organizations, command and control, emergency planning and public education activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of this House please join me in congratulating the Norman Wells Fire Department for being awarded this prestigious honour in the first year of the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. I would just like to ask the Members of the House, if you have a conversation you want to carry on, do it in another room. It's difficult to hear the speaker, and the chair is interested in what all Members have to say, except those in private conversations. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Teenage Homelessness In Yellowknife

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in early May of this year, we had in this Chamber the NWT Youth Parliament. I think this is a great program. I congratulate the Legislative Assembly staff for the work they do in putting this on. During the NWT Youth Parliament, the constituency of Frame Lake was represented by a young gentleman from St. Pat's by the name of Matthew Harvey, who is today in the audience. He made a statement on teenage homelessness. Mr. Speaker, I think this statement is extremely appropriate and I would like to read his statement into the record.

Mr. Speaker, incidents of teenage homelessness in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories are becoming more and more frequent. Many teenagers are forced to leave home for various

reasons, two examples being violent and abusive parents or parents who are alcoholics or drug addicts.

These teenagers are having to live out of backpacks either on the street or moving from house to house, trying to find friends willing to give them a safe place to sleep. If no such place is available, then the teens have no alternative other than to sleep on the streets. As a result of existing in this way, numerous teens drop out of school to work so they can afford food, clothing and housing. This is a less than satisfactory outcome as we are losing valuable human resources for the Northwest Territories' future. However, Mr. Speaker, those who drop out to seek jobs can be seen as success stories, as the other side of the coin is that many of the others resort to less favourable choices of income such as prostitution, theft and drug dealing.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have heard the term "throw-away generation," and maybe thought it referred to materialism and possessions, but it also aptly describes how Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories actually view and treat abandoned teenagers. Mr. Speaker, these "throw-away" teens are between the ages of 16 and 18 years. The reason for this is that once a young person turns 16, child protection services no longer classifies them as a child. They are classified as an adult and are, therefore, too old to fall under the Child Protection Act. The catch-22 comes in when the young person who has now been labelled an adult attempts to find shelter in an adult homeless shelter. The shelter has no option but to turn them away. Why? Because under the act that the adult shelters fall under, persons under the age of 18 are classified as children and children may not be housed with adults who are not relatives. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to continue my statement.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. So, Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories, what do we do with these non-adults who are no longer children? The answer is nothing. We pretend they do not exist. We hope someone else will deal with the problem. In fact, our laws allow them to slip through the cracks.

Considering the emotional devastation, humiliation and aimless void that is caused by these appalling circumstances and the feelings of utter worthlessness and abandonment, we should not be surprised when these castaway teens turn to drugs, alcohol and violence themselves. Is it any wonder that these teens feel like nothing and have little respect for the older generation when in reality they are treated worse than garbage? You see, when you throw garbage away, it at least goes to the dump. But when we throw away these young lives, where do they go? The sad truth, Mr. Speaker, is that they have nowhere to go and that is completely unacceptable. Thank you.

---Applause

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



### **Member's Statement On The Value Of A Diversified Economy In The NWT**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak about the value of a diversified economy. Hay River, which is definitely not a one-industry town, is a good example of this principle, although some of those small sectors do need government attention from time to time. We have all heard of small mining or fishing or factory communities in other parts of Canada which completely shut down when the one industry that they depended on collapses. Indeed, we have an example here in the NWT, the former town of Pine Point.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford either to be a one or two-industry territory. Just as smart investors diversify their portfolios to maximize returns and minimize risk, we need to look beyond the diamonds and hydrocarbons to other areas of potential growth. We must heed the advice of the old saying, don't put all your eggs in one basket. Oil, gas and mineral prices are susceptible to changes in global supply and demand. Today we are fortunate to enjoy a relatively high barrel price for oil, and the diamond industry is expected to turn a profit for many years to come, but what if the winds of change begin to blow sooner than expected?

The government hasn't done as much as they should for commercial fishing, agriculture, hunting and trapping, timber harvesting, trophy hunting and ecotourism. These industries, if properly handled, could also bring greater economic rewards to the Territories. Though these are all relatively small industries alone, taken together they will help the NWT's economy to flourish and they will all become more important in the future when, as is bound to happen, some of our non-renewable resources are used up.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to focus on the negative and forecast a downturn in any sector of our economy, but I want this government to make every effort to ensure that our territory's prosperity continues to grow in the future. However, I am concerned that if we become fixated on only large-scale, non-renewable sectors to the exclusion of others, we are placing our economic future at risk.

The GNWT can begin by simplifying a process, removing unnecessary obstacles and assisting with access to regulatory process when necessary for some of the smaller businesses. It will also be important to develop viable management practices for our renewable resources because perhaps the single most important factor for renewability is how the resource is managed.

Mr. Speaker, the economy of the NWT is doing very well right now and every effort must be made to ensure that our current prosperity only continues to grow in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

### **Member's Statement On Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, I was pleased to present, on behalf of my colleagues from Range Lake, Yellowknife South and Frame Lake, our position concerning the 237,000 tons of arsenic trioxide stored underground at the Giant Mine site.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we place the safety of our people and the security of our environment as our number one and number two priorities.

Mr. Speaker, we told the Giant Mine Remediation Project Committee that in our view, it has done a very satisfactory job in respect to the processes that its mandate covered in the technical, scientific areas, and in communication with the community.

From the start, Mr. Speaker, many Yellowknifers believed that because this was a problem that was created mainly in our lifetime by our generation, that we should be the ones fully responsible for solving it. That meant, for at least some of us, digging this stuff up, rendering it harmless somehow, and then putting it away so that no future generation would ever have to deal with it again.

Mr. Speaker, through the committee's work, a number of us have been convinced that that is not possible. As desirable as it might be, it is just not possible. We are convinced, Mr. Speaker, that any handling by workers or exposure to the surface of the arsenic material is risky, unwarranted and unneeded. Our position is that we reject any surface treatment or management option for the arsenic and believe that only the underground method of freezing it in place can be acted on.

We recommend that the door remain open for further evaluation of other alternatives, but we temper this, Mr. Speaker, with the concern that we may end up in a perpetual research project. The recommendations that the panel has developed and that the peer review group has gone through gives us reasonable assurance that freezing in place is the most responsible and viable approach to recommend to the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we know how difficult it can be to get on and remain on the federal radar screen. There are many pressing environmental issues that attract Ottawa's attention and we should be mindful of this. The arsenic is, after all, not an immediate threat to the health and safety of the Yellowknife region. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, colleagues. As I was saying, this is something that, while it is not an immediate threat to our environment, we need to keep this at the priority level with Ottawa. As we look at the ever-changing political environment in Ottawa, we need certainty that this issue will continue to hold its current priority status with DIAND and Canada, even if recommendations involve further study and commitments of time and resources. We rely on Canada's commitment to see this problem through to an effective resolution. It appears that we have or are within reach of an approach that could be acceptable to the community. We need our federal government's commitment to follow through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement On Concerns With The NWT Sport And Recreation Board**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a participant of sports for over 30 years in the North and a former board member of Sport North, I have some grave concerns with the formation of and the proposed implementation of a territorial sports and recreation board. I, too, Mr. Speaker, have read the Sport North annual report from 2002-2003. I know of the hard work that goes into a sports organization of the calibre of Sport North. Do not get me wrong, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not implying that the Sport North board is perfect in every way and that there is no room for improvement.

Mr. Speaker, over the last while I have also received a large volume of correspondence from concerned sports representatives throughout the North. These extremely dedicated people, Mr. Speaker, are very concerned about the implementation of a new sports and recreation board, as I am. In addition, they are concerned about what it would mean for the future of sport and voluntarism in the North.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the impetus for a new sports and recreation board is the perception that small communities are under funded. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that non-tax-based communities can apply for a grant from Municipal and Community Affairs of up to \$35,000 in any given year to provide recreational activities to any number of kids. So if there are 15 to 20 kids participating from a small community, that is well over \$1,000 per kid per year.

On the flip side, Mr. Speaker, in Hay River minor softball can apply for two bingos a year entirely staffed by volunteers. That generates approximately \$4,000. Mr. Speaker, the \$4,000 profit generated from these two bingos is then divided among 100 kids, which works out to approximately \$4 per kid. I can certainly see an inequity there.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe the funding to sports and recreation is an issue that concerns every board, every sports organization and every community in the North. I do agree that there are inequities and we must identify where these are and come up with some concrete solutions to address them. This, Mr. Speaker, I can support. However, Mr. Speaker, if we are simply going through a process of robbing Peter to pay Paul then I suggest, Mr. Speaker, we will always get 100 percent support from Paul for this process. However, this may not solve anything.

Mr. Speaker, I have always maintained that it is voluntarism that drives our communities. I am very concerned to learn that a number of extremely dedicated sports volunteers are just about at the point of giving up as they are really beginning to feel unappreciated.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Delorey, your time for Member's statement is over. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** 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. Delorey, you may conclude.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this could be a direct result of the proposed implementation of a new sports and recreation board. Mr. Speaker, another

argument that I have heard in favour of a new board is the impression that smaller communities are under-represented on territorial sports bodies. I am aware that Sport North is comprised of 27 territorial sports organizations and their membership is representative of all people in all of the various communities. Mr. Speaker, if communities are not represented I would suggest that maybe certain communities are not producing enough volunteers. Mr. Speaker, a new sports and recreation board will not change that fact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement On Property Taxes Levied On First Nations Peoples**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a serious issue in the communities with respect to the property taxes being levied against aboriginal peoples and the negative impact it is causing to those First Nations people who are refusing to pay. Mr. Speaker, many of these First Nations people are refusing to pay because of the fact that land ownership is in question on non-settled claim areas. As we are all aware, the Government of Canada recognizes and acknowledges that First Nations people have rights distinct from the non-aboriginal population of this country. This is confirmed through various historical treaties signed by Canada through the land claims agreements entered into and through Section 35 of the Constitution which provides protection of treaty rights.

Mr. Speaker, although the federal government recognizes First Nations rights, there is continued disagreement on what those rights are. Taxation is one of them. What I am attempting to convey here is that many First Nations people residing in the communities are being forced into making a decision on whether or not to exercise their rights as a First Nations person. These very people are being forced into a very difficult situation while at the same time trying to earn a living in order to provide for life's necessities. They have to decide to exercise the rights of the First Nations people such as not paying property taxes. They are then penalized and stopped from accessing various government programs.

Mr. Speaker, with ongoing negotiations between the federal government and First Nations, which include negotiations with respect to land ownership and taxation matters, this government should consider the position of those First Nations people. We must keep in mind that significant agreements have been signed by the Deh Cho, such as the interim land withdrawal and interim resource management agreement, and such agreements are taken seriously by First Nations and viewed as an important step towards resolving outstanding issues within Canada.

Mr. Speaker, considering the complexity of issues facing First Nations people in our communities, I would recommend that this government consider a moratorium on the imposition of property taxes until such issues between First Nations and Canada are finalized or, as an alternative, set aside in trust, any property taxes paid until issues are dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

### Member's Statement On Official Languages Act Review

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder sometimes where this government gets its direction. We spent \$1.2 million on an Official Languages Act review. The taxpayers of this territory and this country paid for it. One of the things we found out is that the Government of the Northwest Territories has failed and continues to fail in the implementation and meaning of the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories. As far as I am concerned, the amendments to the new act that they are going to be introducing are not worth the paper they are written on. What they are doing is crossing the t's and dotting the i's: capitalizing territorial government, Premier or other wording; identifying the Minister responsible who has apparently been the Minister responsible for years and years. There is no accountability of the Department of Health and Social Services to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. There is no accountability of the Department of Justice to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment when he is responsible for the Official Languages Act.

The people of the Northwest Territories put great faith in the special committee when we went to almost every community, met with every regional aboriginal government, met with the francophone communities. We made some solid recommendations, 65 recommendations with a management plan and a budget for implementation so that we could make it as easy as possible for this government to introduce this. What they have introduced, Mr. Speaker, is not worth the paper it is written on, as far as I am concerned.

We are losing aboriginal languages, we are losing our languages at one percent a year in some regions. As far north as the Inuvialuit, Inuinnaqtun and the Gwich'in languages they are losing faster than that. But there is the political and social will in those communities to reinvest their time, energy and knowledge in listening so the languages can be brought back to be used in the communities, in their homes, in the educational system. This goes nowhere near helping these individuals, these political organizations, these cultural organizations and these language communities to do so.

How can we, with a straight face, go to Ottawa and say, devolve responsibility of this government, when we are failing miserably in implementing one act that we agreed to take on, Mr. Speaker? How could I have faith in this government when they do not even listen to their own constituents? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**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. Nitah, you may conclude your statement.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I chaired this special committee -- this special committee that is no longer there, we dissolved the committee when we finalized and submitted a report in this House -- we told community members that we will fight for their language rights. At the same time I said that they have to fight for their rights, as well, if the government is not willing to introduce legislation or an act that amends and incorporates all the recommendations; all very reasonable recommendations, Mr. Speaker. Nothing about those recommendations was unreasonable.

I know for a fact there has been some political interference from the Languages Commissioner. I have seen the letters.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the people of the Northwest Territories at this point to let their MLAs and to let this government know that you are serious about your language, that you need help from this government in preserving and revitalizing your language. Do not let this government get away. Just do not depend on this side of the House to do that for you because, at the end of the day, the strongest point in that report was that we all have to work together to revitalize the languages. If the Dogrib languages go, that is it. With this territory that is it. That is the only language base of that language group. Same with the Inuinnaqtun. Same with North Slavey. Same with South Slavey. The Gwich'in.

Languages are important to express our world view, and under the administration of the Official Languages Act this government agreed to work with the aboriginal languages communities to preserve their languages, to make it a working language. Through the last 10 years of our review we have demonstrated that every department has failed in that responsibility. Languages have been lost by about 20 percent over the last 10 years under this government's administration of the Official Languages Act.

When you just cross the t's and dot the i's and say that is an amendment to the Official Languages Act, I think that is a pretty poor response by government to a \$1.2 million report that a lot of people put a lot of hard work and faith into. As far as I am concerned, this government failed at the official languages and the language community of the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the people of the Northwest Territories to make this government aware of your disapproval of this reaction of government to the report. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

### Member's Statement On Taking Advantage Of Resource Development Opportunities

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of all the development out there on the pipeline, oil and gas, mining and the diamond industry, one of the biggest challenges that we face in our communities is to ensure that we have the capacity to take advantage of these business opportunities by ensuring that the majority of the wealth that comes from these projects and activities arrives at the doors of the small communities. Mr. Speaker, the Norman Wells oilfield is a good example of what we have seen happen in the past. There is a pipeline which runs from Norman Wells to Zama, Alberta. Mr. Speaker, there are 33,000 barrels of oil flowing through that pipe every day, in excess of \$300 million a year. Yet, Mr. Speaker, few benefits have flowed from that pipeline to the people of the Northwest Territories. It is the federal government that benefits most.

I feel that when we talk of a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley, we cannot use the excuse that we are not ready. We as a government have a responsibility to ensure that we assist in building capacity in our communities through education and skills training programs, and that the communities are involved in the flood of information and land use permits and activities that are happening around them. What we find in the small communities is they do not even have the capacity to take on the meaningful role of hiring enough people in their offices to

look at land use permits. We must respond to the environmental challenges that are out there and build the human resources to ensure that the jobs that will come from this major development are going to be filled with people from the Northwest Territories and not elsewhere.

I know that a lot of people, especially in my riding, would like to work in the diamond mines during the months of the year when there are no activities in the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea area, but because of social and economic agreements with other parties there is a reluctance to hire people from the North. Instead we are importing people from the south to fill those positions, even though people in the North who want to go to work elsewhere...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Krutko, time for your Member's statement is over. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, 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. You may conclude.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest challenges we face in our communities is the cost of transportation from our remote communities to where the activities and developments are taking place so that we can get people from the workplace back to their homes and ensure that we as a government are able to assist there. One thing that I am very annoyed about is that this government seems to be off there talking with people in Ottawa, talking to the provincial leaders. But when it comes down to the people in our communities they are the ones that at the end of the day are going to feel the social and economic impacts that come with this. Where are they in this picture? For some reason, in talking to people in the communities I have heard that they feel they are being left out. These decisions are made at the top and whatever decision is going to be made, the people at the bottom will be the ones impacted.

I think as a government we have a responsibility to ensure that we maximize the benefits of these major developments. We have to do more to ensure that the residents of the Northwest Territories and people in our small communities are a part of it.

With that, I will be asking the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development questions on this matter later. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Alcohol And Drug Treatment In The Dogrib Region**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my first actions in this legislature was to table a petition asking for alcohol and drug treatment services in the Dogrib region. The petition contained over 600 signatures. I have continued to bring up this issue for over three years. Throughout the North addictions are known as the number one social problem. Mr. Bell pointed out in his statement on Friday that here in Yellowknife 90 percent of the RCMP workload on call-outs is alcohol related.

Mr. Speaker, Yellowknife has been called a magnet community because many people from the communities are relocating here in hope of finding work or homes, as there is little to none in some of the communities.

The high cost of living and lack of affordable housing is creating a growing group of people who are either homeless or highly stressed because of the difficulty in finding accommodations. This is not a healthy situation, Mr. Speaker. As well, it is not unusual for people who have left the communities to attend a 28-day treatment program, to wind up on the streets because there are no support programs or structures in place in the communities.

Despite clear signals that addictions are our most chronic and prevalent social problem, the government's response has been at best minimal. There is still little to no funding. But as we see, this does not make the problem or the need to address it go away.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is growing. Hard drugs, such as crack cocaine, are becoming easier to access than pot. I've also heard tragic stories of youth addiction and of marriages being destroyed. I know that there are people who say that addicts have to take responsibility for their own actions. I agree. But I also think that as a government we need to ensure that services are available for people who want to address their addictions and create a healthy life.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this matter.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Canadian North Balsillie Cup Oldtimer Hockey Tournament**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that hockey season has once again come and gone, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of a group of volunteers here in Yellowknife. Each year, the Yellowknife Oldtimer Hockey Association hosts a tournament called the Canadian North Balsillie Cup. The tournament is held here in town and it's starting to be considered one of the North's premier sporting events. This year's, Mr. Speaker, was one of the largest ever. I think there were 21 teams that came to participate, and 11 of the teams came from such far away points as Iqaluit and Inuvik. I understand, Mr. Speaker, our own -- I believe he's a defenseman -- our own flying defenseman Floyd Roland participated in the tournament for one of the Inuvik teams.

---Applause

---Interjection

**MR. BELL:** That's right, good Members. It is almost a month later, Mr. Speaker, and I think he's now just starting to recover from all the ice time.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend a major sponsor of this event -- Canadian North -- and there were another 40 local businesses that contributed toward the tournament either

through money, promotional material, equipment or other prizes. A major reason, as I said, for the success of this tournament is the countless hours of work the volunteers put in and dedicate to this fine event.

So I'd like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank the many sponsors and the volunteers for supporting the tournament and making it the successful event that it has become. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Cost Of Failed Negotiations With Specialist Physicians**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke about the urgent need to bring the government and the specialists' negotiators back to the negotiating table. Today I would like to speak about the cost of not settling this issue, and the important obligation of this government and this legislature to closely examine and understand the overall cost.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the salary figures floating around are so big it's beyond what ordinary folk can comprehend. If anyone goes to the Web site on health information -- www.hisa.com -- we see a range of salary figures for specialists across the country in any given field, and in it we can find something as low as \$10,000 or over \$1 million a year. It only speaks to the complexity of this issue.

While this might make an interesting debate outside, I believe we have to do more of an in-depth cost benefit analysis in this House. Mr. Speaker, in the end, if we as a legislature decide that we no longer can afford specialist services north of 60, I'm prepared to accept the will of the House. But, Mr. Speaker, in order to get there, we need to have a lot more information, and my constituents want more information as well, Mr. Speaker, because so far the math doesn't look very good.

For example, we need to know how much we expect to pay for the locums we'll have up here to fill in for specialists, how much for flying patients from all of the NWT to south of 60 instead of to Yellowknife, all of the money we'll lose for not taking in Nunavut patients, all of the premium fee-for-service costs we'll pay to hospitals in Edmonton, High Level and Grande Prairie, the cost of operating Stanton Hospital that doesn't run at full capacity, any potential job losses at the hospital arising from it, just to name a few, Mr. Speaker, and the list goes on and on. Are we ready to pass supplementary after supplementary to make up for this cost, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I did some more math on the impact of 12 specialists leaving the North. Assuming each of them is a family of four, we will lose the local income spending and the tax dollars from them. Furthermore, we will lose \$17,000 a year federal transfer payments for 48 northern residents, which my elementary math tells me amounts to \$816,000 in just the first year.

May I please end this statement, Mr. Speaker, by suggesting to the Minister of Finance that he starts calculating the financial cost of losing these valued northern residents from our government's coffers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Honourable Mention For Tuktoyaktuk Students At National Science Fair**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, News/North describes them as the Edison twins of Tuk. Travis Anderson and Ryland Anderson, two of our school students, won honourable mention at the National Science Fair held in Calgary. These cousins, both in Grade 7, came out ahead of almost 500 young, amateur scientists with their project. The boys decided on this particular project after coming across a model of Edison's Reproducer in a science book. With some help from their teacher, Sharon Dyck, and materials they managed to scrounge at home, they created a sound system out of matchboxes, a needle and juice cans. Connecting all this and an old record player, they created their own set of crude, homemade speakers.

Mr. Speaker, everyone at Mangilaluk School is very proud of the boys' achievements. Their principal, Steve Moseychuck, says that Travis and Ryland are real role models for the rest of the children, as they have demonstrated how you can obtain great recognition and rewards in return for hard work and determination. Mr. Speaker, no doubt the proudest people of all are the parents of these bright students, David Anderson and Lynn Julian and Francis Anderson and Dolly Felix of Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to these two young scientists, good news no longer has to rely on the moccasin telegraph to travel fast to Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I wish to congratulate Travis and Ryland and thank them and their parents and the staff of the Mangilaluk School for such a great effort to bring recognition to the Mangilaluk School at a national level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Tribute To The 2003 Samuel Hearne School Graduates**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure today that I stand in this House to acknowledge achievements of the graduating class of 2003 from the Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, the graduates from the riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes make me stand proud in this Assembly today. They have fulfilled the initial step in the lifelong learning process, and are much deserving of praise in doing so.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my people in the riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes, I want to congratulate the following students who made such an impression on us over the last year. They are Mandy Day, Angus Dillon, Christiana Elias, Allison Lennie, Chris Lennie, Melody Kimikisana, Corine Lindsay, Jan Otto, Brian Wood, Crystal Debastien, Nellie Elanik, Philip Jacobson, Ashley Lennie, Amanda Jones, Leah Kuptana, Nigit'stil Norbert, Candace Smith, and they also had Stephen McKay as an honorary graduate.

Mr. Speaker, these young adults definitely have a bright future ahead of them, so please join me in wishing them every

success in their post-secondary education pursuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Happy 26<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary To Wife Celine**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our line of work as politicians and MLAs, we carry on our own lives. Today I just wanted to stand up and wish a happy anniversary to my wife. It is 26 years today that we've been together.

---Applause

I had to double check here because I'm too busy doing my work to see exactly if it's 26 years, but it is. I just wanted to say that through these types of arrangements with your spouse, it has its ups and downs and its trials and tribulations. In it all, we have succeeded in coming to this experience so far to date. We have four wonderful children, we have one grandchild, as well, today. So through it all it has been a wonderful 26 years. It is a challenge at times, but we've been able to survive together this far. So I just wanted to wish my wife a happy anniversary today. Mahsi. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Let me join the rest of the Members in congratulating both you and Celine for this memorable occasion. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**Member's Statement On Levels Of Healthcare Services In NWT Communities**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was not going to wade into this discussion that's been going on in this House by Members about the current predicament we find ourselves in with the specialists in the Northwest Territories but, Mr. Speaker, I feel that it must be said that residents across the Northwest Territories have come to expect a certain level of care. It's taken a long time to get to that level and when it drops, there is much concern raised. But I think we must all, in this arena, think about other communities in the Northwest Territories that do not have the same level as we do in the larger centres, and I must even refer to my community of Inuvik where we have a lot more services than in Tuktoyaktuk or Holman or Sachs Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, with all the information that's going to and fro in this House and outside this House, I think we have to ask ourselves seriously what we're trying to accomplish. Are we trying to ensure that the government keeps its fiscal situation in tact, or are we trying to ensure that we give the best dollar to those potential specialists that would come and work in the Northwest Territories at any cost?

Mr. Speaker, we've already heard that negotiations have broken off. We have heard that the government has laid a certain percentage down to try to ensure that we're competitive across the country. We've heard or been presented information from the doctors' side that they would like to ensure that they are among the best remunerated across the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, those discussions are no longer happening. The timing couldn't be better, and in our life, Mr. Speaker, timing is everything. That the break of negotiation happens just when this session gets underway, and resumption could potentially begin three days before we lose the specialists as it has been identified.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves, has everything possible been done? Well, I think if both parties can't agree, as we found out throughout the world in a democratic society, governments have put into a place a process of arbitration. If parties cannot agree, then go to arbitration. So, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest, as has been suggested, that both parties go to binding arbitration as soon as possible and put the people back first where they belong, not behind closed doors. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Return To Question 214-14(6): Bathurst Port And Road Environmental Review**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Lafferty on March 11, 2003, regarding the Bathurst port and road project environmental review process.

The Department of RWED is funding this review and shares your concern regarding the impact on the people of the Northwest Territories, and most specifically to those in the Akaitcho, Tlicho and Yellowknife areas.

On March 12, 2003, at the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislative Assembly, Minister Antoine referred to a letter he had sent on March 6, 2003, to the Honourable Robert Nault, Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The letter asked him once again to review the Bathurst port and road project under the broader part 6 of section 12 of the Nunavut land claim agreement. This letter was a follow up to his initial letter sent to Minister Nault on August 19, 2002. A copy of this initial letter was also sent to the Nunavut Impact Review Board to be placed on the public registry.

Both letters stated similar concerns to those that you have expressed and also noted that our people depend on the wildlife of the area, especially the Bathurst caribou herd, and that many residents of the Northwest Territories, and other parts of Canada, benefit from business opportunities in the area. The notion of marine shipping in the Arctic has been raised as well, and is of particular concern to coastal communities such as Holman.

In mid-April 2003, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development referred the proposal back to the Nunavut Impact Review Board to request a new project proposal so that the department could make its decision based on current information. The Minister of the department cited various reasons for doing so, including transboundary issues such as marine transportation, the Bathurst caribou herd, and the established economics of the Western Arctic. In turn, the board referred the letter back to the proponent suggesting that a new project proposal be submitted by May 12<sup>th</sup>. The proponent was unable to do so.

When a new project description is received by the board, it will be referred again to the Minister of DIAND. In the interim, RWED staff have contacted the Nunavut Impact Review Board and requested to be listed as an interested party and receive regular updates. RWED staff have also shared caribou data with the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee to investigate the number of route crossings that might occur in the vicinity of the proposed road. RWED can also provide similar technical assistance to other organizations that are reviewing impacts of the project.

RWED will continue to monitor this project and take action as required. In the meantime, I welcome comments from Members of the Assembly. As with all environmental assessment processes, our residents and agencies are encouraged to participate directly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize representatives from the Council of Persons with Disabilities who are in the gallery today: Ms. Cecily Hewitt and Michelle Peltier.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the author of my Members' statement today, again the Youth Parliament Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Matthew Harvey.

---Applause

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Mr. Matthew Harvey. He has been around here so much that either he's going to become an MLA or a speech writer pretty soon. Mr. Speaker, he was Member for Frame Lake for Youth Parliament, but he's my constituent. He lives around the corner from me and I would like to welcome him to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to say welcome to everyone who is here that has come to see the Legislative Assembly. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 303-14(6): Decline In Harvest Of Non-Renewable Resources

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with my Member's statement today, I would like to address my questions to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories now there are fewer fish being caught, fewer trees being cut, if any, fewer furs being

harvested, there's less agricultural activity now than there has been in years gone by. I would like to know to what the Minister attributes this decline and diminishing non-renewable resource sector. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

##### Return To Question 303-14(6): Decline In Harvest Of Non-Renewable Resources

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of reasons for the decline. First of all in the forestry area, we ran into a situation with the aboriginal groups whose interim measures agreement stipulates provisions for dealing with forestry. This is an area that we are working with. We also have to work with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on the right to access the use of the land. So we have regulatory processes in place that seem to... Once we find a way to work with these different regulatory processes, then perhaps we will have a good forestry industry. There is a demand for that as well. In terms of fish, the fish stocks are there in the lakes, particularly in Great Slave Lake. I think there were questions in the House about it. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is more or less responsible for the management of the lake. We, as RWED, are there to encourage a good management plan for the lake. However, we don't call the shots on that and we're going to keep on talking to DFO in this area. By the way, the DFO office in the North is very under-funded and under-resourced. They don't have enough resources and bodies to do all the work required.

With regard to fur, the trapping way of life has changed tremendously the last few years. There are still trappers out there. We are doing trapper training through some of our programs for our younger people in the North. However, there is a decline in the fur trapping activity. Maybe it's associated with the resource activity that's going on in the mining area north of Yellowknife, as well as the oil and gas exploration that's been quite active in the Mackenzie Delta as well as the Liard area. There is soon to be more activity down the valley. There is still activity going on, but there's a decline in the amount of fur that's being caught.

As for agriculture, we've always had a little bit of agriculture going on in the South Slave, a bit along the Mackenzie Valley to Inuvik. I think that will continue to be there. We would like to encourage more of that, so we need to put more emphasis into how we are going to do that in the agriculture area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

##### Supplementary To Question 303-14(6): Decline In Harvest Of Non-Renewable Resources

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister concur that there is still a tremendous amount of potential in these various sectors that he's spoke to and that I have questioned him about? Does he think there is a greater potential than is being realized today? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. It may be an opinion, but a professional opinion. The Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 303-14(6): Decline In Harvest Of Non-Renewable Resources**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** My view, and that of the officials of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, is that this is an area where we need to see how we could work, especially in the forestry area. We need to find a way to try to work through these areas. There is tremendous potential there. There is interest from different companies to cut timber in the North.

Fishing is also a big industry. There are a lot of people involved in it and have been involved in the past and would like to be further involved. Fur trapping, there is always going to be that activity there. Agriculture also has a huge potential that hasn't been realized yet as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 303-14(6): Decline In Harvest Of Non-Renewable Resources**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we are not realizing the potential that is in these various renewable resource sector businesses, I would like to ask the Minister if he and his department, even on a prorated basis... You know, down scale it versus what they spend on promoting diamonds and oil and gas, even on a lesser scale. Does he and his department pay enough attention to this potential which is not being maximized at this time?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 303-14(6): Decline In Harvest Of Non-Renewable Resources**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is a huge department with many different files in there and activities covering all sectors of business in the Northwest Territories. The focus may seem to be on the bigger projects such as the diamond mining and now with oil and gas and the pipeline, however tourism is also a big industry item that we have been focussing on. The fishing, the forestry, the trapping and the agriculture, we have also focussed on this area but perhaps not as much as we should be able to. There is a continuing focus in this area on how we could do more in that area. Thank you.

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

**Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about dust control and how this government has failed to serve people in the Northwest Territories on major health concerns as well as they did with the Official Languages Act, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister, what is the measurement, the bar, that determines if our health is compromised by the number of particles in the air, from the Health and Social Services standard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from a health perspective, we are very aware that respiratory problems are an issue in the Northwest Territories. Bronchitis, asthma, emphysema, lung cancer. One of the major contributing factors, of course, is smoking. The issue of particulate matter and dust control is not an issue that I am fully aware of. I have listened to the debate with Transportation and MACA, but the Department of Health doesn't measure that type of figure in the communities. It's something we rely on other departments to do and if there are problems, we will assist in remedying them. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for those people who don't smoke and live a clean, healthy lifestyle in our communities, the Minister just blamed the smokers so the dust problems will not be addressed. I would like to ask the Minister will his department undertake an assignment that will determine once and for all what is the level of dust that's acceptable for human beings to be in on a daily basis or by hour. I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, but just so that we have an understanding in the Northwest Territories government, what is the safety standard when it comes to dust control in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately even many of us who are non-smokers suffer the ravages of second-hand smoke. I will commit to the Member that I will take the time and check with the authorities and health centres to see if they can give us an indication of any kinds of allergies or calls to the nursing stations and health centres that may be related to dust problems as an indication. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In Yellowknife, there were some dust monitoring stations placed in various points in the community. They determined that in the spring when the snow melts and the streets have not been cleaned, there are higher levels of dust in the community and that's a health issue. It was identified by the government as a health issue. In our communities, Mr. Speaker, once the snow is gone, the dust level goes up and doesn't come down until the fall. Why is it a health issue in Yellowknife and not in the communities? How can the Minister say that second-hand smoking is the cause here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Further Return To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are talking health issues, health concerns. Very clearly the evidence is there in terms of respiratory problems. Asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer and those related illnesses, there is a direct correlation to cigarette smoke. The Member has raised the issue that in his mind dust is a factor that affects the health of people. He has approached the Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs, Public Works and Services, Transportation, and the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development just recently made a statement about clean air in this House. I know there are some monitors here that were put up 20 years ago. There was some discussion about possibly relocating those to other communities, possibly Lutselk'e, to see in fact if there is any substance to the concern, the point being that they have been there for 20 years and they are just now starting to look at and analyze that data. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, why is it every time we bring up an issue from the communities there is always the lifestyle factor that this government uses to push aside the urgency of the concern of the residents of the communities? That is a matter that I think we have to deal with.

However, I will repeat my question, Mr. Speaker, in a slightly different way. Why is it that dust is a health issue in Yellowknife during the short period of time that it is monitored in the spring and it is not a health issue in the communities in the eyes of government? Why, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 304-14(6): Acceptable Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First let me be very clear that the issue of personal choice and smoking and drinking, exercise, what you eat, are issues for all Northerners. Wherever you live they respect no age, no colour, no boundary by community and they are something we all must be clearly aware of. The health of the Northwest Territories residents is of concern across the land, not just small communities versus large communities or vice versa. The Member has indicated that in his opinion dust is a significant health issue in his community and we have indicated that we are going to make efforts to see what options there are to remediate the dust and I have just committed to checking to see if there are, in fact, any significant health indicators by visits to the community health and nursing stations that would give any kind of verifiable substance to the Member's concern. Thank you.

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

**Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**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 topic of the clean up of the surface and the underground situation at Giant Mine. Mr. Speaker, during the panel presentations that I spoke of in my Member's statement, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development also asked the panel to undertake additional work on another option for the underground arsenic, that of deep disposal. I am wondering if the Minister could advise, has the remediation committee agreed or committed to undertake that extra work and if so what can we expect in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this concerns the arsenic trioxide that came out of Giant Mine when they were processing their gold here in Yellowknife. This very poisonous product is stored underground under Yellowknife in the old Giant Mine. As we all know, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has been doing a study and they are signalling that sometime this fall they will be coming out with recommendations on the management of this arsenic trioxide stored underground in Giant Mine in Yellowknife. At this time we do not know what those recommendations will be. However, there is a lot of discussion and the options are being narrowed down. We do not know at this time what those recommendations are going to be. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What assurances do we have that DIAND will keep this project at the top of its priority list, Mr. Speaker, regardless of the kind of recommendations or terms that the committee is suggesting? Can the Minister advise just how the federal government is going to maintain the significance and the importance of cleaning this place up? 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 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last few years when the whole issue came to light, we as a government have been using all the different forums whenever this subject was raised to keep emphasizing that this is a federal responsibility and we would like it to continue to be a federal responsibility. Along with our Member of Parliament, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, we have been emphasizing our position to the federal government that this is their responsibility and that they will have to do something about it. As I mentioned, the recommendations in this study are coming out sometime in the fall on how they are going to deal with this trioxide. There are

different options. Like the Member mentioned, our government has taken the position that we prefer the management approach, to leave the arsenic trioxide underground. I think that, first of all, we are trying to isolate the arsenic from the people and the environment and so forth. That is the approach and there are different options of leaving it underground that are being kicked about. But how are we going to do it? We will continue to use the different forums that are there. Our Member of Parliament is onside. The Minister of DIAND is fully aware of it and we will keep it in the limelight. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, a few short weeks ago there was a news item to the effect that the surface cleanup initiatives at Giant Mine, which our government has been deemed to have some responsibility in, have stopped. They have been stalled because of some kind of a dispute with DIAND over jurisdiction and responsibility for surface cleanup of mines in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister give us a status report on this apparent dispute? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. I just want to remind both the questioner and the Minister of the full slate of people wanting to ask questions. If the answers such as you are asking there are lengthy, it does cut into the question period, so perhaps some of these things would best be written questions and responses of such nature. However, I will let the Minister use his discretion. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will try to keep my answers short. Mr. Speaker, the government has been in discussions with DIAND. We feel that Giant Mine is a federal responsibility and we have been engaged with DIAND to try to resolve responsibilities for surface and environmental cleanup at Giant Mine. This is where we are still. The progress on resolving the issue of responsibilities remains minimal. So we are still working with them. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, if progress is minimal that is disappointing, at least until the Minister advises what steps are being taken to get a resolution to this issue. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 305-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, we both agree that we would like to try to achieve an agreement on environmental liability responsibilities through negotiations, rather than mediation or arbitration. We have come to that agreement. Thank you.

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

**Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is in regard to my Member's statement on the activities and developments that are taking place in the North and ensuring that as a government we do everything we can to ensure that the maximum benefits flowing from these developments go to the people in the Northwest Territories and the residents of the small communities. I would just like to ask the Minister, what are we doing as a government to ensure that industry maximizes employment opportunities in northern communities during these development activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, through the different forums that we participate in as a government, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Premier and the Minister of Finance encourage industry who are doing the oil and gas exploration and developing a pipeline, to work with the different First Nations, the different regional organizations that are out there and the different companies in the North. We need to have a cooperative approach. Through the different organizations we are working towards that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has been getting into agreements with the mining industry and also has talks with the oil and gas industry and we have social and economic agreements in place. But I would just like to get some assurances from the Minister that those agreements are open to all residents of the Northwest Territories, regardless of whether they are from the Mackenzie Delta or the Beaufort Sea or the South Slave or the Deh Cho. The opportunities that are open and available should be filled by northern residents first, rather than having people come from the south to fill those positions. What is the government doing to ensure that the residents of the Northwest Territories have the advantage to take on opportunities in those industries?

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

**Further Return To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the Mackenzie Valley pipeline in particular is going to be a huge project, along with the existing oil and gas exploration that is already happening. It

is a big challenge for all of us to respond to the growth and the impact scenarios that are presented by the oil and gas industry in the Northwest Territories. We would like to benefit as much as we can from these developments and there are a number of different initiatives that we are taking, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that there is continuing work being done to identify areas where people can be trained or hired. Business opportunities are going to be there for the businesses of the North. There are going to be possibilities that equity is going to be there. We are working on all those different scenarios. It is a multi-faceted type of approach that we are taking. The producers that we are working with and the explorer groups are very cooperative, and I think we are developing some very good working relationships with them to make sure we maximize the benefits of the project, particularly the pipeline, if it is going to be built. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest challenges we are going to face with a pipeline is to have people with the skills and the qualifications to operate the equipment and take advantage of those jobs. Right now, we have one sector of our economy which is going full bore, the diamond industry. I would like to ask the Minister, what are we doing to ensure all people have an opportunity to get these skills in these diamond mines, so that when a pipeline is built, we will have skilled labour and we cannot use the excuse that we are not ready, we do not have qualified people? What are we doing as a government to ensure that nobody uses that excuse on us again?

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

**Further Return To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is a challenge. We have two diamond mines operating and a third one is going to get fired up in a number of years. Already there is a very high demand for skilled labourers at both the mines and there is going to be additional demand on people once the pipeline is built. In the future if the pipeline is built there is going to be a really high demand for skilled labour to work in construction of the pipeline. Through the department's cooperation, we are monitoring what will be required in terms of training and education, and there is a working group in place to look at that. We are aware of the areas. The mining companies are training their own people. I don't know if it is going to switch over to the pipeline, but the pipeline companies themselves are only now beginning to look at how we can work together to get the different skilled people in place once this pipeline is going to be constructed. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is he doing to relay this message to communities that are not part of, say, the North

Slave region, but may have people looking for employment, especially in the outlying regions such as the Mackenzie Delta or the Beaufort Sea or the Deh Cho, who may need to have people trained in these particular areas? What are we doing to attract those people from those other regions to where the activity is in the diamond industry?

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

**Further Return To Question 306-14(6): Resource Development Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the diamond mining companies have their own hiring policies and procedures in the different training programs they have. They have socio-economic agreements, impact benefit agreements with the surrounding First Nations. However, they also have been approached and have people working at the mines from other than the immediate surrounding areas, like Hay River and Fort Smith. I think that, if they were approached, they would also look at other places in the North. As the Minister, in our department we asked these questions and I think they might be open for it, but they were approached by Fort Smith and Hay River to see if they could have people from these communities work at the mines and they made arrangements for that to happen. So I do not see why other communities in other regions could not take the lead as well and open communications with the mining companies to see if, for example, the Mackenzie Delta people that you represent, honourable Member, if they want to work there perhaps they might be open to that. Thank you.

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

**Question 307-14(6): Emergency Shelter Capacity In Yellowknife**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of publicity lately over people in downtown Yellowknife who are drunk in public. The press has been comparing the resources of Yellowknife to those found in Anchorage, and one of the big successes in Anchorage has been a community intervention that provides shelter and counselling to those on the margin. I note, Mr. Speaker, that this service is not dissimilar to what is provided by the Salvation Army here. In Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, the police have been forced to deal with the issue more and more because the shelters are always full, so people have nowhere to go. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister advise us, how many beds for men and women does the Government of the Northwest Territories pay for, for emergency shelter in Yellowknife each night?

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

**Return To Question 307-14(6): Emergency Shelter Capacity In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** The number of beds that our department supports in Yellowknife itself is 48 beds per evening, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 307-14(6): Emergency Shelter Capacity In Yellowknife**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take it that includes both men and women. I know that each night, there are more than 40 individuals at the Salvation Army. I know that on some nights there are more than 30 at the family centre, which used to be the women's centre. So as I understand it then, we are only covering about half of the bed nights that are actually needed in the city. Is that correct?

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

**Further Return To Question 307-14(6): Emergency Shelter Capacity In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the Member's information as correct and if it is, that is correct what the Member is stating. I will give the amount of beds available: the Salvation Army has 20 beds which is for single men; and for families at the YWCA, we have 12 beds; and for the women's shelter, it's single women, that's 16 beds, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 307-14(6): Emergency Shelter Capacity In Yellowknife**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister clarifying that. As I said, I know the Salvation Army has over 40 clients each night and I know the family centre has typically around 30. So for singles we are covering only about half of the field. I know we are short on the family side too, but it's gotten to a crisis situation for singles. Would the Minister be prepared to meet with representatives from those two agencies to discuss how we might move to resolve this situation?

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

**Further Return To Question 307-14(6): Emergency Shelter Capacity In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be most pleased to do so. I think it's certainly very worthwhile for me to do so. Additionally, I think we should also include the other Ministers who are involved in the homeless coalition thrust. We have an interdepartmental committee, Mr. Speaker, of ourselves, the Housing Corporation, Health and Social Services and the Yellowknife Homeless Coalition. I think it would be worthwhile for us all to get together on that to proceed, Mr. Speaker, and work on a plan for Yellowknife, as well as the Northwest Territories.

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

**Question 308-14(6): New Sport And Recreation Board**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. As I outlined in my Member's statement, I have a number of concerns with the proposed formation of the new territorial sport and recreation board. As I stated, it's my understanding that non-tax-based communities can apply to

MACA for a grant of up to \$35,000 per community per year to provide for recreational activities for any number of kids. If you take Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife out of the mix as tax-based communities that receive funding for recreation from tax dollars, that leaves 26 other communities with the ability to access the \$35,000 in funding from MACA every year. If you do the math, Mr. Speaker, that is a potential 26 times \$35,000 for a grand total of \$910,000 available to non-tax-based communities for recreation funding. Will the Minister please indicate to this House if this is indeed correct and, if so, how are these monies accounted for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the interest of accuracy, I am going to take the question as notice so I can supply accurate information to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is with regard to the negotiations with the specialists. Mr. Speaker, in and out of this House, I have been raising some of the concerns that my constituents are raising, which has to do with the fact that some of the services that the specialists are offering, if they are not there anymore, it would impact the work of many other doctors as well. In pursuing this question, the Minister has indicated that I am not working with good facts, but I also have information right there that the Minister received a letter on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 18 family doctors expressing this view. Could the Minister tell this House whether or not he received this letter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my next question has to do with the concerns I raised about the possibility that, at least for the month of July, there won't be any babies being delivered in Yellowknife because of the shortage in OBS in the hospital, as well as the specialist backup. He indicated that I was not being clear about my facts yesterday. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he received a letter which was apparently cc'd to MLAs, but that we haven't gotten, a letter dated June 5<sup>th</sup> from the OBS department of the hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first let me confirm that we have coverage for the delivery of babies, as I indicated in this House yesterday. We have OBS coverage. We have general surgery coverage. We have pediatrician coverage and anesthesiology coverage. The GPs have confirmed that, with the specialist backup coverage provided, they will continue to deliver babies in Yellowknife. If I had a copy of the letter... The Member is referencing letters left, right and centre. I get about 50,000 pieces of correspondence a year across my desk. If I had an opportunity to look at the letter -- and she asked me whether I recognized the letter -- I would be in a better position than to just respond to the dates and a hurried description of the letter. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister is receiving 50,000 letters a year, he's receiving about 1,000 less than me.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, given the knowledge that he has of the issue, why did he insist yesterday that I was not credible in the questions that I was asking?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am going to rule that out of order. I think that's a bit confrontational. In my ruling this morning, I asked Members to be a little bit more diligent in the way they ask questions. I will allow you to ask another question, Ms. Lee, instead of that one. Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated on many occasions, he indicated he was up to date on the specialist negotiation issue, that he was getting briefings hour by hour. So why is it that he was not aware of the fact that the OBS department will not be able to deliver babies unless they have a full contingent of specialists? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger, a good question.

**Further Return To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of what is transpiring on this issue and I will state again that we do have OBS coverage now until the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and backup locum specialists if required, as well as pediatricians, anesthesiologists and surgery. So, Mr. Speaker, babies are being delivered, will be delivered in July and after.

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

**Supplementary To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister provide this House with how much he is paying for all of the locums who are going to be in place to facilitate this service, as well as the wages that he will be paying to the family doctors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 309-14(6): Letter From Family Doctors Regarding Specialist Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GPs we have here are on a contractual arrangement and are going to continue to provide the service on the hypothetical assumption that after July 1<sup>st</sup>, all the 12 specialists are gone and there are no obstetrics services through them, then that money that's there for their salary will go to pay the locum specialists that we bring in. Thank you.

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

**Question 310-14(6): Periodontal Insurance Coverage For GNWT Employees**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the chairman of the Financial Management Board, Minister Handley, and it relates to questions I've been pursuing in the House about the medical travel for periodontal treatment for GNWT employees. The Minister knows I have several constituents who have had concerns because the coverage we used to provide was taken away in the mid-90s. The Minister, many months ago, indicated that he was going to look into this and task his department with providing or doing a review and they would provide a report to him which he was awaiting. Theoretically, it was received last January. I haven't seen the report or the review. I've asked for it. I'm wondering if the Minister is able to provide me with that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Minister responsible for FMB, Minister Handley.

**Return To Question 310-14(6): Periodontal Insurance Coverage For GNWT Employees**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I don't recall having seen the report either, so I will have to check with my department to see if one has been completed and if it was a formal report. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 310-14(6): Periodontal Insurance Coverage For GNWT Employees**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe if I go to Hansard from February 18<sup>th</sup> of this year, the Minister indicated they look forward to receiving the report and assumed it would provide us with more detail on why this coverage was taken away in the mid-90s, but that we would have to wait for the report. So if we take it as a given that this report does exist and the Minister is able to find it, can I get a copy of this report? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for FMB, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 310-14(6): Periodontal Insurance Coverage For GNWT Employees**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if there was a written report, I might be happy to share it with the Member; if it wasn't a written report, then I'll give him a summary of the verbal

report on that. I don't recall a formal written report being completed. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 310-14(6): Periodontal Insurance Coverage For GNWT Employees**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are talking about a formal written report. The Minister's response indicates, "Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the report has been completed. I have not received a copy of it yet." I think when we're talking about a copy of something, it's most likely a formal written report. So I'm hoping that the Minister will look into this. This has been ongoing for more than a year now -- correspondence between my office and the Minister's, questions in this House -- I would like to bring some closure to this and I'd like to be able to address this more completely with my constituents, so I would appreciate getting a copy of that report. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for FMB, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 310-14(6): Periodontal Insurance Coverage For GNWT Employees**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear a question but, yes, if a report exists I'll be happy to share it with the Member. Thank you.

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

**Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions regarding health services for seniors. The first question concerns dental care. It has been roughly 10 years since the dollar amount was placed on how much dental care would be covered by this government. I believe it's \$1000 a year. Many of the seniors are telling me that \$1000 is no longer enough for coverage. They can only get up to \$1000 worth of work done, and then have to go back the following year to make up the balance. I'd like to ask the Minister if the cap on the dollar figure for dental for seniors will be evaluated and considered by the Minister.

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

**Return To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through the supplementary health program review that's underway, we're going to be looking at all aspects and facets of this very fragmented program that has a host of other programs. So that will be one of the issues that will be looked at. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that there is a review underway, however, I'd like to ask the Minister a question that's been posed to me regarding coverage for travel expenses including mileage and the use of personal vehicles. There seems to be a real discrepancy between what we get as MLAs and what the seniors get for travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is asking whether I will check into the discrepancy and see if there's any remediation possible, I will commit to do that.

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

**Supplementary To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to remind the Minister that when the Minister took his position as the Minister of Health and Social Services, roughly a year and a half ago, he committed in this House to do a review for the seniors, and one would think it would be done by now. I'd like to ask the Minister, why is it taking so long to get this review done? Our term is just about up and I haven't seen anything yet.

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

**Further Return To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, there was a review that took about two years to do, and it was very comprehensive. Out of that, there was a seniors' action plan done in consultation with and approved by the NWT Seniors' Association. We just recently published an update and, as part of Seniors' Week last week, we released the update. The seniors' profile is part of that. We've committed in there to try to look at the seniors' programs and we struck an interdepartmental working committee that includes a member from the Seniors' Society. There are, I believe, 28 recommendations. Half of them are complete. So we are working at that. A supplementary health benefits review, which the seniors are part of, is also tied into that but it's a very comprehensive and complex review that's going to take more time. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, Mr. Speaker, we'll have to wait for this review. I don't know what's so complicated when generally it's an accepted fact that there is not enough money for the seniors to get their health expenses covered. I'm hoping I could ask that the Minister

would also include, as part of this review, options or ways to shorten and change the waits that the seniors have to see specialists and other doctors. Right now seniors have to wait up to eight months, if there is a specialist coming into the communities. Eight months is a long time for somebody who is 70 or 80 years old. I would like to ask the Minister if he would look at that. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 311-14(6): Health Services For Seniors**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of waiting lists is a concern for all people that use the healthcare system. As the Members well know, we've been adding physicians, doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners. We made a move from fee-for-service to salary, which has had an impact on patients seen or not seen. So we have some review to do there as well. But the issue of waiting lists and shortening those is an issue that's going to require some possible structural changes, and it's probably going to be beyond the life of this Assembly. But it is an issue that we're trying to address on an ongoing basis so that we can get services in a timely fashion. Thank you.

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

**Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger. I have been following, with great interest, the local newspaper coverage on addictions. I applaud the proactive approach taken by the RCMP and local community members to address this issue within Yellowknife. The action they are taking is far more productive than the horror stories I have heard on CBC radio about Saskatoon police driving drunk people out of town and leaving them to die.

Mr. Speaker, all this attention and action being taken by the community of Yellowknife to address the issues of addictions highlights the absence of a major player in this area: the territorial government. I would like to ask the Minister, since being elected as Minister of Health and Social Services, what concrete steps has the Minister taken to address addictions in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we concluded an addictions strategy. We have built that into the business planning process and the budget that was just completed. There were, I believe, 25 major recommendations that came out of that document. We got funding for the first five recommendations. The priority issues were in fact to deal with the incumbents in the alcohol and drug programs, to look at their pay, which has been historically very, very low with no benefits. We've taken steps to obtain the funding, we're doing the job descriptions, we're going to redefine them as community wellness prevention workers, we're going to give them the benefits, and the majority of them

will become board employees. We're going to hire, in addition, some additional mental health counsellors in various communities, and we're hiring some supervisors. We're going to develop a curriculum so there's ongoing training for people that do alcohol and drug mental health work. That was in last year's business plan.

In this year's business plan that is going to be reviewed by committees we'll be looking at trying to implement the remaining recommendations and obtaining funding, if not to do all of them, at least try to get some funding to do the remaining 20 recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister gave me a lot of information here, but he still hasn't told me what concrete steps he has taken to address those addictions. These are just plans and strategies and, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we've seen all this before. We've seen the different departments giving us plans and strategies and not following up through anything. While this is all going on, what are we doing for the people in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have about \$5 million a year that has been targeted for alcohol and drug programs. The information that I have provided this House is very specific, Mr. Speaker. I've travelled across the North, both as MLA and when I used to work for Health and Social Services, and the chronic issue always was the low pay of the existing alcohol and drug workers and the fact that they were often isolated, not tied into the general services provided by Health and Social Services and other agencies in their community, and there were no benefits. It was very difficult to retain the frontline people who are the first point of contact with people who have addictions problems. The lack of a qualified, certified training program that is in place and regular. So, Mr. Speaker, we're taking very concrete steps to address that fundamental first step. There are more needs than there are resources. We've targeted the first five priority ones, and we've targeted some further ones in the upcoming business planning process. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad for his answer, and the \$5 million that he's talking about. How much of the \$5 million is being spent on strategies, studies and how much of the \$5 million is being spent on treating addictions in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're in the implementation phase of the work. The alcohol and drug strategy that was done was one that has taken some time to put in place. Now we can work on implementation. The money that is there is being put to work in the programs and the work to upgrade the positions, do the training and all the other things I've just mentioned in this House. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has given me some more information, but still has not answered my question. I would like to ask the Minister again how much of the \$5 million is being used for addictions treatment right now? The addictions treatment. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 312-14(6): Addressing Addictions In The NWT**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in one way or another it's all being used for treatment. Thank you.

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

**Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question again is in regard to the possibility and the indication from the GPs that they are not going to be able to deliver babies in July at this hospital. The Minister is indicating that he has a full contingent of specialists in line so that shouldn't be a problem. I have a contrary opinion, Mr. Speaker, and that is that the OBS department at Stanton has not confirmed that they are comfortable with this contingent. Could the Minister verify that, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Return To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, if the Member is asking me to verify her contrary opinion, all I can verify is that it isn't that contrary. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, sometimes he speaks like a doctor, and now he's talking like a lawyer. Mr. Speaker, my question is very serious. I am raising questions that are being raised by my constituent who is having to induce a baby today because

her family doctors are not comfortable in delivering babies here in July. The Minister is assuring the public that all the services are in place. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has confirmation from those family doctors that they have changed their minds in light of what the Minister has put before them. It's a very serious question, it's a clear question. Can you verify that?

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

**Further Return To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a serious question, and I've been answering for the last number of days and I will answer it again. We have obstetrics coverage, we have pediatrics, we have anesthesiology, we have general surgery. My information is that yes, the GPs have confirmed that they will continue to deliver babies with that locum specialty coverage in place, should it be required. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suggest that he verifies that fact again because I don't believe that's true. However, Mr. Speaker, I accept the Minister's position that he's going to fill these shifts and he'll pay what is required to do it. The important question that people have to ask is, is it going to cost us more to have locums than to keep the specialists? That is an important question. So I ask the Minister how much is the department paying for those who have been hired already -- because I'm assuming there's a contract there -- for the fee and the travel and the accommodation and associated costs for OBS gynecology specialists and the pediatric specialists that he has hired? How much is it, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the coverage, I've stated in this House many times what the situation is. As Minister, the Member has questioned my veracity time after time suggesting that I should verify it because she has different information. Well, I stand by my words. I've indicated as well earlier in this House that should there be a requirement for locums, should there be, however remote, the possibility that all 12 specialists resign and we have to replace them with locums, then the money that's currently there for the salaries for the specialists will roll over and cover the costs for the locums. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is not what I was asking at all. Mr. Speaker, if he would just listen to my question. I am accepting the Minister's word that he has a



contingent of locums available to provide expectant mothers and babies services. I want to know how much he's paying for it. So how much is he paying for the locums to fill in in case there is a vacancy? There is no question of fact there. I'm accepting his promise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 313-14(6): Obstetrics Services At Stanton Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will restate the way this is going to be funded. If there is a requirement for the locums, it would be on the assumption that the current specialists have withdrawn their services and are no longer on the payroll, meaning that the hundreds of thousands of dollars per year per specialist will be available to cover the locums. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Time for question period is over. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go to item 6. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. You did not get consent. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 7-14(6): Support For The Somba K'e Facility**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have today is for the Honourable Roger Allen, Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Minister, please provide a detailed 12-month accounting of all public funds provided to support the operations of the Somba K'e facility located on the Dettah Road. This accounting should include money paid to the organization, that's the Somba K'e board, or on behalf of the organization, including mortgage payments or any type of expense, as well as any in-kind contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

**Bill 16: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003**

**Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Labour Standards Act**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has

reviewed Bill 16, Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003, and Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, and wishes to report that Bill 16 and Bill 17 are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 57-14(6): Letter To The Minister Of Health And Social Services From Obstetricians, Dated June 5, 2003**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have five documents that I wish to table. The first one is a letter dated June 5, 2003, to Minister Miltenberger, cc'd to territorial MLAs. It doesn't have a title, but it's from the four doctors who deliver babies in Yellowknife expressing their concern about their capacity to do their job.

**Tabled Document 58-14(6): Letter To The Minister Of Health And Social Services From 18 Family Doctors, Dated May 14, 2003**

The second document, Mr. Speaker, is a letter dated Wednesday, May 14, 2003, to Minister Miltenberger signed by 18 family doctors in Yellowknife expressing their concerns about the impact of the resignation of specialists.

**Tabled Document 59-14(6): E-mail To Ms. Sandy Lee And All MLAs From Susan Portz**

The third document, Mr. Speaker, is an e-mail that my constituent sent to Minister Miltenberger that he said he did not receive in his answers yesterday. There is a question about the cost of medevacs.

**Tabled Document 60-14(6): E-mail To The Minister Of Health And Social Services From Melanie Dunsmore**

The fourth document, Mr. Speaker, is from my constituent, Melanie Dunsmore, and it's titled The Clock is Ticking. It's another e-mail that the Minister did not receive, even though it was addressed to him, and along with it is a picture of her and her first child because she wanted to make sure that he could see that this is a person we are talking...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee, just tell us the document you are tabling, don't read it. Item 14, tabling of documents, Ms. Lee.

**Tabled Document 61-14(6): Internet Article Entitled, "Birthing Now A Headache"**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fifth document is called Birthing Now a Headache. It's an article from the Yellowknifer dated June 6, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**Tabled Document 62-14(6): Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement Implementation Committee 2001-02 Annual Report**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table three documents. The first document is

entitled The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement Annual Report of the Implementation Committee 2001-02.

**Tabled Document 63-14(6): Inuvialuit Final Agreement Implementation Committee 2001-02 Annual Report**

The second document I would like to table, Mr. Speaker, is the Inuvialuit Final Agreement Implementation Committee Annual Report for 2001-02.

**Tabled Document 64-14(6): Sahtu Dene And Metis Land Claim Agreement Implementation Committee 2001-02 Annual Report**

The third document, Mr. Speaker, is the Sahtu Dene/Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement Annual Report of the Implementation Committee 2001-02. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**Tabled Document 65-14(6): Letter To MLAs From The Speaker Regarding Commentary By The Languages Commissioner**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter addressed to Members from you regarding the commentary by the Languages Commissioner on the Official Languages Act review and its recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**Tabled Documents 66-14(6): Building Capacity: Aurora College 2001-2002 Annual Report**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Building Capacity, Aurora College 2001-2002 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Tabled Document 67-14(6): Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities And Expenses For The Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2003**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 13, tabling of documents. In according with Section 35 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2003.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 12-14(6): Extended Adjournment Of The House To September 30, 2003**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two notices of motion today. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 13, 2003, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that notwithstanding Rule 4 that when this House adjourns on Friday, June 13, 2003, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30, 2003; And Further, any time prior to September 30, 2003, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at

an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

**Motion 13-14(6): Dissolution Of The 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 13, 2003, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Governor in Council of the Government of Canada to dissolve the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly by the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2003 to permit a general election for the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to be held on November 24, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 30: An Act to Amend The Official Languages Act, No. 2**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 13, 2003, I will move that Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 28: An Act To Amend The Official Languages Act**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 28 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 21: Family Violence Prevention Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 21, Family Violence Prevention Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would establish a simple procedure for an application to a designated justice for an emergency protection order to protect a person from family violence. A variety of

provisions could be included in the order to protect the person. If an emergency protection order is granted, the order would, within a short period of time, be reviewed by a judge of the Supreme Court. The judge would confirm the order if he or she is satisfied with the evidence, but if not, a hearing would be held.

There is also a process in the bill for a person to obtain an order from the Supreme Court to protect him or her from family violence in a situation where the danger is less imminent.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? I'm sorry. I failed to notice Mr. Dent. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to see the introduction of this bill and support the principle. I have pushed for this kind of bill for a long time. It's one that I am glad that we will now likely bring into effect before we end our life as an assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the laws as they stand do not do enough to end family violence. Victims of family violence need immediate protection and must feel safe in their own homes. Police need to obtain immediate protection orders over the phone, like they can in other provinces. Too often, victims are re-victimized by having to follow an often overwhelming and time consuming legal process right now to obtain the protection they really need right away. This bill will address that.

A Family Violence Act is critical to the health and wellbeing to people in communities, even without the infrastructure in place in all communities. Seniors, women and children are at the highest risk. This type of legislation makes it easier for them to be protected more quickly. Right now, if they are brave enough to report abuse, they could wait days or weeks before the long bureaucratic process comes through. That's too long to wait. Victims are often re-victimized by waiting for the long legal process.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased when earlier this year, Minister Allen made a commitment to introduce family violence legislation by this session. We are now going to have second reading. I say finally, Mr. Speaker. It's about time. Some people have expressed concern about how this role will be implemented in the smaller communities and this is a legitimate concern. It's something we are going to have to try to deal with. I have noted though, that Saskatchewan has implemented family violence legislation without having all of the infrastructure in place. They are finding that it works for them. I am confident that we will find a way to make sure that this legislation can work for us too.

Mr. Speaker, family violence is more common than most of us realize, especially in the North. While nearly three in 10 Canadian women who have been married or lived common-law have been physically or sexually abused, surveys show as many as nine out of 10 aboriginal women have been abused. The physical, emotional and psychological costs are impossible to determine. Many victims are afraid to leave their homes and many even lose their jobs because of high stress levels.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will give people at risk another tool they can use to protect themselves and their families. One of

the most disturbing forms of family violence is elder abuse. This has been a key concern of the NWT Seniors' Society who pointed out that there is not enough protection for elders in the Northwest Territories. Elders have contributed so much to our communities and continue to be important teachers, caregivers and role models. It is our responsibility to make sure that they are protected by laws such as this one. Mr. Speaker, I note that in Alberta, seniors use this type of law to gain protection quite successfully.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this type of family violence protection law is not the only thing that's going to help resolve the issues for victims, but it is a key part of the arsenal that is needed to fight family violence. I think it's important, too, to recognize the dedication of workers, shelter workers, counselors, police officers, social workers and people offering victim services. Their commitment is admirable. I understand the Coalition against Family Violence was involved as this act was drafted, so I am hopeful that it does, in fact, reflect the expectations of the frontline workers. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working on the committee as we do the public review and report this bill back to the House for final passage this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 21 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

#### **Bill 22: Waste Reduction And Recovery Act**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 22, Waste Reduction and Recovery Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill provides for the establishment of programs for the reduction, recycling and reuse of waste materials.

An advisory committee would be set up by the Minister to provide advice and assistance on waste reduction and recovery programs. A special purpose fund, called the environment fund, would be established to be funded by surcharges added to the price of designated materials that are subject to a program. The bill would also allow the Commissioner and Executive Council to prohibit the sale and distribution of certain materials that are detrimental to the environment.

Provisions are included in respect of the enforcement of programs established in the regulations. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have prepared notes on this. I would just like to make a very brief comment to commend and congratulate the government in following through with the commitment that it made last session. As we recall, this was an issue and we also appreciate that there is a little bit of a traffic jam in the legislative agenda with many different legislation initiatives fighting for space. I know this is one of the lucky ones that made it through and I want to record that I am glad to see that is happening. I am aware that there are a lot of people in our city, and probably in many parts of the Territories, who really would like to see this come into law, Mr. Speaker.

As I have stated many times and a number of times with regard to this issue, the one thing that people notice a lot -- that is, people who travel south or live down south for any length of time, because they are going to school there or because they are from there -- as soon as they come north, the first thing they notice is the fact that there is a lack of any kind of recycling program. At first, it's hard for them to not be able to recycle and reuse items. Then we get into bad habits because there are no regulations or programs that make it possible or easier for us to recycle what is recyclable, so we can reduce waste. So I believe this is a very good initiative. I look forward to learning more about the bill and to engage in the public hearing process. So, once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in support of the principle of this bill and I would like to congratulate the government for following through on its commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today in support of this bill. I think it's important to note that for a time in the past six months, given our busy and ambitious agenda, this bill was in jeopardy of falling off the agenda. Due to an outpouring of support from people in the communities calling their MLAs, we took the issue up with the Minister and the Minister responded and recognized that this was a priority and he was going to get it back on track. I am certainly glad he has, and I think the proof of that is here today.

I think this is certainly good legislation. We know that the easier we make it for people to recycle, the more likely they are to do it, Mr. Speaker. I think that's just the simple truth. I look forward to working with committee to iron out the details of this legislation. I have had several concerns raised with me about the actual administration of the bill and the regime. There are some concerns, for instance, about how a beverage container deposit will be collected and administered. We have to make sure that if we're expecting wholesalers in the Northwest Territories to charge deposits to retailers and the food and beverage outfits, that those same retailers and food and beverage people can't simply order non-deposit pop from Alberta and save \$2.40 a flat. So we're going to have to either decide how we're going to police this, or come up with a mechanism and a regime for making sure that this doesn't happen, or else this really will defeat the purpose of this bill. So I look forward to seeing how that administration is laid out. But I wanted to stand here again and thank the government and thank this Minister for taking action and bringing this bill before us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 22 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### **Bill 23: An Act To Amend The Safety Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Safety Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Safety Act to clarify the application of the act by amending the definitions employer and worker; provide that the principle contractor or owner of an establishment shall coordinate the activities of all employers at the establishment; impose duties on suppliers of things used by workers or at worksites; provide for the establishment of safety programs; amend the provisions relating to disclosure of information and recognition of the Workers' Compensation Board's responsibility for administering the act in recognition of the need to share information with other governments and in recognition of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; enable safety officers to issue directions to address potential dangers; enable the chief safety officer to issue codes of practice to provide practical guidance with respect to requirements of the act and the regulations; enable regulations to be made prescribing specific penalties for offences within the maximums established by the act; and provide for the establishment of a safety advisory committee to make recommendations respecting amendments to the act and regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** 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

Bill 23 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### **Bill 24: Midwifery Profession Act**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for the regulation of the midwifery profession and requires persons engaged in the practice of registering midwives to be registered under this act. The bill consequentially amends a number of acts. Some of the key provisions of the bill are concerned with the following matters: describing the scope of the practice of registered midwives; authorizing the Minister to establish or adopt a midwifery practice framework; setting out the powers of the registrar to register persons as registered midwives and issue

certificates; authorizing regulations to be made to establish or adopt a code of conduct; authorizing regulations to be made to establish or adopt a continuing competence program for registered midwives; setting out the procedures to be followed for the review of conduct of registered midwives; setting out rules respecting the various aspects of the practice of registered midwives, including the use of the title registered midwife; providing for the enforcement of the practice restrictions set out in the act; providing for Ministerial designation of practice sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion and the motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just quickly I stand to speak to support this bill. I think that this is another key piece in our collaborative model that this government has been working on. If you think of the successes of this government in this area and if you think of the fact that we are now enabling and have enabled nurse practitioners to be able to operate and function in the Northwest Territories, if you add the midwifery piece, we are simply expanding the scope of practice so that we have some help for doctors in the Northwest Territories. We know that especially in many of the smaller communities it's very difficult to see doctors and very difficult to see nurses. We need more help. I think these two pieces -- nurse practitioners and specifically this piece allowing midwives to practice in the Northwest Territories -- will vastly, vastly, Mr. Speaker, improve service for our residents. I look forward to working with committee to bring this legislation forward. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 24 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

#### **Bill 25: Municipal Statutes Replacement Act**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces the Charter Communities Act, the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, and the Hamlets Act. The bill makes many changes to modernize these three statutes, to make them easier to understand and to make the rules more flexible where appropriate.

There are changes to operation of the municipal corporation. These include:

- providing hamlets, towns and villages with greater flexibility to stagger or change terms of office;
- setting out the process to be followed when it is necessary to force a disqualified council member to step down;

- allowing councils to adopt their own oaths of office;
- giving councils explicit powers to appoint youth members;
- allowing councils to establish boards or other bodies to administer programs and services;
- allowing council meetings to take place using speaker phones, videoconferencing or other electronic means;
- providing clearer direction on when council meetings may be closed to the public;
- requiring agendas for regular council meetings to be available to the public 48 hours prior to each meeting;
- allowing councils to provide indemnities to members in council committees for attending meetings;
- giving a clear description of the duties of mayors, council members and councils;
- giving council explicit powers to adopt codes of ethics, with sanctions;
- allowing employees of hamlets and charter communities to sit as council members in some limited circumstances;
- facilitating alternate service delivery arrangements;
- providing councils with explicit economic development powers;
- allowing municipalities to establish new services or businesses and to establish or acquire shares in corporations with the approval of the Minister or the authorization of an investment plan;
- allowing delegation agreements to be made with the Government of Canada, or other municipalities, and aboriginal governments and organizations.

The rules governing financial management are being changed, including:

- new requirements that budgets and financial statements be made available to the public;
- providing that financial statements need only comply with generally accepted accounting principles recommended for municipal governments from time to time by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants;
- removing the requirement for Ministerial approval of forgiveness of debt bylaws for municipal taxing authorities;
- providing that debts of council members may not be forgiven;
- expanding the current powers to invest surplus money;
- specifying that long-term borrowing may be undertaken to finance capital expenses, but not operational expenses;
- allowing non-tax-based communities to borrow on a long-term basis for any purpose, rather than just for land development;
- new budgeting requirements pertaining to deficits;

- requiring voter approval for long-term borrowing and other long-term financial commitments;
- replacing ratepayer approval with voter approval.

Provisions establishing bylaw-making powers will now set out spheres of jurisdiction and general powers to enforce bylaws, as opposed to specific and narrow heads of authority. There are new provisions for voter petitions respecting bylaws.

There are new provisions to limit municipal liability for certain matters and activities, such as municipal facilities, services and utilities, fire protection, highways, the exercise of discretion, inspections and maintenance and remedying contraventions of bylaws. The current personal civil liability protections for council members are extended to youth members, municipal officers, volunteer workers and board members.

Municipalities will have powers to allow them to effectively enforce their bylaws, and will have general authority to conduct inspections and remedy contraventions. The Minister will have the ability to intervene if a municipality is in difficulty, without resorting to the appointment of an administrator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate my wholehearted support for this initiative. Like a couple of other bills that are before us now, this was one that we had some concerns would be lost in the mist and the fog in the latter part of our term of here, but I'm happy to see it coming forward. I've had discussions on a frequent and regular basis with our counterparts at the City of Yellowknife, expressing their desire to see this come through.

Mr. Speaker, the municipalities of the Northwest Territories are creations of this Assembly. We have a duty to enable them to be good government in their own spheres. So what we're doing here is modernizing and updating, and I think giving a broader sphere of discretion and jurisdiction to our municipal counterparts. I know there's, especially in the area of municipal liability and insurance, costs for policies that, of late, have been especially troublesome and costly. I know that this at least is one area where, through the passage of this bill, we can provide some immediate improvement in the way they are able to govern themselves.

So I just wanted to express my support and appreciation to see this bill come before us, even at this late date. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 25 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

#### **Bill 26: Youth Justice Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 26, Youth Justice Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for a youth justice system that would apply to young persons charged with committing offences under Northwest Territories enactments and municipal bylaws. The new system would correspond to the federal youth criminal justice system set out in the new federal Youth Justice Act, which applies to young persons charged with offences under the Criminal Code and other federal legislation.

The bill provides for committees of citizens, called youth justice committees, to be designated to assist in the administration of the bill or in programs or services for young persons. The bill also provides for groups of persons, called conferences, to be convened to make decisions in particular cases of young persons charged with territorial offences.

The bill provides for extrajudicial measures that may, where appropriate and having regard to principles stated in the bill, be used instead of judicial proceedings to deal with a young person who is alleged to have committed an offence. Extrajudicial measures include warnings, cautions, referrals and more formal measures called extrajudicial sanctions. Where a young person is made subject to extrajudicial sanctions, but fails to comply with the sanctions, judicial proceedings may be taken.

The bill also provides for summary judicial proceedings against young persons charged with committing territorial offences. The bill sets out the types of youth sentence that a youth justice court may impose on a young person who is convicted or found guilty of a territorial offence. The bill provides that where a young person is convicted or found guilty of an offence under a territorial law, the period of custody may not exceed six months and is to be served only in open custody.

The bill would replace the Young Offenders Act and make consequential amendments to several other statutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 26 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

#### **Bill 27: An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to provide further powers to the

Information and Privacy Commissioner related to his or her review of complaints regarding access to information made under this act. He or she will have the power to summon witnesses and to require the witness to give evidence. The bill includes a more direct appeal mechanism to the Supreme Court, that will apply if, after reviewing the complaint about access to information, the Information and Privacy Commissioner concurs with the decision to act or failure to act by the head of a public body. Change is also made so that failure by the head of a public body to make a decision within 30 days after receiving the report and recommendations from the Information and Privacy Commissioner will be deemed to be a decision to refuse to follow the recommendations. There is a provision allowing a person to appeal a deemed decision of the head of a public body to the Supreme Court.

Finally, changes are included to enable the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review complaints respecting whether a public body has collected, used or disclosed a person's personal information in contravention of the privacy requirements in the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion and the motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** 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

Bill 27 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I call Committee of the Whole to order. We're here to consider Bill 14. Does the committee wish to continue with Bill 14? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'd like to recommend that committee consider Bill 14.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The chair will call a short break and come back and consider Bill 14.

---SHORT RECESS

#### **Bill 14: An Act To Amend The Public Service Act**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I will call the committee back to order. We are considering Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. I call on the Minister responsible for the bill, Mr. Handley.

#### **Minister's Opening Comments**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this Legislative Assembly was first elected, it has worked hard to foster the development of social and economic life in the Northwest Territories, particularly in the area of human rights.

Once human rights were identified as a priority, our government embarked on a progressive human rights agenda. The first phase of this agenda was to enact the NWT Human Rights Act. As a result, the NWT now has a human rights code in place that is second to none in Canada.

The second phase was to propose amendments to the NWT Public Service Act to provide equal pay for work of equal value to the GNWT public service through Bill 14. This bill will ensure that once the Canadian Human Rights Act no longer applies to the GNWT, that our public servants will continue to maintain equivalent coverage.

Equal pay for work of equal value was designated to prevent systemic discrimination in compensation for work done for an employer by men and women.

I wish to thank the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight for their contributions to this bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. I call on the chairman of the standing committee responsible for reviewing this bill, Mr. Dent.

#### **Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Comments**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight conducted public reviews of Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, on April 23, May 7 and June 2, 2003. The committee would like to thank the Union of Northern Workers for its submission and the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The majority of committee Members support the principle and objective of the bill which will provide for equal pay for work of equal value for the GNWT public service in NWT legislation, so that any future pay equity complaints can be settled here rather than in Ottawa.

Most Members support the Minister's efforts to obtain from the federal government an exemption for the NWT under section 66 of the Canadian Human Rights Act. Until this exemption is granted, it will still be necessary for pay equity complaints by GNWT employees to be resolved under the federal framework.

The Union of Northern Workers has indicated that it does not support the bill because in its opinion, equal pay for work of equal value should be included in the NWT Human Rights Act and should apply to all employers regardless of size.

Some Members agreed that pay equity should also apply to at least larger private sector employers. Some Members also expressed concerns that the scope of the act is not broad enough and should also prohibit pay discrimination between aboriginal and non-aboriginal employees and include employees who perform public services, but are not directly employed by the GNWT. Although a majority of the committee supports the intent of the bill, Mr. Speaker, Members are not convinced that a stand-alone equal pay commissioner is needed.

The committee suggested to the Minister that in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and expense, pay equity complaints could be handled through the offices that will be set up under the new Human Rights Act.

The Minister indicated that a designated equal pay commissioner is necessary because of the time involved in resolving pay equity complaints, the complexity of pay equity issues and the need for an individual with special expertise on pay equity.

Members believe the new Human Rights Commission and staff would be capable of finding and hiring adequate pay equity expertise if and when a complaint should be made. There would then be no need to spend any funds to retain an officer in the absence of a complaint. Members are disappointed the Minister was not able to find a way to avoid establishing a new office with all of the attended costs.

Mr. Chairman, during the clause-by-clause review of the bill, the committee moved and the Minister concurred with seven amendments to the bill. In addition to making a number of minor technical changes, these amendments add the following: a requirement for the equal pay commissioner to have expertise in pay equity; provisions for regulations to set out the remuneration for the equal pay commissioner and how expenses will be reimbursed; a description of the function of the equal pay commissioner to receive complaints, assist parties in resolving them and promote awareness and understanding of equal pay for work of equal value; the requirement for the equal pay commissioner to submit an annual report to the Speaker by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year; and, a statement to the preamble that equal pay for work of equal value is internationally recognized as a human right.

Mr. Chairman, an amendment was also made which changes the limitation period following a complaint from one year to two years after the last occurrence of the circumstances giving rise to the complaint.

Members also had concerns with the regulation-making authorities with the equal pay provisions. As the bill currently reads, the authority to recommend regulations rests with the Minister responsible for the public service. First, Members do not believe it is appropriate for a Minister to recommend the regulations setting their remuneration and other conditions of appointment for a statutory officer of the Legislative Assembly. This authority properly belongs to the Speaker.

Secondly, Members disagree that the Minister should have the authority to recommend substantive regulations respecting equal pay complaints. If this legislation is to establish a truly independent and credible framework for resolving pay equity matters, the Minister cannot have the authority to definitively set out the foundations of those principles.

After considerable discussion with the Minister and his staff, the government has agreed to introduce amendments as we consider the bill today to address committee concerns. Members will support the motion to amend the act so that the Speaker will have the authority to recommend regulations setting out remuneration and other conditions of appointment for the equal pay commissioner and so the Commissioner and Executive Council will have the authority to recommend substantive regulations on equal pay complaints in consultation with the equal pay commissioner.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 14. Individual Members may have individual

questions or comments as we proceed. Following the committee review, a motion was carried to report Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Is the Minister wishing to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Handley.

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

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Mr. Handley, please introduce your witnesses, for the record.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, from my left is Mark Aitken, director of the legislation division, Department of Justice; Lew Voytilla, secretary to Financial Management Board; and, Shaleen Woodward, manager of equal pay with FMBS. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. I will open the floor to general comments. Mr. Krutko.

#### General Comments

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a lot of concerns with regard to this bill. We just passed an NWT Human Rights Act which talks about ensuring that we have equal pay for equal work and also to avoid discrimination based on race. My concern is more in line with the whole idea that we have a public service that provides services to the NWT, but we also have people within the public service who are not part of the union system or who are not totally under the department's authority. We have people there that carry out responsibilities of this government being discriminated against today despite the equal pay aspect of our human rights legislation.

They are being paid less for providing a public service in small communities than they are in large municipalities or larger centres. I feel that that is discrimination. If we think that we are going to pass an act strictly to deal with one class of employees and not deal with all our employees, for me, that's discrimination. I feel that the government is trying to find a way to get away from the Canadian Human Rights Act by ignoring the whole reason that we are here, dealing with pay equity. Now we are dealing with another inequity, the rights of people who provide public service in our small communities. Currently, these people provide a public service but are being paid less than people in the public service that provide a similar service. For me, that's totally uncalled for. What was the intent of passing human rights legislation in this legislature if the government comes back with this legislation discriminating against employees who provide public services in small communities? I cannot see the justification of that. We have an opportunity here to amend this legislation to allow for a definition of who an employee of the public service is. We need to allow for those employees who provide our income support services in our communities, our mental health services, our economic development officers.



These are all public services provided to the residents of the Northwest Territories. Yet, Mr. Chairman, what really gets me is that the seriousness of this issue doesn't even seem to faze this government. We are providing a government service in a lot of our communities through a government policy or procedure called offloading. We are offloading our responsibilities and offloading the money that is going to be needed to carry out these programs. We are paying people less to provide the same service as if they were government employees or they were in a larger centre.

For me, that's what human rights is all about, to ensure equity is there. You provide a service, you should be paid for that service. I feel that the government is offloading these responsibilities to communities by providing them with the resources to deliver programs and services at a lower cost than government has to pay in other communities and other regions.

As a result, people who live in small communities are receiving a lower level of service than most people in the larger centres. There, again, is an inequity on programs and services being delivered.

What we have is people in our communities who are classified as less valuable than people who are providing the same service in a different location. When you pay someone a lesser amount than someone who has the same qualifications, same classifications and provides the same program under this government's guidelines to deliver that program, for me it is a question of equity. Inequity is what put us here in the first place. The challenges that were put forth in a court case on pay equity under the Canadian Human Rights Act is why we are here today talking about this. It took a court case for us to deal with it. Now we are bringing this thing before this House and not resolving that problem. We are simply saying we will take care of this class of people, but we are not going to take care of that class of people. For me, this unjustly undermines the whole principle of human rights legislation.

In order to resolve this problem, I would like to ask the Minister if he is prepared to consider amendments to the definition of employees in the public service under schedule A of the Public Service Act, so that we can deal with this unfairness and inequity, so that it will include all those people that provide a public service for this government regardless of whether they are employed through a separate contract or employed indirectly for that purpose. For me that is where we can resolve this inequity.

We have the problems right now with the Minister of Health and Social Services who is trying to bring our alcohol and drug workers and mental health workers in line with other professions within the healthcare system. What does it take for us to realize we have people on the front lines, such as our mental health workers or alcohol drug workers or even our income support workers, who are providing a public service and being paid less than the government employees in social services or education or wherever?

So I would like to ask the Minister, will you consider looking at the definition and see if there is a possibility of bringing in some sort of an amendment to allow for employees in our communities providing services through those contractual arrangements to know that the resources to cover their salaries and their benefits will be properly allocated to our communities so they can be paid fairly? They are providing a public service which is no less valuable than in other communities. So for me it is a question of human rights that we have agreed to through our human rights legislation, but also ensuring that this

government is fair to all people that provide a public service in this government.

I would like to ask the Minister if he will consider the possibility of defining the language that is presently in this legislation to allow for those people who provide services on behalf of this government, whether they are employed through a separate contract or employed indirectly.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me say first of all that this piece of legislation applies to all government employees regardless of where they may work. In terms of which size of community or anywhere in the Territories, it applies to all government employees. The issue that Mr. Krutko is referring to is really an issue of wage parity and I am not sure, in fact I would say that this is not the right piece of legislation to be able to achieve what he wants. If what you want is to address an issue of wage parity -- and by wage parity we mean having comparable wages with municipal governments, with boards, with other agencies as we do with government employees -- then that is a very complex matter to deal with because we are beginning to get into the employer/employee relationships that other agencies have, whether it is a board or a municipal government or whatever it may be. It is one that I think we could undertake if there is a will to do it, but I would say that we should not go there unless we have done a thorough assessment of what the issues are, what the extent of the impact would be and what the best means of addressing it is. It may mean that labour standards would have to change, that municipal legislation might have to change. Or it may mean that we would have to fund other governments or other agencies differently than we do right now.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am not saying we should not do this, I am just saying that if we are going to do it then it is complex. It may be the amount of money we provide to other agencies and governments. It may be their own legislation. It may be the relationships and arrangements that they have with their employees. But it is much more complex than this piece of legislation. What legislation would we have to put in place in order to do that? I am not sure. It might be municipal legislation. It might be some sort of labour standards act. But it certainly would be beyond just doing a simple amendment to this piece of legislation. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also think that this act needs to be amended to include not only the people working for this government directly, but for people that are working for this government indirectly. By indirectly, I am talking about community services boards, which are a creation of this government to deliver services on the behalf of the territorial government, the same thing the territorial government is doing for the federal government.

We have different employers out there. We have federal government public servants, we have local public servants, municipal public servants and we have people working for the different divisional boards, community service boards, that are delivering programs on our behalf. We are paying them less money because we are giving them the programs that we do not wish to do, or our government employees in the first place did not want to go in there. So what we do is give them a little bit of money there and say, okay, this will cover your overhead,

go and deliver the program. It does not matter what you pay your employees, go forward with it. That is what we are telling them by putting this legislation in just to cover the employees that we have under the government right now.

I was one of the Members that was not in agreement with dealing only with public servants. I wanted to do this territory-wide under a labour act of some kind like the rest of the provinces. Most of the provinces have some kind of act that covers all employees and employers in their territories and provinces.

Right now, I look at this whole thing as if we are saying we want to protect their rights. But we all know that some of our government bureaucrats are getting quite a good paycheque out there to do a job similar to what is being done in the smaller communities. That is against the human rights. We are asking these people to deliver programs on our behalf and they do not have the same rights as the person that is working in Yellowknife or another different community that is covered by the Public Service Act.

There is one of the labour boards that I was listening to on the radio one day saying that this government is creating different tiers of public service, different tiers of payment. It is against the Human Rights Act. So I agree with Mr. Krutko that we need to make some changes. I understand the Minister is saying that we should not go there until we have assessed the whole thing. Well, why did we not assess it and then go there? Why are we just rushing into this one? I understand there is section 66 that we are trying to have given to us by Ottawa, but what does that do? What is it doing? Is it protecting high wages or what is it doing? Is it protecting the bonuses? What are we doing here? We do not know. We do not know what kind of equal wages are out there.

I know this government went through an exercise and it was a costly exercise to do what they have done. We are saying that the small businessman cannot do it. I think if there is a will there is a way. If it is not going to work then we can always go back and say it is not going to work, but there are some amendments we need to make, there are some changes we need to make and let us do it in this way. But before we have even gone out there to the public and asked them what they thought, what the small businessman thought or what the large industry thought, we are just going ahead and doing what we want as a government. We are supposed to be out there consulting with the people to make sure that what we are doing is fair to all of them. They have a right to know what we are doing. We create Human Rights Acts and everything without consulting with people. In other areas of different acts we have done in this government, we have not even stepped foot out of Yellowknife and we have dealt with acts. This government is doing things the way they feel is right. They are not going out there and consulting with the public. There are a few things that were done with consultation with the public and the people are happy for that out there. They have input into what is going on and that is what the whole territory is all about.

So I think that if we cannot make these amendments, maybe we should just scrap this bill for now and look at it more. Like the Minister said, we should assess the whole thing and we should not go there until we have assessed it. Using his own words, I hope he will pull his own bill. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I did not hear a specific question there. Does the Minister want to respond?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, let me say again that I understand the issue that Mr. Lafferty is raising along with Mr. Krutko. It is a good question, but it goes far beyond the purpose of this legislation. Let me say again that the government employees, the Government of the Northwest Territories employees got the right for equal pay for work of equal value through the Canadian Human Rights Act. They have that right. We then passed our own Human Rights Act. The committee took it out to consultation and in that Human Rights Act we agreed to a provision that was different. We agreed to a provision that basically said people would get equal pay for the same or similar work with the same employer.

The purpose of this legislation we are looking at today is simply to do a couple of things. First of all, to put into our Public Service Act the right our employees already have, which is the right to equal pay for work of equal value and, second, to enable us to have an exemption from the Canadian Human Rights Act. Section 66 provides for that, so that our Human Rights Act applies to everybody in the Northwest Territories. That is bringing home the responsibility and the rights of our people, including government employees, to our legislation.

Further on Mr. Lafferty's comments, he mentioned the Dogrib Community Services Board. The employees who work for those boards, the teachers, the health workers and so on, are government employees, and there may be a few exceptions, but I think they are all pretty much government employees. They are covered by this legislation because they are considered to be public servants.

If we want to take on the whole issue of wage parity across the Northwest Territories, it is very complex. Because when we do that we would possibly have to start imposing compensation regimes on other employers, saying here is what you have to pay. Job evaluation systems, here is how you evaluate your jobs, the same as the government does. Hiring qualifications and practices. Labour relations systems. It is not easy just to declare through an amendment that we are going to have our pay system apply to everybody else. That is what I am saying.

The purpose of this legislation is very simple. The task that Mr. Lafferty and Mr. Krutko are referring to is a big task. I am not saying it is wrong, but it is a big task and it goes far beyond the purpose of this legislation. We could not include that with just a few amendments. It would change the purpose completely. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said it himself: the public service employees under the public service now have rights. Their rights have to be protected. But how do we protect the rights of the people out there that are delivering the service for us? Do they not have rights? Are you trying to tell me that they do not have any rights and only the public service that is in there right now has rights? Right now we are discriminating against them because they may be contracting to us or maybe they are a board and I do not see why we should say they do not have the same rights. I will just stop here. My time is up.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, all employees, all workers in the Northwest Territories have their rights protected. Everybody is protected under the Northwest Territories Human

Rights Act with the exception right now of a couple of groups. One group is the Government of the Northwest Territories employees. They still fall under the Canadian Human Rights Act. So what we want to do is change that so they are covered by the Northwest Territories Human Rights Act so they are the same. They will be covered the same way all other workers are. I did not at all suggest that people do not have rights. We all have rights and it is under the Northwest Territories Human Rights Act. The only groups that still fit under the Canadian Human Rights Act and, therefore, they have pay equity as well, rights to equal pay for work of equal value, would be federal government employees. If this legislation goes through, it would be federal government employees, employees of federally regulated corporations and agencies and band council employees. Band council employees are still considered to be under the Canadian Human Rights Act. So they, in effect, already have equal pay for work of equal value. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Handley. The chair will recognize Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I too have some issues with this particular act. Mr. Chairman, this government was created to represent all the people of the Northwest Territories. I have said it before and I will say it again; what I find is, this government controls a welfare state. The majority of government employees are in this capital and the regional centres. Through contract work or devolution of responsibility we deliver programs and services of this government in our communities, by band, municipal staff or institutions we create, such as the health boards that were created in Lutselk'e and then pulled away.

The biggest issue I have with this is that we create and protect the bureaucracy, but we don't recognize the value of service provided by frontline employees. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, the bureaucracy is the support staff and we are supporting and protecting that support staff more than we value and protect the service delivery at the community level. When we transferred authority -- for example, Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e had a health and social services board -- this government transferred about a quarter less resources and expected them to succeed in a very complicated area. Very little financial and human resource support for these two boards was provided. When they pulled it back, salaries and support of staff increased and they pulled it back saying you guys can't handle it, so we are going to take it back. That is not how you develop capacity in the communities. That is not how you develop self-government in the communities that we, as a government, are negotiating currently with the federal and aboriginal governments of the Territories. We don't address that. We protect ourselves.

I will ask one question of the Minister, Mr. Chairman. The exemption that we are looking for under the Human Rights Act, is there any guarantee that we will get that exemption if we pass this act? If not, what are the consequences? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer the question, I just want to point out a couple of things. What this is doing is, in a sense, protecting government employees in the sense that they have a right already through the Human Rights Act. So it's protecting them on that front. There is no differentiation between frontline workers and

headquarter workers. If they are government employees, they are all protected.

The band employees, as I mentioned, are already protected under the Canadian Human Rights Act and we can't impose our legislation on them. The health and social service board employees are covered now, with the exception of Hay River, but the ones in Lutselk'e are covered by this. They are considered to be public servants now. So it does have a much wider application than what some Members may think it has. It covers anyone who is defined as being a public servant under the provisions of this act and that includes a lot of people in small communities, as well as in larger communities.

Will we get an exemption to section 66, yes. Last week I spoke to Minister Cauchon and he has assured us that the Department of Justice is happy with the legislation and they are prepared to issue us a section 66 exemption. No questions on that one. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize that we had that guarantee. When we were discussing this through the committee, there were no guarantees a week ago today.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister pointed out that the frontline workers in Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e working for Health and Social Services are working now. Yes, they are. The point I was trying to make and the point I would like to make now is when they were working for the health board, they were not covered. The government did not support the health board in making sure the people working there were paid equivalent to that of government employees. In fact, the resources provided to these boards were insufficient to pay them at the same level as public service employees. In fact, that's what we see more and more in the communities. An example is when you transfer the money to communities for economic development officers, we pay them \$40,000 from this government. Yet, we have a support staff at the regional level that doesn't understand the economic opportunities and challenges in our communities and we pay them \$80,000. We will protect the employee in the regional centre, but not the employee who is working directly for the community and making a difference in that community.

So are there any guarantees from this government that when you transfer a position or fund a position in a community that is going to deliver programs and services on behalf of this government, that we will get sufficient funding so their wages are in line with those working under the public service? Are there any guarantees? If there are no guarantees, do you think that individual is going to blink an eye if there is a job opening within the public service? He will drop that job in the community and work for the public service. Why? You get better protection. You get better pay. Leaving that community with one less human resource that somebody could train over again and bring up to speed to understand all the different programs and services this government provides. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, this is a hindrance. If you don't recognize the people who deliver frontline services who are not working for the government, but are working for community governments, band councils... All the band councils. There are six or seven communities in the NWT where band council-run agencies deliver programs and services on behalf of this government on contract. These people have no protection. They get paid less to deliver and manage policies and procedures developed by the public service. That's what I am talking about, Mr. Chairman, when I talk about the frontline people. Our bureaucracy, as far as I am concerned, are their

support staff. You don't usually see support staff getting paid more or having more protection than the frontline guys. It just doesn't work that way.

So what does this do to create the human resource base in the communities that we are so lacking? It doesn't do anything like that. It doesn't create employment parity throughout the Territories. Mr. Lafferty is right, we need a territory-wide act to make sure that everybody gets paid for equal value of work. Right now, you have three people working on any site, whether it's oil and gas, diamonds or tourism, doing the same kind of work. There will be three different job skills based on the employer they are working for. Mr. Chairman, I get a lot of my constituents and Northerners, especially aboriginal Northerners, saying they are getting paid a lot less than others. They are doing the same kind of work and in a lot of cases, they have a lot more experience. One area that I am quite disappointed in, that was in the initial act, was the term "aboriginality." I get a lot of complaints about systemic racism in the job place. Aboriginal people feel they are getting paid less because of their ethnicity. That was thrown right out of this act. We haven't addressed that at all.

As far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, this act doesn't go far enough in the Territories and I think we should treat everybody the same under the NWT Human Rights Act and not have a separate act just for the public service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The Minister has acknowledged the fact that wage parity is a separate issue and it goes a little bit beyond what this bill can accomplish, but I will ask the Minister for comments. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. You're right, a lot of the issues Mr. Nitah is raising are issues around wage parity. We cannot guarantee that, if this is passed, it would somehow apply to all employers who take on responsibilities from the government. It may be that some employers will want to take on services that are currently provided by the government, but want to do it with their own employment regime. They don't want to pay their employees with the same system as the government and that's their choice. We can't, through this kind of legislation, force them to keep all their employees on the same wage system as we have here. So there is no 100 percent guarantee if an agency takes over a service provided by a government that they would have to do this. That's something that would have to be negotiated with them. They can choose to do that if they want to, or if they want to have their own system, then that's a choice that they have the right to make.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, as well, for further clarification, when I talked to Mr. Cauchon, he agrees to our legislation not just as it is here, but with the amendments that we have before us today. We had to talk about those, as well.

Mr. Chairman, I'm not disagreeing with the issue of wage parity at all. It's just that it is a separate issue. If our government wants to undertake that, then that's a big issue to take because we're again getting into discussing things that have traditionally been left to each employer. We should also point out that it would be very difficult to have legislation in the Northwest Territories that would guarantee that an employee driving a truck for Joe's Water Service would get the same wage as someone driving a truck for BHP. Employers can set their own levels of pay, depending on their own situations, their own compensation packages. I think that would be going quite far

to say that we have to have equal pay right across the board for everybody in every situation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Handley. The chair will recognize Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions for the Minister. Mr. Chairman, I think the report by the Accountability and Oversight committee makes mention of the fact that the Union of Northern Workers does not support this bill, because equal pay for work of equal value should be included in the Human Rights Act and not just in this bill. That would mean that only the employees of the GNWT will be able to get protection under this bill. I would like to know if the Minister, the department and the government have done research into this, and what was the basis on which the government decided that it will not go that far. I would also be interested in knowing what the current state of the law is in that area. Are there, for example, other jurisdictions in Canada that have that sort of legislative provision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The unions have always taken the stand that they believe in the policy of equal pay for work of equal value. When this government last year passed the Human Rights Act, we, as a government, decided in our Human Rights Act that we would have equal pay for the same or similar work. This legislature made that decision. We did that when we put it in the Human Rights Act. So the issue that the union has is really with the provisions in the Human Rights Act that we passed last year, not with this bill.

Even where there is a system of equal pay for work of equal value, it only applies for each employer as an entity. It doesn't apply across the board. So if they went to an equal pay for work of equal value regime, then the employer in Fort Simpson would have to pay his employees on a scheme that ensured that every employee that worked for him was paid relative to the other employees. Another employer down the road in Fort Providence would have to do the same thing for the employees that work for him, but it could be quite different than the one in Simpson. So it's not guaranteeing that everybody has exactly the same pay for the same work.

Who else has a regime which allows for equal pay for work of equal value? The only other ones are the larger provinces and the federal government. Ontario, Quebec and the federal government have it. But even where they have it, they have run into some difficulties in compliance because the scheme is so complicated it's beyond the ability of most employers to be able to do the job evaluations, assessments, ratings and so on and keep up with it. So the delinquency rate is high in the other jurisdictions. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Yes, I do remember that debate during the Human Rights Act. The concern and grievance that the Union of Northern Workers has on behalf of the labour movement, is that in the Human Rights Act the way we did that equal pay for work of equal value provision -- we might have said something similar such as equal value for work of similar value or something, I can't remember -- the union is saying it's not broad enough. I was wondering whether the government has engaged in the research to figure out whether it was doable or not, and I suppose the government has concluded that we

couldn't provide that kind of infrastructure and support system needed to implement that sort of thing. While I appreciate that, I think there are concerns that while this initiative is positive, that it is regrettable that we cannot find a way to make it apply to at least some of the major employers in the Territories, although not maybe the mom and pop shops or small businesses, or in the smallest towns where it would be quite a burden on the business. But I'm wondering if the Minister could advise us as to whether or not a consideration was given to see if this could apply to some of the major corporations. We know that we do have a number of big corporations here. I'd like to be assured that the government addressed its mind to it, and that it reviewed its information and then came to the conclusion on the basis of the information that they had. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think again the issue that Ms. Lee is referring to is one that's a question we had to look at when we were considering the Human Rights Act. At that time, we did look at the issue of equal pay for work of equal value, as compared to equal pay for similar or same work. A decision was made that it wasn't doable in the Northwest Territories for our small employers. We have some large employers who might be able to handle a very complex equal pay for work of equal value scheme but, looking at other jurisdictions, the compliance rate is so low that we decided it wasn't workable, and this Legislative Assembly approved the Human Rights Act accordingly. This legislation doesn't deal with that issue. That's a different issue.

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

**MS. LEE:** I thank you for reminding me that these are two pieces of different legislation, but the Minister introduced this legislation by bringing up the Human Rights Act and so on, so I think that's fair game for discussion.

Mr. Chairman, I have another question on section 66. I don't know if the lay people that might be listening to this discussion understand what that clause means and why is it that we as a legislature are being encouraged or forced or we're making a decision to pass this law to comply with that. Can the Minister advise as to why compliance with that section 66 is so important?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, section 66 is a section in the Canadian Human Rights Act that makes specific provisions for the exclusion of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut should they develop the same legislation within their own jurisdiction. The Yukon had their own Yukon Human Rights Act a number of years ago, and they have applied for and received an exemption from the Canadian Human Rights Act through section 66. We're going through that process, now that we have our own Human Rights Act. Some day Nunavut might. So that section is very explicit, very clear, very limited to the territories opting out of the Canadian Human Rights Act. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get a clear answer there. Why is that we got exempted in the first place? I do believe there is an expiry date on this, by which time we have to get our legislation in line if we want to still stay on that exemption list. So could the Minister indicate why the

territories of Yukon, Nunavut and NWT got an exemption in the first place, and why is there an expiry date on this exemption that is forcing us to do this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, we do not have an exemption right now, we don't have it yet. This legislation is to get that exemption. We have our own Human Rights Act. There is a provision in the Canadian Human Rights Act to allow us to do what we're doing here, which is basically to transfer the rights our government employees have under the Canadian Human Rights Act to our own legislation. So we can do this and we apply for an exemption that allows or enables our employees to be protected under the NWT Human Rights Act. So as soon as this legislation is passed, then we will apply for the exemption. There's no time limit on it. I don't think there's any time limit. But we would expect that we have our own human rights legislation we want to apply to our people, so we would make the application right away. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Before I go to the Members for a second time, I'd like to just remind Members that we are dealing with the Public Service Act, as the public service is defined right now, and I would like to encourage Members to stick to the contents of the bill before us. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way the act reads it says its purpose is to ensure that male and female persons in the public service continue to be protected against systematic wage discrimination through the recommendation and exercise of the right to equal pay for work of equal value, and that whereas the provision of the right to equal pay for work of equal value in the public service, and further sets out the leadership role of the Government of the Northwest Territories on employment equity issues among employees of the Northwest Territories. My question is in regard to the last statement where it says among employees of the Northwest Territories. Through a contractual arrangement with communities, public funds are being expended to provide a public service, and we are paying a person less to provide a public service. For me, that is totally the opposite of what this statement says. I feel that the government has a contractual arrangement with communities to provide services such as mental health services, economic development officers' positions in communities, income support positions, they also have positions in municipal services that we have under contract. So through these contractual arrangements with this government, those contracts violate not only this legislation, but the human rights legislation that we passed. Right now the contractual arrangement that this government has gotten themselves into undermines the fair equity practice of ensuring that we have no discrimination in wages. But this government knows that positions in the communities, such as a mental health officer for instance, have been paid somewhere in the range of \$50,000 for the last five years. They haven't seen an increase. That's the total amount to run that position. Yet when a similar position is taken on by a government employee, the government pays that position in the range of \$75,000 to \$80,000. Government employees have seen increases based on the fact that they're part of a union.

Right now the communities are giving back contractual agreements and not signing them on the basis that it's inequitable. So I'd just like to ask the Minister, in light of the Human Rights Act and this legislation, does that mean that the contractual arrangements we have with communities to provide

public services are going to be considered discriminatory based on the question of providing public services and also ensuring that equal pay for work of equal value is taken into account when we have these contractual agreements to provide public services?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no, there wouldn't be discrimination in this case. The provisions of equal pay for work of equal value only apply to government employees. We can't impose our arrangements with our employees onto other employers. We can provide a leadership role -- and that's what this clause basically says -- but we have no authority to impose it on other employers.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my point. My point is that we have a contractual agreement to provide a public service. If those contracts were not in place, we as a government would have been providing that service and those people would have been protected under health boards or protected under the Public Service Act as it stands today. But because a contractual arrangement is with a party, regardless of whether it's a hamlet council, a community council or whatever, it's still a contract. Does that mean that this government can undermine our legislation that we passed in this House, the Human Rights Act, and now bring in this act knowing that it discriminates between persons regardless of how the contract reads? Because if you're paying somebody to provide a service for \$50,000 knowing that a person doing similar work will cost you \$80,000, that's discrimination on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value. So I know you've been trying to say if we do this, we're going have to do it to the whole Northwest Territories. I'm asking that we consider those people that provide a public service under a contract arrangement with this government and be considered as such under legislation.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, if the employer in these kinds of situations who is providing a government service through a contract wants to enter into that kind of arrangement, then, yes, we could. But we have a lot of situations in the past, and we will in the future, where contractors take on responsibilities that the government has been providing; for example, forest firefighting services. We can't, though this, force them to pay their employees at the same rate with the same benefits and so on as we would in government. They're a separate employer. We, of course, would want to advise them that if they do that, they may be doing their employees out of some benefits they would have -- and I think a lot of employees recognize that they lose their pension, they lose other things -- but we can't force an employer to do it.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Well I believe that when the government that is spending public funds to provide public services, knowing that they are receiving the service at a lower cost than if you were running it yourself, that is where the inequity is. You as a government know what the cost of running that program is. When you pay income support workers in communities \$32,000

a year knowing the cost of that similar position in a larger centre is \$55,000 there is definitely an inequity there. It is public funds being expended to provide a public service. For me, that is where the question of fairness is. It is government contracts that we as a government control. We as a government tell communities, well, we will download this program to you, but this is how much we are going to give you to run the program, all the while knowing that cost is less than what we would pay if we were running the program ourselves. So for me that is the grey area that has to be dealt with here.

I think as a government we have a responsibility to ensure that we do not find ourselves in the courts because we are breaking our own rules that we are trying to impose on other people. For me, this is exactly what this is going to do. I think that all those contractual arrangements we have that pay someone to provide a service at less cost than if we provide it as a government is breaking our own rules.

So we have talked about the question of parity and also the legislation clearly identified the right to equal pay for work of equal value. It is public contracts that we are talking about here. Contracts that this government has gotten themselves into knowing those public services are being provided with less value or less dignity to people in small communities knowing that if the government was doing it it would cost a lot more. Yet people providing the same service who may be part of the health board or part of the education board or part of the government itself are paid a heck of a lot more than those people that provide a public service by way of a contract.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We are still dealing probably outside of this bill. I will ask Minister Handley if he would like to make a short comment.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Again, with all due respect, what Mr. Krutko is referring to is a wage or pay equity issue and it is something that goes beyond the purpose of this legislation. It is a good issue that we need to look at, but it is beyond the scope and purpose of this legislation. It is something that is a big issue. If we want to do it, then my advice is that we should review it very carefully and look at all of the issues around it. Mr. Chairman, this piece of legislation does not take away anything and it certainly does not require or bind future employers who provide government services to have to follow the Government of the Northwest Territories employment arrangements. It leaves it as it is. Communities in some situations may even pay more. I don't know. They may be giving more pay and benefits than we get in government, but we as a government never enter into agreements to save money. I do not know of any of them that we have that may, and probably most or all of them cost us more money. But the bottom line is we cannot impose our employment arrangements onto another employer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Handley. The chair recognizes, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any comments at this point. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, will the Minister consider separate legislation to deal with the whole contracting out issue in regard to the whole range of services that are being delivered on behalf of this government through a contract? Will the Minister consider looking at that legislation so

we can see how those people who provide a public service can have some protection from the human rights legislation in place now, and if we are at some sort of legislation to ensure that when we do have contracts in place, it is outside of the government day-to-day operations to provide public services such as mental health services or economic development services or income support services, that those contracts will be looked at through some sort of legislation to ensure that they are being fairly treated as employees of this government and that they are not being paid less than people doing work of similar value in the public service?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, yes. I will take a look at the issues around it and try to scope out what the issues are on that whole pay equity issue that Mr. Krutko is referring to. The wage parity issue, I am sorry. The wage parity issue that Mr. Krutko is referring to, I don't have any solutions to it, but we can help to scope out what the issues are around that one. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Handley. The chair will recognize the clock and rise to report progress. Thank you, Minister Handley, and your witnesses, for appearing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please?

#### ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. DELOREY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. I would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Do we have a seconder for the motion? Yes, the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, may we have the orders of the day?

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment tonight and again at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Thursday, June 12, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions

9. Returns to Written Questions

10. Replies to Opening Address

11. Petitions

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2003-2004

- Bill 29, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Act

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act

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

- Bill 13, Deh Cho Bridge Act

- Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

