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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 9, 2003****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Dent, 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 (Hon. Tony Whitford): Please be seated. Colleagues, before we begin, if you haven't already noticed, we do have a full visitors' gallery today for the very important matters that are before the House. I would like to draw your attention to and welcome Grand Chief Joe Rabesca to the gallery, along with many people from the Dogrib Nation.

The grand chief has also asked me to advise the Members who are here that they have interpreters and there are receivers, so you can hear in Dogrib as well. Because the gallery can only seat so many, there's a television set just outside the gallery for those who have not been able to find a seat. There are also rules that you must abide by. Please no clapping of hands in the gallery and please remove your head gear and no cell phones. The Sergeant-at-Arms will enforce that very strictly. No cell phones, please.

After all of that, welcome.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 106-14(6): Effective Behaviour Support**

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, schools are more than books and buildings. Schools are places where students, teachers and staff spend much of their time. Schools are places where children should learn and grow and excel. Schools should be welcoming places. Regrettably, this is not so for some children. Taunting, teasing and bullying damages and can traumatize a child. Just a word can compliment, they can also hurt. I'm sure all Members will agree that this sort of damaging behaviour has no place in our schools.

I would like to speak on some actions that educators from across the Northwest Territories are working on to address this issue.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, over 100 educators, representing schools from each of the divisional education councils in the NWT, met in Yellowknife to work with Dr. Terry Scott, an internationally-renowned behaviour specialist, to learn about effective behavioral support.

Effective behavioural support is a school-wide system designed to prevent disruptive behaviour by all students, including those who exhibit chronic behaviour problems. EBS is being used in schools throughout Canada and the United States, and since 2001, in a number of schools in the Northwest Territories.

Under the EBS system, teachers provide students clear behavioural expectations, social skill instruction, acknowledgement and corrections. About 90 percent of students respond well to this program, others need additional help and support.

EBS schools have behavioural teams that work with teachers and parents to develop individual action plans for these at-risk students who have repeated behaviour problems. With the school and family working together, the behaviours taught at school can be reinforced at home, providing consistency for the children and support for the families.

Through the EBS system, all staff share responsibility for the behaviour of students in classrooms, as well as in common areas like hallways or the playground.

Mr. Speaker, this system is not a quick fix. It takes three to five years to develop and implement the systems and to see results, but I am pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that we are now seeing results.

One example is Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells. Staff members report on the positive behaviours of students and celebrate them through their Gotcha Program. Student behaviour has improved and students feel more content and secure at school. Teachers are proactive and enthusiastic.

We want to build on the current success of EBS in our schools by providing out-of-school support for families and communities through programs like Second-Step Positive Discipline or Restitution, which are also being effectively used.

Schools that have been involved with EBS are in the South Slave, Sahtu and Dehcho divisional boards, Yellowknife Education District No. 1 and Yellowknife Catholic Schools. In addition to teams from these boards, we are pleased that the Dogrib and Beaufort-Delta divisional boards also participated in training this week.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud to bring this positive news to the Assembly. Please join me in acknowledging the efforts of these school teams to make the schools in the Northwest Territories safer, happier, more productive and bully-free. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 107-14(6): Water Licence Contribution Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, our communities face a wide range of challenges each and every day and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs strives in a number of different ways to support community governments in dealing with these challenges. To this end, I am very pleased

to advise Members of this Assembly that Municipal and Community Affairs has established a water licence contribution program to provide assistance to community governments that are going through the process of renewing their water licences.

Requirements for water licence applications have become more rigorous and as a result, community governments are challenged to adequately meet them. We are all keenly aware of the importance of safe water sources and systems in the post-Walkerton world. In order to limit liability, land and water boards are seeking greater assurances regarding the safety of the overall system. This, in turn, results in a requirement for specialized expertise including engineering and technical services.

Several communities that are going through the application renewal process have approached the department to seek assistance and support. Although communities are responsible to budget and plan for all aspects of providing municipal services, the new requirements have in some cases caught communities off guard when their planning has been based on outdated expectations. Municipal and Community Affairs have assisted communities on a case-by-case basis and, at the same time, have recognized that this is the shape of things to come. Many community governments will face the same challenges when their licences come up for renewal and they must go through the new application process.

Therefore, through internal departmental reallocations, Municipal and Community Affairs have established the water licence contribution fund. Community governments can apply for financial support in accordance with the eligibility criteria that are outlined in the department's water licence contribution policy. Community governments are eligible to receive funding under this policy during years when their water licences are up for renewal, and there is a requirement for considerable research and technical work needed in order to meet application requirements. In addition, community governments will be able to apply when unforeseen measures are required by a regulatory body in order to comply with licence requirements.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative supports the intent of the draft framework for managing drinking water quality in the Northwest Territories, which has been prepared by the departments of Municipal and Community Affairs, Public Works and Services, Health and Social Services and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that my department is able to provide community government with this additional type of support and I look forward to working with all of our partners to ensure the safety of the water supply for all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 108-14(6): Activities Of The Ministry Of Aboriginal Affairs

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, over the last four years, the Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, has pursued a fast packed and ambitious agenda. I will take this opportunity to highlight the

key achievements during the term of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

The mandate of the ministry is to manage and coordinate the participation of the Government of the Northwest Territories in all lands, resources and self-government negotiations. The ministry is also responsible for negotiating and developing implementation plans and providing strategic advice on aboriginal relations at a territorial and national level.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most symbolic achievements of the Legislative Assembly over the last four years was the implementation of legislation that recognizes the special meaning of National Aboriginal Day for the people of the Northwest Territories and establishes June 21st as a statutory holiday in our territory. The Northwest Territories is the first jurisdiction in Canada to take this step. By passing this legislation, we acknowledge the values, traditions, languages and cultures of the Dene, Metis and Inuvialuit that have helped define who we are as Northerners and residents of this territory.

I believe that the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has maintained this spirit in all its work over the last four years. We have worked closely with aboriginal people and other governments to achieve the vision of the 14th Assembly. We have built mutually respectful and cooperative partnerships with aboriginal governments and we have seen the benefits of investing in these relationships. As well, we have participated in negotiations that resulted in key milestones and sat at several lands, resources and self-government negotiating tables.

Two final agreements and two agreements-in-principle are in place and we have made major progress with negotiations at a number of tables during the last four years. Currently we are negotiating or finalizing agreements with many aboriginal groups. These groups include the Tlicho, the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, the Deline First Nations, the Deh Cho First Nations, the Akaitcho First Nations, the Northwest Territory Metis Nation and the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Denesuline. We have just begun the process of negotiating a self-government agreement with Tulita.

The Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the Government of Canada and the GNWT recently signed the Tlicho agreement in August. We have been working intensely on taking the necessary steps towards implementing the agreement. Mr. Speaker, after almost 10 years of negotiations, this is truly an historic agreement. It is the first combined land claim and self-government modern-day treaty in the NWT. Most recently we have begun the process towards implementation. The Tlicho settlement legislation is currently before this House.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada and the community of Deline signed the Deline self-government agreement-in-principle on August 23rd, setting the stage for final agreement negotiations. This agreement is the foundation for the first self-government agreement in the Northwest Territories at the district level. Mr. Speaker, after seven years of negotiations, this is the second agreement-in-principle completed within the life of this Assembly.

On April 16, 2003, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada and the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit signed the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit self-government agreement-in-principle for the Beaufort-Delta region. As the first standalone regional self-government agreement that combines

the inherent right of two aboriginal peoples towards self-government, this achievement is truly unique.

Mr. Speaker the first final agreement we signed during this Assembly was the Salt River First Nation treaty land entitlement in June 2002. This agreement established the first reserve in the North since the Hay River Reserve. The Salt River First Nation receives over \$83 million and reserve land in and around Fort Smith and in Wood Buffalo National Park.

By working in close cooperation with the Aboriginal Summit, we have taken a step closer to the self-sufficiency and prosperity that the transfer of administration and control of public land and resources will bring to our territory.

Mr. Speaker, a framework for the devolution agreement was initiated in July 2003. This is an important step in the process. It demonstrates the parties' agreement on how negotiations will take place, the scope of the negotiations and the target dates. The framework agreement will serve as a roadmap for negotiations. The next step is an agreement-in-principle and the final stage will be the devolution transfer.

Mr. Speaker, the milestones I have just outlined are the major achievements that the Members of the 14th Assembly can be proud of. I am encouraged by the progress we have made over the term of this Assembly, and I look forward to continued progress in the negotiation and implementation of lands, resources and self-government agreements in the Northwest Territories.

In closing, I would like to commend the staff at the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for their hard work and commitment to achieving the goals set by this Assembly. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 109-14(6): Release Of GNWT Response To "A Vision For The Arts In The NWT"

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to announce that later today I will be tabling the Government of the Northwest Territories response to the recommendations of the NWT Arts Strategy panel, "A Vision for the Arts in the NWT."

Mr. Speaker, art and artistic expression, in all its forms, enriches our lives and our communities. It is an important part of life, not only socially and culturally, but also economically.

Recognizing this, Education, Culture and Employment and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development established an NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel in 2002. Made up of representatives from the private and public sectors, as well as non-governmental organizations, its mandate was to identify needs, current opportunities and gaps in support to the creative arts and cultural industries.

Mr. Speaker, we must acknowledge the care, time and efforts of the advisory panel. This group managed to hold consultations in every region across the territory. In addition, Mr. Speaker, we must acknowledge the dedication and commitment to each of the panel's co-chairs, Suzan Marie and Sonny MacDonald. It was, I believe, their passion for the arts that ensured the panel's success.

In advance of tabling our response, I would like to highlight the seven themes identified in the panels report: stakeholders partnership; communication and resources; programs and services; raw materials and equipment; markets and marketing; education and training; and, infrastructure.

Our response to this report identifies actions, both planned and taken, by the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Those already taken include:

- increased support to the NWT Arts Council by doubling the contribution budget to \$280,000;
- increased funding to the Support to Northern Performers program by doubling the budget for a total of \$71,000;
- the creation of an additional seat on the NWT Arts Council;
- indication of a process to develop a booklet entitled Jobs in Heritage, Culture and the Arts that will provide labour market information to artists seeking opportunities in the arts;
- designation of a headquarters staff person in RWED to focus on arts and crafts development effective September 2003;
- initiated the process to develop an arts merchandising system that will ensure that the art of the territory is recognized for its quality and authenticity; and,
- reviewing resources in preparation for the development of an NWT arts curriculum for kindergarten to Grade 12.

Mr. Speaker, both departments recognize that a lot of work has yet to be done in this area. One of the first steps is the development of a coordinated implementation plan between the two departments.

With the development of a coordinated implementation plan, it is our hope that the already vibrant arts sector in the Northwest Territories can flourish even more through further GNWT action and supports.

Mr. Speaker, the arts will play an increasingly important role in the cultural and economic health of our territory. We are looking forward to being able to further our support and assist artists, craftspeople and the cultural industries as they work in their communities enriching the lives of all residents of the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statements 110-14(6): Minister Absent From The House

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Joe Handley will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the federal/provincial/territorial Finance Ministers meeting in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Education And Training For Northern Resource Development**

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all look around and see all the developments that are happening in the oil and gas sector, the mining sector, the diamond industry and now some \$85 million of federal funding to improve our infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, it's important to realize that the biggest challenge we face in the small communities is just trying to achieve the basic minimums of getting those opportunities and taking advantage of the oil and gas sector jobs or maintenance jobs on our highways. We are now looking at the construction of a pipeline. We have to have the people who meet the requirements and qualifications by way of educational training programs.

Mr. Speaker, one thing we seem to strive for is just try to maintain enough dollars to keep our adult education learning centres open, so people can either take upgrading or programs to improve their education levels so they can take advantage of these training programs.

Mr. Speaker, on the pipeline alone, we are looking at almost 2,500 to 2,800 jobs needed to conclude that major project. Mr. Speaker, in the diamond industry, you are looking at many jobs in the mines, yet we continue to have social and economic projects in our communities because of the standard of living we have in our communities. A lot of it is has to do with literacy and people not having the minimums to take the programs out there to give them the tools to be equipment operators, welders and work in maintenance jobs. As a government, we have to look at ways of using our program dollars with our infrastructure funding that we have to complement the projects that are going to come down the road, so that we have the numbers, we have the people in place to take advantage of those jobs. We are going to need 700 just as heavy equipment operators. Do we have enough bodies out there to fill those jobs? We might not have them today, but in the next three or four years, we could have enough people trained and enough people with their tickets that when this pipeline is built, we have people on the ground to do it.

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

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, as I noted, we need these people trained today, given the opportunity of acquiring their tickets so that when that opportunity is before us we don't hear industry saying sorry, you can't get those jobs, you don't have your people trained, they aren't qualified and we're going to bring in people from the South. We have a real opportunity to take advantage of a pipeline that's going to be built down the Mackenzie Valley by having our people build it, our own people taking advantage of the opportunities and having the people with the skills come from our communities so we don't have to depend on southern labour to do that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment questions on what he's doing to ensure that we have the resources and the dollars in our communities to give these people the training opportunities

they need now for these projects coming down the road. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On NWT Housing Corporation Policy On Rental Arrears

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation listed the achievements made by this department over the past year. It is true that there have been many worthwhile housing projects that have been worked on and that are still in the works.

In terms of my region, housing concerns continue to be the number one issue. With the development of the mines, employment opportunities are opening up. With these jobs, people are earning good money. However, it is not unusual for people to have outstanding arrears.

If a person is in government housing and is working, 25 percent of their gross paycheque goes to their rent. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all Members are aware that there is a big difference between gross wages and take-home pay. With 25 percent of the gross wage gone and with the arrears on top of this, the situation is bleak. A class of people known as the working poor is being created. People can't catch up with their debts. As a government, we need to figure out how to help people who are working and who are able to maintain a home, but do not qualify for housing programs because of their arrears.

One suggestion I would like to put forward is that if a person who is working has earned enough money to maintain a home, we should include their present arrears in their mortgage. By doing this, we don't ignore the debt, but it is a chance for people to unload the burden of bad credit into payments they can manage.

Mr. Speaker, it was only last week that the Premier stated that the economy of the Northwest Territories is the envy of the rest of Canada. Let's make sure that the people in the North benefit from this prosperity. Mr. Speaker, this government can help by making sure that its housing policies support the reality of our new North. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Support For Special Needs In NWT Schools

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to follow on a theme that I started yesterday in the area of Education, Culture and Employment. In the Education Act:

7(1) Every student is entitled to have access to the education program in a regular institutional setting, in a public school or public denominational school in the community in which the student resides.

7(2) An education body shall provide a student with the support services necessary to give effect to subsection (1) in accordance with the direction of the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I raised the concern about special needs and I will continue to do that today. The Minister stated about this government's work in the area of early childhood development to try to help those young children that will be entering our schools. Mr. Speaker, right now we have in our classrooms many problems existing that need to be addressed and we can't wait for more work to be done or for the new crew of children to come in and take over and replace those as they go through the system. For as much effort that we're putting into the early childhood development, we need to do something with those children in the system today.

Mr. Speaker, I've been made aware by a constituent that her child has difficulty in school and needs a special needs assistant. Right now, through the existing funding and resources at the DEC and DEA level, that's just not available because you don't have more than probably three or four per school and that would be on a good day, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this family, to get assistance for their son, would have to send him to another jurisdiction to get the speech therapy that he needs. Then he comes back to the North and what is there? Well, right now, unfortunately, in the community of Inuvik there is no backup or support when somebody does come back home. It's needless to say when we send someone out to a southern jurisdiction for help, it shows how much we're lacking in the Northwest Territories.

I'm glad the Minister, in his Minister's statement, talked about effective behaviour support because this sounds like it might be an area we can investigate further. Based on his statement and my concerns, I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment later. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Yellowknife our emergency shelters for homeless people are full to overflowing. Single men, women and families have nowhere to go. They end up in the streets or in overcrowded shelters.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the Salvation Army receives funding to operate 20 beds for single men, but on any given night there are more than 40 individuals staying in the shelter. These numbers continue to increase.

The Yellowknife Northern Family Resource Centre, which was formerly the Women's Centre, generally accommodates more than twice the number of single women they are funded for. Mr. Speaker, these women are sleeping on couches and mattresses on the floor.

The YWCA operates emergency housing for families and they have a waiting list as long as my arm.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is getting worse and worse. The community agencies involved in helping homeless people are doing their very best. In fact, they are doing way more than should be expected.

In an attempt to keep families together and, quite frankly, to keep people from dying on the streets, they are spending way more than they are given by this government. Last month, the Salvation Army paid to put two homeless families up in a hotel. The government workers had suggested that the mother go to the Women's Centre, the man stay at the Salvation Army shelter and that the kids be put in foster care.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame.

MR. DENT: That's shameful. Rather than see the family split up and the kids put in care, the Salvation Army paid for the hotel out of their own pockets. There's no reimbursement coming from the government for that expense.

Mr. Speaker, it may not cost as much to put kids in care as to put a family in a hotel, but is it the right thing to do? I've heard more than one Minister in this government say that we need to make supporting families a priority, but with actions like this do they really mean it?

Mr. Speaker, we need more flexibility to deal with this crisis situation. The homelessness coalition has tried to get Education, Culture and Employment to change its policy to allow for families to stay in hotels at a discounted rate when there is no alternative. But the policy has not changed and instead of keeping families together and preventing even more trauma, another department of this government is spending money to put children from homeless families in care. We then pay for the cost of putting these families or trying to put these families back together. That's ludicrous.

Mr. Speaker, if the departments would work together, we could probably serve more people without a huge increase in cost.

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

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, in June of this year I asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to meet with the emergency shelter operators to discuss the critical situation they were facing. He said he would be most pleased to meet and thought it would be very worthwhile. Mr. Speaker, it's now the middle of October and no meeting has yet taken place.

Mr. Speaker, shelters are overflowing, children are being put into an already overburdened foster care system, charitable agencies are spending their own money to provide government services and winter is coming. What is it going to take to get some action to make sure someone doesn't die on the streets this year? Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Need For A Health Care Facility On The Hay River Reserve

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services has defined their purpose as follows: "To promote, protect and provide for the health and well-being of the people of the Northwest Territories." From this purpose we can assume that all the

residents of the Northwest Territories can expect a certain level of health care and access to the various services and that all communities can expect a certain level of infrastructure to deliver such services.

Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the 20-year needs assessment I found that the health centre once identified for the Hay River Reserve has been eliminated. I understand and recognize the need for fiscal restraints, however, residents of the Hay River Reserve who require health services are now forced to travel to Hay River to obtain health services. This can be very difficult for many of the residents, especially for the very young children and the elderly, in the case of emergencies.

The addition of a health care facility on the Hay River Reserve will not only provide the residents with timely access to health services, it will provide the community with health care professionals that will be closer to the community, thus creating a greater understanding of community health issues. It will allow for easier distribution of health information and will allow for effective communication with the hospital staff in Hay River. It will also improve community infrastructure and build community capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the need for the health centre is an issue that has been ongoing and one that requires an innovative approach if it is to be realized. An option that has been proposed by the chief of the K'atłodeeche First Nation would result in the band council constructing a building that could be leased back to the Government of the Northwest Territories for use as a health centre. This option would not require a major capital outlay by this government for construction of the building, but only require a lease and operating payment.

Mr. Speaker, the K'atłodeeche First Nation has proved it is willing to look outside the box to seek workable solutions for the benefit of its residents. I urge this government to do the same by making this very important need a reality. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services during question period. 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 Pursuit Of The Traditional Trapping Lifestyle

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this being our second-last day of this session, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our oldest industry in the Northwest Territories, the trapping industry. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the trapping industry is the main reason why the North was built. On November 1st, trappers will go back to their traplines. Throughout the winter, my constituents will be trapping in their traplines. People in Lutselk'e will be travelling into the Barren Lands hunting for caribou, hunting for wolves and wolverines, setting a few traps here and there.

I know, Mr. Speaker, our government, through the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, has done lots to help trappers over the years, and I appreciate and recognize that, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my trappers and the trappers of the Northwest Territories. We have one of the most progressive and best programs in Canada to ensure that our trappers continue to trap. It's another way for people to gain meaningful employment and something for them to do, work their lands, their trap lands so they know what is going on on

the lands, to call their decision to give us an inherent right to land title. Over the years, Mr. Speaker, aboriginal people know their land through this industry. They trap all over the place, and that's the basis of their lands.

So trapping, in my mind, has a lot more to do than just a monetary exercise, but it's an exercise of asserting their political and sovereign rights in their lands which translates into land claims and new relationships with Canada and co-existence within regions such as the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to express the importance of trapping and give it the recognition that it's one of our oldest industries in the Northwest Territories. I encourage the government to continue supporting that industry as it is a very important industry, especially to culture, language and identification of individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish all the trappers good luck and ask them to be careful. It's dangerous work, but have fun with it. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement On Recognition Of The NWT Seniors' Society

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity today to recognize the good work that a number of seniors are doing in the Northwest Territories on behalf of all seniors. They are being excellent advocates and they are the NWT Seniors' Society, Mr. Speaker.

I know this week in the House, Bea Campbell was in attendance. She's the president of the society. Lloyd Bruins is the past-president, and the other directors are Alvin Armstrong, Jim Villeneuve, Helen Gruben, Laura Lennie, the late Bill Lafferty, and Chris Williams. I think they're doing fine work, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of seniors. It's this kind of advocacy work that I think has led to the fact that we now every year celebrate the significant contributions of seniors and elders with an official week proclaimed Senior Citizen's Week. Mr. Speaker, the work and contributions of our seniors is continuing to grow in the North through local seniors' groups and societies, such as the one I've mentioned, and also the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors who are doing a lot of good work in this area, as well, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know if the House is aware, but between 1998 and 2018, it's estimated that there will be a 134 percent increase in the number of NWT seniors. Another note to mention, Mr. Speaker, in September 2004, coming up, our NWT Seniors' Society plans to have teams formed to compete at the Canada Senior Games being held in Whitehorse. Lots of fun events. I think they're hoping to have teams compete in bowling, golf, bridge, horseshoes and darts.

Mr. Speaker, Barb Hood, the executive director of the society, sent me an e-mail and she wished to make sure that we recognized the efforts of Mr. Miltenberger on behalf of seniors. She said that he and his office commissioned a review of seniors' programs and services in 2000-2001, held a number of community consultations and, following that, Mr. Speaker, there was a release of the seniors' action plan that had 28 recommendations. I understand 20 of them have now been

completed and there are ongoing efforts to deal with the rest. They would like to say that with the support they have received they've been linked to the Department of Health and Social Services and many other government departments so that their good work can continue.

So on behalf of the Seniors' Society, I'd like to recognize the work of Mr. Miltenberger. 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 Proposed NWT Sports And Recreation Partnership Council

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition of one aspect of the government's latest proposal to establish a new NWT sport and recreation partners council. Mr. Speaker, this sounds good in title, but in effect, this continues to be the wrong approach to balance small and large community participation in sporting activities. We need to continue to expand programs to small communities, certainly, Mr. Speaker, but these should be done through extra government support and funding to small communities, not at the expense of what has been established in the larger centres, mostly through volunteerism and tax-based, Mr. Speaker. I believe, Mr. Speaker, creating a new layer of bureaucracy will only reduce the money available to those children who really need it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also very concerned about the message that this proposal continues to send to the large volunteer community in Yellowknife and throughout the Territories. All these people, Mr. Speaker, have dedicated their personal time and resources to the NWT sports system for years, and the government's insistence in plying through this proposal is a complete affront to their years of dedication and commitment and hours of service.

Mr. Speaker, look at the tremendous history of volunteer coaches and organizations in Yellowknife and the Territories. From David Sutherland, John Argue, the Dunbars, Dave McCann, the Gilday-Dunbar team, Harry Vivian, the Grafts, Dave Walcer and Dennis Crane, to some of the relative newcomers like Mike Beauregard. The list is endless and they give their hours in the nights and weekends because they care about the kids and they believe in what they do. All of them not only have contributed their time and energy to making Yellowknife a great place for our children, but have all participated in coaching clinics and organizational meetings in and for very small communities. Again, on their own time. Mr. Speaker, the same can be said about many people involved with Sport North.

I'd like to conclude by saying, Mr. Speaker, that MACA and the government would be better off with spending more time, energy and money trying to encourage the development of volunteers and facilities in small communities rather than building another layer of bureaucracy and another board. Mr. Speaker, I have proposed this from the beginning and still do and will continue to do so and I ask the Minister to reconsider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Changes In The Nahendeh Leadership

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Member's statement I'd like to do today as MLA for Nahendeh. I just wanted to say that in my riding I have six communities and I work with the different chiefs and councils that are there. I just wanted to mention that there have been some changes since June since we last met, in my riding, and I just wanted to mention the newly-elected people.

In Fort Simpson, the chief is Keyna Norwegian, and John Tsetso is the sub-chief, with Judy Sabourin, Kevin Menicoche, Maurice Tanche, Hazel Isiah-Tanche, Loyal Letcher, Dennis Nelner and Ethel Lamothe as the council in Liidlii Kue First Nation.

In Fort Liard, in the Acho Dene Koe, Floyd Bertrand is the chief there, elected with Guy Berreault, Charles Bertrand, Joe Bertrand, Stanley Bertrand, Gordon Timbre, and Janna Deneron as the youth delegate.

In the summertime, the Deh Cho leadership also had gone through some leadership elections and I just wanted to mention here for the House, that Herb Norwegian is the grand chief of the Deh Cho First Nation. Herb has been involved with the Deh Cho First Nation government for over 25 years, and has been instrumental in gathering traditional land use and occupancy information from the region. He has been chairing the Land Use Planning Committee in the Deh Cho territory so he has extensive experience in that whole area of land, hunting and being out on the land.

So I just wanted to mention here, Mr. Speaker, that in our work as MLAs we have to work with the First Nations in our respective ridings, and that they truly provide a lot of leadership in the communities and it has been a real pleasure working with them over the years. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 4: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 20-14(6): Final Report On Planning Priorities

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a report from the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the 14th Legislative Assembly, Members set out plans and priorities for the newly formed Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and shared those plans publicly in a tabled document. Midway through the Assembly, Members assessed the progress made against the initial plan and set out the broad direction for the remainder of the Assembly. That report was tabled in June 2001.

This final report sets out the progress we have made toward achieving our goals and reflects on our activities over the life of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is comprised of all 11 regular Members. Its role is to:

1. Review issues which have government-wide implications including the executive offices of the Department of the Executive;
2. Conduct the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
3. Consider the budgets and financial management of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and any other boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any other standing committee; and,
4. Examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the report of the Auditor General.

Vision And Mission

One of our first activities was to set out our vision and develop a mission statement. We set these out as follows:

Our vision is to be responsive and accountable to the public by acting with integrity to contribute to the achievement of the 14th Legislative Assembly's vision.

Our mission will be to take purposeful action to support, question or oppose government initiatives and to hold government accountable; we will also propose that government take action where appropriate and in the public interest.

The committee then set out its priorities, identifying areas in which we planned to take action.

Progress On Committee Priorities

Our first priority was "to advocate for the rights of the public and those needing a voice in dealings with government."

The absence of human rights legislation and the potential for litigation were the driving forces behind the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's actions to advocate for the advancement of human rights legislation, a children's advocate and improved access to information and protection of privacy legislation.

Very early in our mandate the Legislative Assembly adopted Committee Motion 15-14(2), Enactment of Human Rights Legislation, on March 31, 2000. The government responded by introducing human rights legislation that was given third reading by the Legislative Assembly. The legislation is in the process of being implemented now, and the Human Rights Commission should be fully operational by spring.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has not undertaken any significant action to advance the establishment of a children's advocate office, although Members had hoped to see a government proposal to address this issue.

The committee advocated for the rights of the public to a more open and transparent government by reviewing the annual report and recommendations of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner, and presented the Report

on the Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner's Report 1999-2000 in the Legislative Assembly. This marked the first time that a standing committee reviewed this annual report and considered the Commissioner's recommendations, thus setting the stage to have future reports automatically referred to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. In subsequent years, the committee also reviewed the Commissioner's 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 reports. Over the life of this Assembly, the committee has recommended several amendments to the ATIPP legislation. The government has responded positively to many of the recommendations, most recently through Bill 27.

However, Mr. Speaker, Members were disappointed the government did not move more aggressively to extend access to information and privacy protection legislation to NWT municipalities, either by including them in the existing act, or developing separate legislation. Members are also concerned the federal government now has jurisdiction over the collection, storage and use of personal information by the NWT private sector, under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. The committee urged the government to bring forward substantially similar legislation in order to ensure that local privacy issues are addressed by made-in-the-NWT law. Unfortunately the government has declined to take action on this issue.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly consider legislation to address information and privacy issues the committee has identified with respect to municipal governments and the private sector

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would ask the Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden, to continue with the report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Our second priority was "to have a public service that is representative of the population served, that is treated fairly and managed effectively."

Committee Motion 5-14(3), Establishment of a Public Service Commission, was adopted by the Legislative Assembly early in the 14th Assembly as a first step toward fostering a climate of fairness, representativeness, competence, nonpartisanship, efficiency and effectiveness in support of the territorial public service. The Executive Council commissioned the human resources management study, or the Thornton Report, in response to the motion and transmitted the report to committee.

Although the government never formally responded to the recommendations in the Thornton Report, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight reported to the Legislative Assembly on June 12, 2001, with a preliminary Committee Report 4-14(4), which included recommendations for a process to continue to work with the government to attract, develop and maintain a highly professional workforce.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight proposed the establishment of a smaller working group to work with the government to try and advance the key areas of an independent staffing appeals process. While initial discussions appeared promising, with a review of options for an appeals process, the government wrote to committee on April 14, 2003, to say that it was unlikely that any changes to the current appeals process will be introduced in the 14th Assembly.

Members have noted that we do not have a truly representative public service as a result of problems with the affirmative action policy and the lack of employment equity measures on many occasions in the House. The government has not made any significant changes to the existing policy.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is disappointed that there has been so little progress made towards achieving a more representative public service during this Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly consider again whether a public service commission might be the best way to support managers with the tools needed to ensure effective human resource management, and in particular to address employment equity issues that appear to be barriers to a more representative public service.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly, at the very least, move quickly to establish an independent appeals process.

Mr. Speaker, our third priority was “to work toward effective government organization, structure and operations.”

Initially the government was expected to complete a program and functional review concerning departments, boards and agencies to assess the effectiveness and efficiency related to service delivery. Of particular interest were the organization and structure of health and social services boards, education councils, and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. The Cuff Report was commissioned by the Minister of Health and Social Services and reviewed by the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Members questioned the establishment of regional offices and the relocation of public service positions. Despite being offered briefings on regional reorganization by the government, committee Members were eventually told that there was no government-wide undertaking to reorganize. The government did acknowledge, however, that some departments may have realigned their internal structures and resources to more effectively deliver services. While we were continually told this, we could not help but notice that many initiatives, such as creation of the Sahtu health board, appear to be a result of claims settlements and self-government negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, the government has established a Deputy Ministers Task Team to oversee a corporate review and transition plan. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight invited the government to begin discussions on options for departmental restructuring. The government told us that there would be no move for major restructuring during the life of this Assembly. The recommendations will be made to the 15th Legislative Assembly as part of the transition-planning document.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly consider the recommendation for a public service commission, when examining the corporate review of personnel functions as a means to bring together the people and resources involved in ensuring that the public service has an adaptable, diverse and nonpartisan workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn this over to my colleague, Mr. Nitah, to continue with the report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The chair will now recognize the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our fourth priority was “to see a cohesive and current workers' compensation system and governing authorities to meet the changing environment.”

The division of the Territories and outdated legislation dictated the need to review the workers' compensation system over the life of the 14th Assembly. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight advocated for such a review, and the Minister responsible for the board responded by making a commitment to conduct public hearings and prepare appropriate legislation for introduction and passage during the life of this Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight supported the recommendations of the Review Panel as outlined in “Act Now” and urged the government to introduce appropriate legislation. Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, and Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Safety Act, were introduced by the government as phase I of their response to Act Now, and dealt with many of the recommendations contained in the report.

During its review of Bill 23, the committee raised concerns that there may not be adequate protection in legislation for employees who make safety complaints to their employers. The committee would urge the WCB to undertake a review of this issue in order to determine whether further amendments are needed.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly quickly follow up on the remainder of the legislation proposed for phase II.

Our fifth priority was “to develop an energy strategy to address the changing NWT environment and outside influences.”

The committee urged the Executive Council to develop a comprehensive energy strategy, by leading a campaign to call attention to high cost of energy, green house gas emissions and the need for alternative energy options. Committee was successful in having the Legislative Assembly adopt a motion calling for the development of a comprehensive energy strategy. The government responded with the establishment of an Energy Secretariat in June of 2001 and the announcement of a special advisor to the premier to head up the secretariat.

While committee supported the need for a strategy, the recently released energy strategy is disappointing and appears to contain nothing more than “motherhood and apple pie” recommendations. There are no practical options proposed to address the major issues originally identified by committee.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight remains generally supportive of the government's exploration of hydroelectric potential both as an alternative to fossil fuel consumption and as a revenue source.

Our sixth priority was “to see a strategy for sharing control of resources including non-renewable resource development, and environmental impacts and liabilities of development.”

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has been supportive of the government's work with the Aboriginal Summit through the Intergovernmental Forum and is on record as supporting the government in negotiations for a devolution agreement. Committee named two representatives to attend the Intergovernmental Forum political meetings as observers and to report progress to Members. In addition, the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs has provided regular briefings to committee.

While the cooperation of the Aboriginal Summit and the Government of the Northwest Territories is encouraging, Members are unsure of how much progress has actually been made toward negotiating an adequate resource revenue-sharing agreement. Given our fiscal outlook, this is a crucial area in which we need to see advances.

Our seventh priority was "to develop a diversified long-term fiscal outlook for the GNWT."

Committee worked with the Minister of Finance and Cabinet in supporting the development proposal related to non-renewable resources in the NWT to the Government of Canada. Representatives have lobbied to heighten awareness of the northern funding issues. We were heartened by last weekend's announcements that significant parts of the plan would see federal funding over the next few years.

As the Minister of Finance has kept reminding us of the approach of the debt wall, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has played a watchdog role and has consistently advised the government to adopt a prudent approach to fiscal management. Unfortunately, Members of the committee have limited impact on the spending priorities of the government.

Our eighth priority was "to advocate for adequate housing for residents."

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight acknowledged the lead role of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, but continued to lend support to advocate for adequate and affordable housing for NWT residents. In 2001, committee strongly urged the government to re-examine proposed new initiatives and find a way to invest at least \$2 million to \$3 million in additional housing programs.

The committee followed up with a theme day in 2002 and presented a committee report on adequate, affordable and suitable housing for residents of the Northwest Territories.

The government responded by announcing in the 2003-2004 Budget Address \$1.7 million in each of the next three years in additional grant and contribution funding for specific communities to provide for new housing and renovations to existing housing.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleague, Mr. Roland, continue with the report. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The chair will now recognize the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our ninth priority was harmonization.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight supported the initial objective of the harmonization strategy to assess income in the same manner in all NWT departments

and agencies. However, Members became concerned when issues were raised during implementation that the process was not perceived to be fair to all affected parties. Consequently, a motion to establish a working group of 14th Assembly regular Members and Ministers to review the harmonization strategy was adopted by the Legislative Assembly with a deadline for implementation of April 2004.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight would like to remind the 15th Legislative Assembly that a deadline of April 2004 was set for the implementation of the harmonization strategy.

Our tenth priority was "to advocate for reduced cost of living for residents."

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight continued to advocate for reduced living costs for northern residents by discouraging increases to fees and taxes that would add a burden to northern residents, and by supporting amendments to the Income Tax Act to benefit both individuals and northern businesses by:

- Supporting amendments to the Income Tax Act to increase the deductions and credits and a minimum cost of living tax credit for individuals.
- Supported amendments to the Income Tax Act to reduce the general corporate income tax rate and the small business income tax rate.

Our eleventh priority was "to support the development of prevention measures and promote awareness of the detrimental effects of FAS/FAE."

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight took the lead to organize a theme day to raise awareness about what is now called Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. All committee Members spoke on the issue, as did many Cabinet Ministers.

Other Activities

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight tackled several other issues as they arose and urged the government to take appropriate action. Here are a few of the highlights of these activities:

- Committee worked with the Minister of Finance and Cabinet in supporting the corridors for Canada - roads to resources economic proposal to the government of Canada to heighten awareness of the northern funding issues.
- Committee supported the efforts of the northern Premiers in lobbying for a new funding arrangement for health care in the territories. Additional funding was promised the three northern territories. Canada also agreed to examine the issue of per capita program funding with an eye to accommodating our relatively small population, and the resulting tiny allocations for northern jurisdictions that usually leads to.
- The government attempted to implement major changes to the Business Incentive Policy. Committee argued that the proposed changes were being implemented without the benefit of knowing the costs and benefits of the existing program. The government nonetheless proceeded to announce it would implement the revised

policy effective October 15, 2003. Following a motion in the House supported unanimously by committee Members, the government agreed to keep the existing policy and continue implementing a contract registry and reporting system which will eventually provide data for a cost-benefit analysis.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly review carefully the cost and benefits of the existing business incentive policy before considering any changes.

Oversight And Review Of Public Accounts

The public accounts are the audited consolidated financial statements of the government. The accounts summarize the financial figures of all departments and territorial corporations and give a full picture of the government's financial transactions and its financial position as at March 31st of any given year. The tabling of the public accounts prior to the business plan review is useful to standing committees as Members can compare expenditures with the original budget plans for the year.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for 1999 stated that:

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and the Auditor General noted that the government's public accounts and most of our territorial corporations' annual reports are rarely tabled in a timely manner. The public and Members of the Legislative Assembly have a need for timely, accurate and relevant information on the financial condition of the government, so they can effectively hold the government accountable for the way in which it manages and spends public money.

In light of these significant reporting and tabling issues, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, in consultation with the Auditor General's office, recommended that the tabling of the public accounts occur earlier in a phased approach with 2002-2003 and all subsequent accounts being ready for tabling no later than August 31st of the same year.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is pleased to note that both the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 public accounts were tabled in accordance with the agreed upon timeframe.

Conduct The Overview Of The Budget And The Fiscal Framework

This role is intended to improve the business planning and expenditure management information provided to the Legislative Assembly.

During the review of the 2002-2003 business plans and main estimates, committee highlighted the following concerns:

- Recommended that the funding for the Living History Project be removed from the 2002-2003 main estimates and brought forward as a supplementary appropriation if the expenditure could be justified within the appropriate department.
- Expressed concern about the new capital planning process and asked the government to come forward with revisions.

- Recommended the removal of the Energy Secretariat from FMBS to RWED.
- Expressed concern about the placement of the social agenda in the Executive with the lead role being assigned to the Department of Health and Social Services.

Review of 2003-2004 business plans and main estimates

- Recommended a complete review and overhaul of the new capital planning process, taking all Members concerns into consideration.
- Recommended the removal of proposed capital spending pending full justification.
- Motion to amend clause 3(2) of Bill 3 by deleting \$149,000 from the capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, I request now that the chairman of the accountability and oversight committee complete the report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The chair will now recognize the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Other Matters

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From time to time matters of government-wide interest arise. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight dealt with the following items:

Fiscal Strategy Review

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has consistently urged the government to adopt a fiscal strategy that is responsible and that keeps the government well within the \$300 million debt limit. In addition, the committee urged the chairman of the Financial Management Board to adopt a more stringent approach to forced growth and to tighten up the use of special warrants. The government responded by amending the Financial Administration Manual guidelines dealing with special warrants.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight advised the government that Members might be prepared to consider changes to the payroll tax, as long as it coincided with an offsetting increase to the northern resident's deduction. Committee suggested the government prepare a discussion paper for consideration. The government has not responded with a discussion paper.

Income Assistance And Impact Benefit Agreement Income

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommended that the income support regulations be amended to allow compensation payments, including impact benefit agreement payments to be exempt from assessment as income under the income support program. Noting that the majority of jurisdictions allow some form of exemption for compensation payments for victims of crime, committee suggested that the government consider an upper limit on the amount of the payment that is exempt annually. The Minister argued that the issue was a complicated one and asked the working group on harmonization be asked to review the issues prior to recommending any changes to the income exemption policy.

Mr. Speaker, the committee could see no reason for the issue to be referred to the harmonization working group and again

urged the Minister to revise his position and allow NWT residents to retain compensation from companies now using their lands.

Given the amount of time devoted to discussion and correspondence on this topic, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly move quickly to resolve this issue.

Consultation On Major Initiatives

On several occasions the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight was frustrated when the government announced major initiatives without a process that included consultation with committee. When this happened, the committee generally wrote the Premier, pointing out the oversight. Invariably, the Premier would write back promising to work more closely with committees, and to try to avoid similar incidents again. However, it seemed that in a few months we would come up against a similar situation.

Of course the repetitive nature of this lack of consultation led to more and more frustration, and a growing sense the government was not sincere in its approach to consensus government. We finally set up a process whereby the Premier met with committee on a monthly basis. While this improved the level of communication between the government and committee, there were still occasions Members felt the government moved ahead on initiatives or legislation before adequate consultation had taken place.

Mr. Speaker, Members feel that one way the communication and consultation process could be improved would be to strengthen the protocol for policy proposals to be referred to standing committees similar to the process in place for legislative proposals. Members of the 15th Assembly may want to discuss the establishment of a protocol that would ensure committees have input into policy initiatives in their early stages before significant departmental resources are committed to their development.

Ministers' Travel And Absences During Session

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight wrote to obtain clarification on Cabinet's policy regarding Ministers being in the House during sitting hours. Members noted that it is important for Ministers to be present for Members' questions during question period. Committee also noted that it was the practice of previous governments that no more than one Minister will ever be absent on a day that the House is sitting, and then only for federal/provincial/territorial or provincial/territorial ministerial meetings. The Premier confirmed that the Cabinet policy for the 14th Legislative Assembly carried on the practice of no more than one Minister being absent on a day that the House is sitting and advised all Ministers to be present during question period.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the 15th Legislative Assembly continue the current practice of ensuring that no more than one Minister will ever be absent on a day that the House is sitting, and then only for federal/provincial/territorial or provincial/territorial ministerial meetings.

Theme Days

Committee Members continued the practice of "theme days" as a way of working together to publicize, heighten awareness, and bring focus to issues of public concern. During the time

allotted for Member's statements and during question period, Members would focus on a particular issue. The rules of the Legislative Assembly allow a period of time for Members of the Legislative Assembly to make a two-and-one-half minute statement on any matter.

Question period is typically one of the most publicized parts of the Assembly's proceedings and it provides an opportunity for Members of the Legislative Assembly to call attention to public issues. During question period Members ask Ministers questions about government activity in order to seek out information. The responses are a way of making information about the government's activities public.

Mr. Speaker, Members prepared several theme days on important public issues, including: medical travel, affordable housing, the corporate capital planning process, and board governance.

In March 2002, Members raised concerns respecting the application of various aspects of the medical travel policy, including eligibility, provision and level of benefits on medical travel, intercommunity transportation, escorts, patient boarding and local transportation of indigent patients.

Mr. Speaker, Members are encouraged by the government's recent announcement in June 2003 of interim changes to the medical travel policy to assist residents who do not have third-party insurance coverage. The provisions for removal of the co-payment for families with incomes less than \$80,000 and meals and accommodation assistance is a good first step to ensuring that all northern residents have access to appropriate medical treatment.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, as this Assembly approaches dissolution, Members believe the standing committee has lived up to its mandate by contributing to the achievement of the 14th Assembly vision in several key areas. We feel we have added value to legislative and policy initiatives, and by demanding more accountable and transparent government.

Sometimes committee lent support to government actions, sometimes we questioned or opposed government action, and sometimes we demanded action where we saw none or not enough. In all, Members believe the committee's role has been constructive; that our work has made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure and an honour for Members to serve the people of the Northwest Territories over the last four years. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight now wishes the 15th Assembly success in developing and achieving its own vision for better government and a better and more vibrant Northwest Territories.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 20-14(6), Carried

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight final report on plans and priorities. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Committee Report 20-14(6) be received by the Assembly and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. We have a motion. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Is the House ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Committee Report 20-14(6) is received by the Assembly and adopted. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 5: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 395-14(6): NWT Sport, Recreation And Physical Activity System

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Ms. Sandy Lee on October 7, 2003, regarding the Northwest Territories sport, recreation and physical activity system.

On June 10, 2003, I met with Mr. Abe Theil, the president of Sport North, and Mr. Doug Rentmeister, Sport North's executive director, to discuss the concerns that were raised by their membership during the Sport North annual general meeting held May 23 to 25, 2003.

Mr. Theil indicated that the primary concerns raised by Sport North members included the following:

- The cost of implementing the proposed Northwest Territories recreation and sport board, and the concern that it may take resources away from programs;
- The addition of an extra layer of governance to the system;
- The future role for Sport North in the system;
- The process for selecting the representation on the new board;
- The consultation process used to develop the recommendation on the establishment of the new board. Sport North members were specifically concerned about the lack of available information on the resources that are available for communities and sport and recreation partners;
- The important role of volunteers and volunteer burnout and frustration; and,
- The government's commitment to supporting sport and recreation.

At the meeting, I was able to respond directly to a number of Mr. Theil's concerns:

- I provided a breakdown of funds that are currently spent by all sport and recreation partners in the Northwest Territories on administration, and indicated that rather than taking money away from programs, combining resources should help free up funding to reallocate to programs.
- I clarified that the intent of the proposed changes was not to add a layer of governance, but rather to provide a forum for sport and recreation partners to share resources and programs.

- I clarified that there is no intent to replace Sport North or any other partner, but rather to create the opportunity to allow them to work more closely together to achieve common goals. I offered to consider a mechanism to ensure the protection of existing organizations within the new body.
- I reminded Mr. Theil that Sport North was an active participant in developing the recommendation for the creation of the new board, and was a signatory to the report that was submitted to me in March 2003.
- I assured Mr. Theil that the department appreciates the important role that volunteers play in the sport and recreation system, as evidenced by our lead on the development of a volunteer support initiative.
- I advised Mr. Theil that the department's plans to introduce changes to the Western Canada Lottery Act regulations were designed in part to generate more revenue to support the sport and recreation system.

As a result of this meeting, Sport North agreed to continue to participate in the interim coordinating team process that was set up by the sport and recreation partners to finalize the design for the new board, and to work towards solutions to the issues identified by its membership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the visitors' gallery and the presence of a former member for the Mackenzie Delta, former Speaker Mr. Richard Nerysoo.

---Applause

As well, colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the visitors' gallery of the former Member for North Slave, Mr. James Rabesca.

---Applause

Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Richard Nerysoo. He's the elected chief for the Inuvik Native Band. Minister Handley asked me, in his absence, to recognize Major Karen Hoefft on his behalf. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to recognize Richard Nerysoo, the chief of the Nihtat Gwich'in Band in Inuvik, also the president of the NWT Power Corporation and former president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Welcome, Richard.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Too bad I only get 30 seconds. I can't name them all. I would like to recognize my family: my mother, Margaret Lafferty; my partner, Cecilia Desjardins; my daughter, Tara Lee Lafferty; and all my constituents, aboriginal leaders from the North Slave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: They are most welcome indeed. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to...

---Laughter

I would like to recognize...Jack...

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Jack Van Camp.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: It will show up in Hansard properly. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the former chief of Dettah and former teammate with the Dettah Chiefs, Chief Richard Edjericon.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often I have members of my family here. I would like to recognize my son Denezeh, who works for the Native Communications Society. He works on CKLB. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Colleagues, I would also like to welcome my brother, Mark.

---Applause

Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we got some great news in terms of funding that we weren't expecting from the federal government dealing with infrastructure in our communities. The Minister is involved with the Minister of the Department of Transportation on main street paving. Do you have a schedule? In light of the new funding that we see, are we going to see an accelerated pace of main street paving to control the dust in our non-tax-based communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the summer, I had meetings with the Secretary of State for Rural Development and infrastructure, Andy Mitchell, and one of the things we asked for consideration of was for main street paving in communities as a form of dust control. It was believed that it was one of the programs that would be funded under this program. So although we haven't decided yet and we haven't really met formally with Indian Affairs, who I understand are going to be administering the funding and we also haven't met formally with all the communities on this, we believe that this is one of the high priorities for this funding. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the government feels this is a high priority because it certainly is a high priority for people in the communities who have to breathe in the dust day after day during the summer months. They are having a hard time keeping their houses clean. I would like to ask the Minister when they will meet with the federal government to determine if this is a priority for them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any scheduled meeting dates with the department and Indian Affairs at this point in time, so I can't respond to the Member, but I can assure him that it is one of the things the department has put on high priority, so that we have some kind of agreement on what can be funded this year and how much money is available this year, so we can start to see where this fits into the business plans.

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

Supplementary To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that during the current Assembly we will not be going through another business plan session, I would like to ask the Minister if he would put it as part of his transition document for the next government to review to make sure the next government and the bureaucracy of the next government clearly understands the urgency of this matter for the people in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has a good suggestion and we will certainly take that forward.

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

Supplementary To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the community of Fort Resolution is currently doing road upgrades so they can see chip sealing done next summer, but the community of Lutselk'e has not been contacted at all. One of the greatest concerns that was brought to my attention as their MLA is the dust levels of the community. Would the Minister ensure that Lutselk'e is mentioned in that transition document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 412-14(6): Main Street Paving For Dust Control

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I look forward to the day when I won't have to be the one considering this anymore and the project is complete, but I will certainly take note of the Member's concerns. There is no doubt he's been speaking loudly and clearly to this particular issue and I will continue to pass it on to my department as a high priority.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my presentation, there's some 810 jobs that are going to be available in the pre-preparation stage that is prior to the construction of the pipeline. Mr. Speaker, that's a lot of jobs, especially for people in our small communities who may be unemployed or looking for an opportunity to get out of the government handouts, which is income support. I think this is a perfect opportunity for this government to change the lives of people in our communities and make our communities a better place to live with people really having some opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, since the mandate of his department is to access quality programs and services and make them available so people who want to make positive choices and their families are able to get education, training, careers, employment opportunities, child development, language, culture and heritage. One of the fundamental points that the Minister and his department are responsible for is assisting individuals to meet their basic financial needs. What is your department doing to ensure we take advantage of the opportunities in our regions right now by way of training programs?

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

Return To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member brings forward a very good point that's been on our table for the past three years to look at opportunities for our residents and they are extensive, Mr. Speaker. So for the past three

years, Mr. Speaker, we have been working diligently and with the support of the Members from the other side, we have been able to identify programs where we can access further funding. Mr. Speaker, as an example in 2002-2003, some 600 people accessed support to do training in the oil and gas sector. We are spending approximately \$1 million a year in that particular end amongst many other programs that are available, Mr. Speaker, our human resource development plans for involving our northern people in the oil and gas sector. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, a lot of these opportunities require a trade and as we all know, in order to get into the trades, you have to commit yourself to three or four years of education to take the courses you need to be a plumber, mechanic, a pipe-fitter. Those are the jobs that are really going to be needed when the construction of the pipeline takes place. I would like to ask the Minister exactly where are we going in the trades area to ensure people in our communities have the education and the quality of education so that they can meet the practical requirements to get into the trades area?

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

Further Return To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been many programs initiated by this government. We have the literacy strategy to help people who are caught behind in their capabilities, to make them more literate. So that's been a very effective strategy that we've introduced. Additionally we have been working in the apprenticeship area to look at the possibility of providing individuals with more training to write the pre-apprenticeship exams, and that has been developed, Mr. Speaker, so there are a multitude of areas. Additionally we have made application previously to the federal government, Mr. Speaker, for funding support. That was done through the Northwest Territories industrial mining skills strategy and the oil and gas industrial skills strategy. Both programs will probably total approximately...It's \$20 million in support we're seeking from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I made reference to a petition that I tabled in this House last week from the students of Aklavik regarding the Hope and Alex Gordon Learning Centre, in which they're asking for financial assistance from this government just to get into the learning centre so they can take programs such as upgrading and meet their achievements so that they can get into the different trades areas. I would like to ask the Minister, have you had an opportunity to look at that request and what are you going to do to assist with learning centres in our communities so people can realistically take some courses so that they can take advantage of these programs?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Two questions there. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any support beyond the programs that we have available, Mr. Speaker, would require additional resources, additional funding. Of course, that's where we're very pleased to hear the announcement last week by the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew in Inuvik on the aboriginal skill development training program. That offers an opportunity for us to access that particular funding, Mr. Speaker. Also for students who are in adult education type programs, we are looking at the possibility of them accessing the university/college entrance preparation program. That would provide them with some funding for two semesters to be able to upgrade themselves to enter higher education programs, Mr. Speaker. Then, of course, for those who are on income support, they can access that program along with their educational levels. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll try this again. Could the Minister tell me in plain English how much money is going to go to the Aklavik Learning Centre so these students can take advantage of their education requirements by way of having a curriculum program delivered in Aklavik?

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

Further Return To Question 413-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what kind of funding is presently allocated to operate the Aklavik Adult Education Centre. I could find out for the Member, if that's the question as to how it is being allocated at the present time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 414-14(6): Community Health Centre

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I hope he can respond. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I made a statement that we had been expecting a health centre for the Hay River Reserve for a number of years now. It was in the 20-year needs assessment. Since my election, we have watched every year as it moved up, and this year we were expecting to have the project in place. However, when it went to the powers that be who decide whether this project would move forward, the health centre disappeared off the radar screen. We had already made a commitment, I believe, with the community and we had met with the community and indicated to them that there were dollars available for a health centre for this coming year, but now that's not the case. I would like to ask the Minister if he could tell me why the project was eliminated from the capital program. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 414-14(6): Community Health Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice so I don't put people through this needlessly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister has said that he will take the question as notice. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in line with my Member's statement yesterday and today on the area of schooling and special needs for students. In light of the Minister's statement on effective behaviour support, it talks about going ahead, about 90 percent of students respond well to this program, others need additional help and support. They've done some of this work in a number of places, as well as some training. I would like to know if this is an area that would help parents, like the one I mentioned in my Member's statement where their child is in need of support but can't get it in the communities and, unfortunately, the response they get is to send the child out of the community. So would something like his Minister's statement be used in that area? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The effective behaviour support program is dedicated to assisting teachers to develop methodologies by which they can assist students with behavioural problems and to address those in the classrooms as well as in the hallways and the yard. So it's not the type of program whereby the support could be provided for the specific case I believe that the Member is referring to. That is done through the student support initiative we have, Mr. Speaker, whereby we fund it. We used to fund approximately eight percent to schools, and since the year 2000 we've increased that every year to 15 percent of school funding. So there has been an increase to address issues such as Mr. Roland has mentioned. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Education Act it states that the education body will provide students with the support services necessary to give effect to subsection (1) in accordance with the direction of the Minister. Can the Minister tell us has he worked with the Department of Health and Social Services to try to address the situation we have in schools where special needs are a growing concern? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may have taken place, Mr. Speaker, at the officials level where there is a working relationship. Mr. Speaker, as I say, the process that we followed here on a policy base has been to increase the funding available for schools, and we do that, of course, through a formula to all jurisdictions. In the case of Inuvik, it would be to the Beaufort-Delta District Education Authority. They, in turn, would allocate funding for this money into the specific areas of need. The specific requirement of this student may have to be addressed by me with a question to the board itself to see whether they have addressed the need of this particular student and how we can address it, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister say that he's meeting the intent of the act when a parent has to send their children out of our jurisdiction to get support, then have to return? Does he feel he's meeting the intent of the act? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know the circumstance of the particular individual the Member is speaking about, so I would have to have the details of that before I could comment in return as to whether all of our requirements are being appropriately met. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister stated in a previous response to my questions that they've increased the support services area for district education councils. Can he inform us if that money does go to special needs or to support assistants in classrooms, or can district education councils and authorities use that funding for other things where they fall short of funding? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 415-14(6): Support For Special Needs In NWT Classrooms

HON. JAKE OOTES: My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that it is to be dedicated in the area of student support needs. There are a variety of methodologies of using that money, but it is to be in the student support needs area, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't dare try and ask the Minister of Health and Social Services any questions. I'll ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The Minister said in June that he'd meet with operators of the three emergency shelters in Yellowknife. Can he advise the House whether or not that meeting has taken place?

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

Return To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, throughout my three years in this office I've always tried to do my best to conduct meetings as requested with various agencies, and I think I've met it most of the time, Mr. Speaker. When this request came through -- and I remember the request from the honourable Member now that he brings it to our attention -- my executive assistant did coordinate with his C.A., I believe, Sahara, and they tried to find dates to hold this meeting. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, they were not able to, and then the holiday time came upon us and it fell by the wayside after that, Mr. Speaker. I should mention here, I checked with the department and we did not get a request or a reminder from any of the agencies, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would take a commitment in this House to mean that the Minister doesn't need to be hounded to follow up on it. So I'm disappointed that the meeting has not yet taken place. Will the Minister commit to meet with the emergency shelter operators in Yellowknife within the next seven days?

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

Further Return To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it should be remembered that our particular responsibility of this program lies in the area of income support. When clients require accommodation for income support, then we do our best to refer them to the appropriate locations, like the Salvation Army. In the event they're full, then we try to make alternate arrangements. Other homeless people, Mr. Speaker, are the responsibility of the Housing Corporation, and there is a Minister responsible for homelessness. With respect to the request for the meeting, I would be pleased to meet with the organizations, providing we can coordinate together and include the Minister responsible for homelessness, because I think that's very important to ensure that he also is present. I can't answer a lot of these questions without that Minister being present, and that requires coordination, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is right that it requires the coordination of more than one Minister, it also requires the coordination of the Minister of Health and Social Services so we don't wind up with Health and Social Services paying for kids who may be in care because their parents can't find a place to stay. Will the Minister try and coordinate that meeting within the next seven days that includes the other two Ministers?

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

Further Return To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

HON. JAKE OOTES: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we'll certainly undertake to do that and we'll coordinate that together. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important, too, to make sure that the Minister is prepared coming into this. Recognizing that we have a significant number of people who are homeless, most of whom would qualify for income support, that he's going to have to be prepared to look at this with an open mind. Will the Minister commit that when he holds this meeting, that he will bring his deputy and make sure that he has his business plan hat with him?

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

Further Return To Question 416-14(6): Need For Emergency Shelters In Yellowknife

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we always are prepared to look at our availability to do things. Naturally we have to live within the policies and the mandate that we've been given. So I have to ensure that whatever we do is within the policies and not outside of that. As I said, we have responsibility for the income support program, and those are the clients that we can certainly look at, Mr. Speaker. I will bring my deputy minister, or certainly an appropriate representative that has true familiarity with all the issues in this. We also have a permanent member on the Yellowknife Homeless Coalition, Mr. Speaker, as a resource person on an ongoing basis when they meet. Thank you.

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

Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the honourable Roger Allen, Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. In my Member's statement and in committee meetings we have held in the past, I have mentioned that there are many people who are earning a good income. They're able to maintain a home on their own,

but they don't qualify for these programs because of the arrears they have. I would like to ask the Minister, would he be willing to make changes to the housing policies so that persons with arrears could be rolled into their mortgage and they would be able to take advantage of some of the programs that he is initiating? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I replied yesterday to a similar question, I stated that we would look for new efficiencies in the service delivery of our programs. Obviously we want to implement some new progressive changes in the way we do address through the affordable housing strategy, and a number of them are under consideration at the time and I will continue to pursue new initiatives and new strategies to try to revise some of our existing policies that will address some of the key concerns the Member raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As everyone knows, the life of this Assembly is dwindling and it's going to be coming to an end pretty soon. I would like to ask the Minister if he's going on the new initiative that he can make sure that it's in the transition document for the next Assembly when they come into existence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I confirmed a little earlier, it's work in progress. We will continue to pursue that in terms of policy change or in addition to the policy. We will review that very clearly, and certainly we need to look at statistical data to confirm that and I will undertake that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the other things that affect how people qualify for their program is this 25 percent of the gross wages, and everyone knows that that's a substantial amount of money that they have to put forward. I would like to ask the Minister if he could make sure that this is one of the things that he does and puts it forward so it can be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly under the social housing agreement we'll have to look at that very closely, as well. We need to look at the income levels as well as how it factors into the overall policy initiative, and I will certainly do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also know that sometimes when housing is unable to take records of the income of the people, so what they use is their last year's tax deductions and statements and are assessing people on it. Sometimes people are not employed in the current year, so sometimes they accumulate arrears although it's not a fault of theirs. Could the Minister look at finding new ways of assessing income? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 417-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Policies On Rental Arrears

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we understand very clearly that arrears are a contentious issue in all communities. We recognize that throughout our visitation to the communities. We will go on a case-by-case basis work with those individuals who want to move into home ownership programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I had questions for him yesterday, and unfortunately I ran out of time. But I had real concerns with his last answer about Yellowknife graduation rates and the fact that we recognize that there's a trend and that they are declining. I'd like to ask the Minister if he's had a look and can tell us why these rates seem to be declining. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, the statistics that I have indicate that the graduation rates for Yellowknife in 1999 were 170; in 2000 were 165; in 2001 were 155; and in 2002 were 149. We're analyzing the enrollments and student results for grades 10 to 12 to see what's happening on that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So four years of decline, we're analyzing the results. Can the Minister tell us what he's come up with in this analysis? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

HON. JAKE OOTES: No, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any results of that yet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

MR. BELL: Thank you. Well, Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs have been concerned that our student support budgets -- and you heard Mr. Roland speak of that today -- have not been increasing quickly enough to keep up with the special needs in the classroom. Would the Minister acknowledge that this could be one cause of the declining rates? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point I can't relate that to this, Mr. Speaker. I would have to do a lot more checking on information before I could address that particular question. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I think we're all looking very hard for answers here, and it's disheartening to hear that the ministry has none yet. I'm wondering if the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment can tell this House when he reports back with his findings on the declining graduation rates? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 418-14(6): Declining High School Graduation Rates

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it will likely take a number of weeks before we could put some substantive information together that would clearly outline what is happening and why things are happening. We know it is happening; we have that information. But why that is happening may be subject to a number of factors, Mr. Speaker. It may be the enrollment has been declining in certain grades. Just looking at the number of students and community types here, for Grade 12, 1999 was 290 and in 2002 it's 220. We need to analyze what is happening there, Mr. Speaker. On the

positive side, as I say, we have increased enrollments and increased graduation rates in the communities and by aboriginal students. Thank you.

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

Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Justice and it's in regard to the meeting he had with the federal Minister of Justice, Martin Cochon. Mr. Speaker, I read with a great deal of interest the press release that he made public on September 26th announcing the content of the meeting. There were references to two issues, one being the firearms law and the other being the legal aid. So I would like to know from the Minister what was discussed at the meeting and does he have anything to report about any additional funding for legal aid? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Return To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I wanted to report that it was a very productive meeting and very cordial, as well. We discussed, as I expressed to many colleagues across the Northwest Territories, to convey the importance of the firearms legislation in the context of prosecution. With that we got a commitment from the federal Minister that we would not purposely prosecute individuals except on a case-by-case basis, but would ask the public to comply with the law because it's a federal piece of legislation.

Secondly, I would acknowledge the support the federal Minister has given us in the past for legal aid across the Northwest Territories. He committed to continuing to support us, contingent upon Treasury Board decisions. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister for more specific information as to what this government's position is in regard to legal aid? Is there a specific dollar amount that this government is asking for from the federal government? Is there a plan of action, like the one that we saw in quarters of the Northwest Territories that got us some money from the federal government? I'd like to know more detail about what this government is asking from the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the specific details. We do have a representative from the department on the Legal Services Board of the NWT and through their administration they will factor in a budget; also, additional financial requirements on an annual basis. From that

perspective, I gather the new government will be faced with trying to support that additional requirement. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't want to make the obvious point that we have a lack of funding in legal aid services and that I just assumed that the government must have been asking for more money from the federal government. The Minister just indicated that he's waiting for the decision of the Treasury Board, which I'm assuming is about money. I would like to know, did we ask for money and, if so, how much did we ask for? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Justice, two questions there, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to my meeting with the Justice Minister, no, we did not discuss specific dollar amounts. It was a matter of making the Minister aware that we required additional federal funding to support legal aid in the Northwest Territories. As customary with other Ministers, we conveyed that to the federal Minister and hopefully he will be able to get the support of the Treasury Board to continue to support our needs. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just on that note about the Minister waiting to hear from the federal Minister and Treasury Board decision, could the Minister give any dates as to when he would expect an answer from the federal government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 419-14(6): Meeting With Federal Justice Minister Cochon

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had our officials attend the federal/provincial/territorial First Ministers meetings in Quebec and I haven't received the results back as to what the content of the discussions were. I'll ensure that as soon as I receive them that I'll share them with the Member. Thank you.

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

Question 420-14(6): Sale Of Property Proceeds To The Homeless Coalition

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question this afternoon is for Mr. Allen, Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. A few weeks ago in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, a decision was made by the Housing Corporation to potentially put a property up for sale and contribute the proceeds to the Homelessness Coalition in order

that they might secure a proper facility for a homelessness facility for men. My question is, Mr. Speaker, is the Housing Corporation taking immediate action to make this transaction and move the funds over to the Homelessness Coalition? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Return To Question 420-14(6): Sale Of Property Proceeds To The Homeless Coalition

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can just make a correction to that. It's the Minister responsible for the homeless that's the proponent to this letter and I want to assure the Member that, yes, we are continuing to work with the various advocacy groups and also the coalition to speed up the process. Hopefully it's being done as we speak. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 420-14(6): Sale Of Property Proceeds To The Homeless Coalition

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good news. The information I was looking for was to ensure that, indeed, this process is possible and to get some urgency on this. Will the Minister be able to advise the MLAs and the coalition of exactly when it is this house may be put up for sale? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 420-14(6): Sale Of Property Proceeds To The Homeless Coalition

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did send a letter to the proponent and assured him that our commitment will be fulfilled to that obligation and I can assure the Member that I did send out a letter under my signature indicating that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine. It's in regard to my line of questioning towards the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. As I stated earlier, between the two phases of construction, we're looking at the preconstruction phase where you're looking at some 810 jobs from access road construction to camps and catering. With construction of the pipeline we're looking at almost 2,700 jobs. Together, that's 3,500 jobs that will be created in the Mackenzie Valley.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I feel that we have to inject more dollars into the education and training field knowing that we've had programs in the past, called maximizing northern employment, where we expended some \$15 million. We've had agreements in place with the diamond companies by way of social and economic benefit agreements. I'd like to ask the Minister, are we looking at a similar arrangement so we can take advantage

of these 3,500 jobs that are going to be generated by the construction of the pipeline?

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

Return To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline preparation, there has been a lot of work done by this government in cooperation with DIAND's pipeline readiness office. Of course we are very concerned about it. Our objective here is trying to maximize the long-term benefits out of any resource development, including the pipeline. Our message has been consistently clear with the producers in the oil and gas pipeline companies.

To that end, we've been having workshops with our deputy ministers of all the departments. The objective is to work on an effective cooperative model to clearly define what kind of proactive actions it would take and respond to this Mackenzie Valley pipeline. There are a lot of things going on, a lot of work going into the whole project. We're beginning to know what it's going to take to build this pipeline in terms of the jobs and different business opportunities there. Our work in government is to try to find out what all these different possibilities are and try to have a good strategic approach on this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had tons of strategies and initiatives. We've established special funding arrangements for the secondary diamond industry, looking at the polishing plants and training dollars that were put through the Education department. I'd like to ask the Minister specifically, will there also be a component of this strategy that encompasses dollars strictly directed at training to ensure we take advantage of these job opportunities?

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

Further Return To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, yes. Our intention here is to try to put together a good plan so that we know exactly what we require. It's fine to get all the strategies together and have all these meetings and have a good plan of action but, at the end of the day, usually strategy and planning here in this government requires additional dollars and this is what we're trying to compile through the strategy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, a lot of this preparation activity has happened. It happened last winter. The activities have taken place. There's a lot of work happening in the Sahtu and Gwich'in regions this winter. It's already on our doorstep. I'd like to ask the Minister when will these dollars be going into our communities so we

can take advantage of the opportunities that are there right now and not wait a couple years to see this strategy come to light?

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

Further Return To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, currently there is work going on right now with the producer groups. We have been working with the producing group that is going to build this pipeline to identify the roles, share information, identify the parties that can work together, develop approaches to strategies on how to get the people in the communities down the valley to build capacity and understanding. There is a lot of work going on already in terms of government involvement in getting ready to maximize the benefits of this pipeline.

Once the strategy is in place and we have a better idea of exactly what we're talking about here in terms of what kind of funding might be required to put into these communities. Currently, we're using existing government programs and services from RWED. We also have the Business Credit Corporation. The loan is up to \$2 million per company. We have already in place, through our existing programs and services, dollars that could be utilized. Through the work of the strategy, if we require additional dollars such as we did in the diamond strategy, that would come out of the work of the strategy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Education Act, the Executive Council is able to approve changes to the mandate of Education, Culture and Employment. I'd like to ask the Minister, who is part of the Executive Council, will you consider looking at immediately implementing the change to the Education Act to allow for dollars to flow to the communities strictly structured for the construction of the pipeline?

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

Further Return To Question 421-14(6): Education And Training For Resource Development Employment

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what the Member is requesting here is something that will have to, if it's considered to take that course of action, it will have to come to the Cabinet table for decision. I haven't seen that approach yet coming to Cabinet. Thank you.

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

Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Vince Steen, the Minister of MACA. I'd like to ask the Minister, when the main street paving and dust control was done in the non-tax-based communities, how did the department decide which communities got what in the amount of dollars and the chip sealing? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we put the program in place there was some form of criteria that we had to establish in order to arrive at priorities for each community. One of the obvious things that had to be taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker, was the availability of equipment to actually apply the chip seal; also, the availability of crush material. Therefore, we worked out a plan that would work in conjunction with the Department of Transportation to see when their equipment would be used in relation to a community. We would hopefully take advantage of that and have them apply chip seal in those communities that were in that region. That's how we hoped to take advantage of or make best use. One million dollars is all we have for the project per year. Hopefully some communities, in particular those that are on the highway system, would be seen as having chip seal in place in the next few years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can give us the amounts that each community is receiving for the dust control program? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have that information in my office, but I don't have it here. I'd certainly be able to supply it to the Member.

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

Supplementary To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if every community was going to be treated equally when they did the preparation and upgrading before they chip sealed. Were all communities being considered equally? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there would have to be some differences in how much we spent in each community because it takes into consideration what's considered as main street in each community. We work with the community to have them identify for us what they consider as main street, and then we take into consideration what the cost would be to bring the main road up to a level that can hold chip seal. In that case, we have to use Transportation engineers and work with them to arrive at a cost to put chip

seal in those particular communities. Some would be more than others.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister when they were considering Rae-Edzo, did they consider that there were two communities and both had main streets? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen. The question was, were they considered two communities: Rae as one and Edzo as the other? Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 422-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as I'm aware, Rae and Edzo are the same community. I'm not aware that they're two different communities that we're dealing with.

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

Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Vince Steen, Minister of MACA. I'd like to continue my line of questioning on main street paving. I'd like to ask the Minister, as he considered Rae and Edzo the same community, maybe now that he knows they aren't the same community he'll put more funding in to chip seal the main street of the other community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the agreement with NWTAC and all the stakeholders is that chip sealing receives high priority in relation to other programs, such as water and sewage, and we do receive more funding because of the federal program, we will definitely increase and accelerate the program.

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

Supplementary To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, since just discovering that Rae and Edzo are not the same community, maybe he could look at extra funding and from now on he can give direction to his department to see it in that way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I responded to the Member, Mr. Nitah, earlier, we would definitely have liked to have the figures from the federal government as to how much of that funding we'll be receiving this year before the business plans are put in place so that we can see whether we can in fact accelerate the chip sealing program.

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

Supplementary To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can make sure that if it's not possible during the life of his Assembly, that he put it in the transition document for the next Assembly?

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

Further Return To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the chip sealing program will be part of the transition document because FMBS approved it for a five-year term. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you. I'm glad for the answer of the Minister, but the point I was getting at was if they could consider that Edzo and Rae are two separate communities under one municipality. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 423-14(6): Main Street Paving Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I responded to Mr. Nitah, all the communities will be considered, but I can't guarantee any priority right now. It would be related to the equipment that's available from Transportation, the availability of crushed material and the cost. I certainly will bring the comments of the Member forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 7, oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of a former Member of the Legislative Assembly, the 9th Assembly representing North Slave, Mr. James Wah-shee.

---Applause

Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**Written Question 15-14(6): Opportunities For Taltson River Hydro Development**

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Will the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation work with the chiefs of Yellowknives band, today known as the Rocher River people, considering opportunities he discussed yesterday related to the Taltson River hydro development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Opening Address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk, I think you had one.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**Tabled Document 104-14(6): Response To Petition 6-14(6): Financial Assistance For Students In Aklavik**

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I table a response to Petition 6-14(6) presented by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the financial assistance of students in Aklavik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Tabled Document 105-14(6): GNWT Response To "A Vision For The Arts In the NWT" - NWT Arts Strategy Action Plan

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, "The GNWT Response to a Vision for the Arts in the Northwest Territories." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 21 will remain on the Order Paper until tomorrow. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act; and Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million to NWT Resource Highways. By the authority given the Speaker by Motion 4-14(6) the House is resolved into Committee of the Whole to sit beyond the time of adjournment until the committee is prepared to report, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole and other matters. Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act, and Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million to NWT Resource Highways. I'd like to ask what the wish of the committee is. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that we proceed with Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims And Self-Government Agreement Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We'll begin with Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act. At this time, I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any opening comments. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight for referring Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act, to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

I'd like to take a little time to provide some context on how we have gotten to this point and deal with some specific issues concerning the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, there are three pieces of legislation required to be passed in the Legislative Assembly to give effect to the Tlicho agreement. The bill we are considering today, the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act, and two other pieces of legislation will be considered in the next Legislative Assembly, the Tlicho Community Government Act and the Tlicho Community Service Agency Act.

Bill 34 approves and gives effect to the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act. It gives effect to the Tlicho tax treatment agreement, provides a mechanism for the transfer of personal property and provides legal recognition of the Tlicho agreement, the Tlicho tax treatment agreement and Tlicho laws.

The Tlicho land claims and self-government agreement was signed by the three parties in Rae on August 25th, after more than 10 long, hard years of negotiation. In reality, the negotiation of this agreement took much longer if you take into account the time spent negotiating the Dene/Metis comprehensive claim. The work that went into the comprehensive claim and its ultimate breakdown was, in many ways, the origin of this claim. For the Tlicho this has been a long, difficult and expensive process as the negotiations of this agreement were financed by loans from the Government of Canada.

As you can appreciate, Mr. Chairman, there have been many important events and hard earned milestones on the way to this agreement for the Tlicho. The Tlicho people worked with their neighbours in Akaitcho and the Deh Cho to negotiate agreements that ensure that all parties' interests are protected in overlapping areas. These side agreements show that our people can collaborate to ensure that self-government and land claims agreements can be negotiated without compromising third-party interests.

This agreement is unique in that it's the only agreement that I am aware of that was initiated twice by the chief negotiators. After the first initialing last fall, the three parties undertook an unprecedented public review and comment period where they

invited comments from all interested individuals and groups. More than 40 groups were directly invited to review the agreement and to comment. The public review and comment period built in a series of meetings with individual groups, including several public meetings on the agreement. This public review and comment period resulted in a number of changes to the agreement. More importantly, it provided an important and public opportunity for interested parties to raise any issues of concern.

At the end of this process, the agreement was initiated for a second time and the Tlicho people voted to ratify the agreement. A total of 93 percent of eligible Tlicho voters participated in the ratification process. Eighty-four percent of those voters were in favour of the agreement. I'm sure that you will agree, Mr. Chairman, that by any reasonable measure this is an overwhelming endorsement of the agreement.

For these reasons, the Tlicho are anxious to proceed with the steps necessary to get to the effective date. At this time, the Tlicho will begin to implement their agreement and move forward to secure a prosperous future for their people. They view this legislation as a critical and symbolic step in this process.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is also important for the implementation of the vision of the Northwest Territories that Members of this Legislative Assembly set out at the beginning of our term. Towards a Better Tomorrow is the framework that all of us agreed upon. It communicated our collective vision to all people in the Northwest Territories.

Towards a Better Tomorrow stated our commitment as a legislature to work in partnership with aboriginal governments so that aboriginal people would have greater self-determination over their social, cultural and political destiny.

One of our common strategies is to foster mutual, respectful and cooperative partnerships with aboriginal governments. We commit to supporting negotiation and implementation of land claims and self-government agreements. During the term of the 14th Assembly, we have made a lot of progress by supporting aboriginal people's desire to be full partners with us as independent governments and to work with us towards other important initiatives, such as devolution and resource revenue sharing.

The positive relationships that we have built with aboriginal groups over the past four years are extremely important. All of us, whether leaders at the territorial level or the self-government level, must continue to work hard on these positive relationships.

I believe that if we support this bill's passage during the 14th Assembly it will send a clear signal to aboriginal leaders that we are a legislature that supports self-government as we stated at the beginning of our term. It would further demonstrate that our commitment to partnerships on any initiatives goes hand in hand with our collective will to finalize self-government and land claims.

Concerns have been expressed by some MLAs that passing legislation to give effect to the Tlicho agreement will change the entire system of governance in the Northwest Territories. In many ways, Mr. Chairman, our system of governance in the Northwest Territories is constantly changing. These changes will be slow and incremental, as we move forward with new governance arrangements in all regions. The bill we are considering today is one step in this process.

In considering this bill and the Tlicho agreement, it is important to point out that the agreement applies to people on Tlicho lands or living in Tlicho communities. The agreement ensures that all people in the Tlicho region, whether they are Tlicho citizens or not, will receive comparable levels of programs and services.

Mr. Chairman, the community governments that will be established on the effective date will represent both Tlicho and non-Tlicho citizens. The Tlicho community services agencies that will be established pursuant to territorial legislation will deliver programs and services for all residents during the first 10 years of the agreement and possibly longer. These are the examples of how our government and aboriginal governments can work in collaboration to ensure the interests of all people are protected.

Also, we should remember that all residents of the Tlicho are and will continue to be protected by the Constitution and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Given this agreement, constitutional protection does not take away individual rights within our society. Furthermore, there are specific provisions in the Tlicho agreement that protect the existing and future rights of other aboriginal peoples.

I know there have been concerns raised by the North Slave Metis Alliance with respect to their rights. In an ideal world, Mr. Chairman, all negotiations would proceed at the same pace and result in agreements at the same time. This, unfortunately, is not the case. To ensure that processes are not held up, we must look for ways to protect the rights of other aboriginal people as agreements are being completed. We believe that section 2.7 of the Tlicho agreement provides the specific guarantees that ensure the protection of rights of other aboriginal peoples.

Mr. Chairman, we're asking Members of this Legislative Assembly to pass the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act. It is another signal of our commitment to ensure aboriginal people have greater self-determination over their social, cultural and political destiny. This agreement and legislation to approve it is an important step in this process.

I say all this to provide some context behind a decision to support the Tlicho in their aspirations and to move forward with this legislation during the 14th Assembly. This legislation is an important first step in implementation of the Tlicho agreement and one that we hope Members will support.

As someone who has been personally involved in the negotiation process since its very early stages, I believe the Tlicho agreement has set a new standard for land and self-government claims across the country. I firmly believe it is good for the Tlicho and good for the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the committee responsible for reviewing the bill if they have any comments. Mr. Dent.

Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Comments

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has been considering Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act and due to the limited time remaining in the life of this Assembly

has adopted a motion to report it back to the House for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Members look forward to a public discussion of Bill 34 with the Minister during the Committee of the Whole review.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, I have with me Rick Bargery, deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Because of the speed in which this is going, there are two other members of my team who will be showing up later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): For the record, Mr. Minister, could you mention those two other individuals when they do come into the House?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mark Aitken, legislative counsel from the Department of Justice; and, Martin Goldney, also legal counsel for the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are dealing with Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement Act. General comments. Mr. Roland.

General Comments

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we've heard in the very brief report from the committee that Members felt that with the time remaining in the life of this Assembly and with this bill reaching second reading and being referred to committee, that there wasn't enough time to hold hearings throughout communities in the Northwest Territories that could be affected by this legislation. So it was felt that we come to this arena, to the floor in Committee of the Whole and have our questions and concerns answered by the Minister in this forum. I look at it from this perspective, my constituents back home can have an opportunity to hear responses from the government and areas of concern that I think would be of concern to them. I would like to let the Minister know that depending on the responses he would provide for at least myself, it will affect the way I vote on this bill. I did say during second reading, I supported the principle of the bill. I think it's something that all aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories are working on and have spent many years trying to accomplish. There are many arguments why it's seen as the best thing for people across the Northwest Territories.

I, myself, coming from the Inuvialuit region, they are in negotiations and working towards their end of a self-government agreement with this government as well. So as we heard the Minister say, this agreement is the first of its kind and, in fact, is trend-setting, I guess one can say. It is setting the scale and pace of future change of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, I will, when we get into the detail, have some further questions for the Minister, but wanted to, for the record, state in this process, that hopefully as we question the Minister, people across the North will see this as an opportunity and hopefully as Members address questions, they will see it as a way of addressing their concerns that, unfortunately, we weren't able to get from the public as we didn't go through communities. One of the things the Minister stated and referred to and I will have some questions later on is the Constitution of Canadians and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and asking how it would impact or benefit citizens who are not Tlicho citizens who are not in that settlement area and how that would guarantee their inclusion when it comes to how individuals are selected and represented on the councils.

We've heard in this House before, Mr. Chairman, how this was a very straightforward piece of legislation and there's nothing much to it. I don't have the exact wording but the Premier spoke to this a number of days ago. It may be a short bill in conjunction of other bills when we do a comparison. Thirteen clauses is not a lot, but this is a very significant piece of legislation. As the Minister stated, much work has been put into this. At the same time as a representative who is representing a public government and my community is multicultural, I feel that I must also represent those in my constituency in the way I would ask questions of how this might potentially impact those who wouldn't feel that they were part of a self-government group. I hope the Minister would have some responses that would sway me in a way of supporting this through third reading.

We've also had a number of other concerns, and the Minister touched on them slightly from the Metis group; concerns about how their issues are being addressed or not being addressed. Hopefully the Minister will be able to address those concerns to the satisfaction of Members. I guess from there, Mr. Chairman, I don't have a lot of other general comments. It's just more of the specifics depending on the responses from the Minister and see where we go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, once again, I would like to thank the Members for reporting this very important bill back to the House. There are concerns that have been raised by the Members and the committee as well as here. I am sure we are going to hear that and we are prepared to answer any specific questions. This is an extraordinary approach. I just want to say a normal government bill is something that's developed by government and goes through a normal process. This is a different type of approach. It's a land claims agreement that's already signed with the federal government and the Tlicho government and the Tlicho people. It's here for us to look at and we will do whatever we can to provide the different answers to the different questions that come forth. Thank you.

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

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some general comments about questions or some statements on the Minister's opening remarks. Let me start off with his conclusion. In his conclusion, the Minister states that the Tlicho agreement has set a new standard for land and self-government claims across the country. I firmly believe it's good for the Tlicho and good for the Northwest Territories. I think it's very difficult to disagree with that and, in fact, I agree this will be good for the entire Northwest Territories. But I have some very real, substantial and significant concerns about the process we've

just undertaken or I should say neglected to undertake when it comes to public consultation.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Tlicho did years of consultation on this bill, but after their consultation, that's where this starts to break down in my mind. I don't believe our government has done its necessary obligation in educating people in the Northwest Territories as to what this bill means. It is significant. It will alter the political landscape of the Northwest Territories. For the better? Yes, I believe that, but that is still no reason to neglect our responsibility and duty to ensure that questions and concerns from all corners of the Northwest Territories are addressed and met. This is not the kind of thing that we could have, in my mind, a referendum on in the Northwest Territories and go to the general public and ask them if this is something they could support. I don't think it's fair to do something like that when we are dealing with minority rights, and the rest of the Tlicho certainly would be a minority when we consider their numbers compared to the rest of the population. It's not fair to put something like that to a referendum, but I believe the government had an obligation to go and speak with and hear from all the people of the Northwest Territories about this agreement and this settlement legislation.

Furthermore, my preference as a committee Member would have been we engage in a public process. I have heard the Minister's arguments, our government's arguments, that this is simple, there really is nothing to this, it's been signed by three parties, you aren't going to change it anyway. I disagree that it's simple. I think it's significant and I think it's constitutional work and it's important for everybody in the NWT to have an involvement. This is something, Mr. Chairman, that I believe we should be celebrating, except that now there is a bit of a cloud hanging over this. I have had constituents say to me if it's so good for all of us, why are we trying to jam this through the legislature? I have tried to talk about the concerns that have been expressed about this government's dissolution and the fact that there will be new faces coming in that may not be as supportive as the faces in this room. I don't think you can say that with any certainty, Mr. Chairman. I know the federal election is hanging out there, but all the indications we've had from our government is we would like to send a political signal to Ottawa to support this legislation. I believe that as well, but we know there isn't money flowing for implementation for this specific bill. That will be a negotiation between the Tlicho and the federal government. It is not on the basis of this bill.

We know the federal government has to pass legislation before ours can take effect as well, and I don't believe there would be undue delays if we had chosen to do due diligence and the public consultation that I feel was necessary throughout the coming fall and into January. I think we would have had plenty of time to pass our legislation before the federal government did what it needed to do. So when the Minister in his remarks says that concerns have been expressed by some MLAs, that passing legislation to give effect to the Tlicho agreement will change the entire system of governance in the Northwest Territories, he's not speaking for me. My concern is not that this will change the entire system of governance in the NWT. I accept that. I welcome that and I think we will all embrace that. My concern is with the process here, Mr. Chairman, and the fact that I was not able, because the way things turned out, to go out and consult with my constituents adequately and the people of the Northwest Territories.

I know we are pressed for time and I suppose, out of self-interest, I would have accepted just having public meetings in Yellowknife, which would have been unfair, I acknowledge that.

It would have been unfair to the rest of the Northwest Territories, an inadequate and a half measure, but it would have allowed me to go back to my constituency and say at least they had a chance to speak to this bill. Whether or not anything could have changed or would have changed, Mr. Speaker, I think that's beside the point. I felt an obligation as a committee Member to do what we normally do and take this out to the public.

Even if you look at the summary book that was produced, when there's a discussion about what this means, there's a recognition in this book, and I am going to quote this: "Ratification by the GNWT and Canada takes much longer than the few months that ratification would take originally. Getting the settlement legislation written takes a lot of work by the Tlicho negotiating team to make sure nothing in the agreement is changed or lost. After laws are ready, they still have to be voted upon by the Parliament of Canada and the legislature of the GNWT. This, too, takes time and lobbying. It will take up to a year, Mr. Chairman, for the GNWT and Canada to finish their parts of the ratification." It doesn't say anything about three weeks or two weeks. They acknowledged that this would take time, so that the entire Northwest Territories could be apprised of what was going on and could be included and involved. I feel we short-circuited that and we shouldn't have. This really should have been a celebration for the entire Northwest Territories to embrace and welcome this agreement and I think most of us will, but there will be a concern about process hanging over this, Mr. Chairman, and that's regrettable. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. Mr. Antoine, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, I know the Members of the 14th Assembly, all MLAs take their responsibilities very seriously and in the normal course of action, they have done a thorough work in all the bills and different government initiatives over the last four years. I commend them for that. I mentioned there are three pieces of legislation that requires all of them to be completed. This one is one of the first ones, Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Act. It's something the Tlicho have negotiated and finalized in the life of the 14th Assembly. We felt as a government that we should finish it in the life of this 14th Assembly. In the normal course of action, once the bill has second reading, the committee has 120 days to do their work. In this case, because we are running out of time, the election is happening November 24th, we haven't been able to get the bill here at this stage and we are discussing the bill today. I realize that Members have wanted to have the time to do the work thoroughly, but unfortunately it didn't happen, but we are here. We are dealing with the bill.

We in the government and in the ministry feel that it's really crucial that we do what we set out to do. I know there are commitments by Members of this Legislative Assembly that we will support land claims and self-government processes. Because we are running out of time, we still have an opportunity here to do that. So I am pleased to be here to say these things on behalf of Bill 34. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. Member for Yellowknife Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This agreement is the next in a series that we have seen come through for First Nations in the Northwest Territories. It was preceded in very light measure by the Nunavut land claim and self-government agreement which I think, in large measure, are mirrors of that

kind of thing. We all experienced that over the course of many years.

When I came to the North as a boy and through the '60s and '70s, the recognition and acceptance of this as the right thing to do was something I grew up with and it was part of my history, my heritage and my pride of being a Northerner. So my support for the intent and the objective and spirit of the Tlicho agreement is solid. It's absolute. I experienced the hospitality and generosity of my colleague, Mr. Lafferty. He took me out in his boat and we joined a flotilla of Tlicho people and traveled from Fort Simpson to Tulita to the Dene annual assembly. It was a memorable time for me and my daughter who was 14 at the time.

Earlier this year, in May, we traveled to Rae to join in a celebration of the, the amazing result of...Well, the result wasn't amazing, but the event was amazing, to experience the joy in the room in the school or the hall in Rae when the numbers came in signaling such overwhelming acceptance of the agreement. Then again in August when the Prime Minister and many other people came to Rae for the signing. This is something that will be good for not only the Tlicho and the four communities, the neighbouring communities, which is Yellowknife, but it will be good for the region and it will be good for Yellowknife.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, because I hope to convince people that I am an advocate and a supporter of this, but we reflect and mirror the concerns of my colleagues who have spoken before me that there is in this a very significant part of the process that is now before us. That is the opportunity of all citizens to have a direct review and input into our law-making process. That is the standard that has been developed over how many years, how many centuries of democracy and in the Commonwealth and making these laws and making these rules for society. I am counselling, Mr. Chairman, in the discussions I have had with my peers and further people in Yellowknife and with my constituents, that this is a standard to which we should hold.

Constituents have come to rely, Mr. Chairman, on the opportunity in any law that we make to have the opportunity to visit it through public hearings. I would underline that direct input is a fundament of our institution. We break faith, Mr. Chairman, we break faith with our constituents if we forego that. Oftentimes we do, of course, because bills and things are often of a nature that are of little consequence. We have done adequate consultation with the stakeholders or people we know would be interested. We have tested that thoroughly. This is not such a bill. We cannot forego that requirement for open opportunity for people to look and see.

An interesting case has been made in this situation where this law or these three bills will not be created in the normal inside government process. It involves other agencies. It involves the Government of Canada and, of course, the Tlicho. So our ability to make changes and accept input is not really the same as it is in other laws. It is an interesting notion and not an inaccurate one.

It's been suggested that perhaps what we need to have if we are going to have a different process of building these laws, we have to have a different process of reviewing and passing them. That may be something that our successors will consider. In fact, we just passed a motion a couple of days ago, Mr. Chairman, directing our Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to look at a number of things including the implementation of self-government and I believe this is one.

This time, Mr. Chairman, the people who have come to rely on the opportunity for people to have an open look at law making, I think they've been caught by surprise, they've been caught unawares because they didn't know that that opportunity could potentially be denied them in the case of this bill. We should not try to say at this late date after the fact, if you will, that we did something different before, so we can change the way we are going to do business now. I don't believe that that does our institution any good. It's not the kind of job that I was elected to do and I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I will not be able to accept that we pass this bill without taking it to the public and giving them the fullest and normal opportunity. This is not a delay. This is not a doubt in whether this is the right thing to do. This is our normal process. I would advocate, Mr. Chairman, that faith and trust in this institution some people would say is not all that evident at the best of times. It's eroded every time we take some kind of shortcut or say we are going to do things different this time. I can't allow us to veer from that course.

So I, too, will be listening carefully to the answers that may help us get some sort of understanding, but I cannot accept that this is a bill that we can responsibly pass through this Assembly given the implications of our constituents that I know and I have faith that the next assembly can take this up and pass it. They can give it the full review, the full opportunity that it deserves and I believe, Mr. Chairman, have it passed. There are two other consequential bills to this that will be much larger and more sophisticated and we can't have all that work done in time for the implementation of the Tlicho agreement to begin, and begin efficiently and effectively. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman. I spoke earlier in support of the principle of this bill. My position has not changed. It's well-known, Mr. Chairman, that for thousands of years prior to European immigration, North America was inhabited by many different self-government and aboriginal peoples speaking many languages and having widely differing cultures and economies. The royal proclamation of 1763 was formalized British colonial policy for North America recognized the situation. The First Nations paid no part in negotiating confederation or in drafting the British North America Act of 1867, under which section 91(24) signed legislative authority with respect to Indians and lands reserved to Indians to the federal government. The government assumed increasing legislative control over First Nations communities leading to the passage of the Indian Act in 1876 which, with modern modifications, remain in effect today. The result over the years has been the steady erosion of First Nations governmental powers. It was the decision of 1873, Mr. Chairman, which established that aboriginal title was a reality that could be understood in terms of British jurisprudence that led Prime Minister Trudeau to settle aboriginal land claims. That policy opened the door for the commencement of negotiations of those claims.

Since 1973, Mr. Chairman, that's exactly 30 years ago today. It took the Tlicho more than 30 years to get back to 1763. It's recognized it's a constitutional development role that the Tlicho, Canada and the Northwest Territories embarked upon when they started negotiations.

My colleagues are not happy because of the lack of consultation. In my mind, this being a constitutional development process, negotiating something between three levels of government, a final agreement that's been initiated and signed, should not be taken to the public for consultation. It

should be debated in this House, like we are today, recognizing it as constitutional development. First Nations have the right to do so. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney spoke in the House of Commons on September 8, 1992, and emphasized that true recognition in our Constitution of the aboriginal inherent right to self-government, a simple justice long overdue, could be achieved. He spoke of creating a new partnership in the federation that was formed in 1867 without the participation of aboriginal peoples. That's what the Tlicho people have managed to do on behalf of their people. They've come to terms with a new treaty of Canada and partnered with the Government of the Northwest Territories that their people find acceptable.

It's a final agreement. I have some concerns, like everybody else, concerning other people's rights within the settlement area and I will be asking questions in that regard, but this is constitutional development and it's a partnership development. Our government represented the public of the Northwest Territories throughout the negotiations. I have confidence in our government and its negotiators. They made sure that the general public's rights were protected. I am confident the Tlicho people will negotiate on their people's behalfs and make sure their people's rights in the Constitution and the Charter is entrenched.

Mr. Chairman, you, as a former negotiator, are familiar with the difficulty of negotiations. I, being 36-years-old, have been in perpetual limbo waiting for these negotiations to settle. Like I said, Mr. Chairman, it is constitutional development that is an exciting development opportunity for other First Nations and governments in the Northwest Territories to follow this as a model. I look forward to seeing it pass by our government, the 14th Legislative Assembly. I will have some questions during clause by clause for the Minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Tlicho people on their significant achievement. I was at the signing ceremony in Rae and I know how important an historic event the signing of the agreement was. I voted in favour of the principle of the bill on second reading, so from what I have seen of the bill and the agreement, it appears to be good, but therein, Mr. Chairman, lies the problem: time; the amount of time that I have had to see the agreement. Until a couple of weeks ago, the government kept telling us that we would not be dealing with the Tlicho legislation, so I had thought that we had some time to get to know and understand the agreement and the legislation that would be ratifying it, and then at the last minute we are being pushed to conclude the legislation quickly. I have to say, Mr. Chairman, that I guess I hadn't properly understood the whole process myself because I had thought that there would be a really significant amount of time to consider ratifying an agreement. In fact, in June of 2000, I questioned the Premier; I pointed out to him that I was hearing from some of my constituents that they understood the negotiation of self-government was a form of constitutional development and they were wondering how they would be involved in knowing what was going on as those negotiations took place. So I asked the Premier on June 30th, if before the government signed self-government agreements if those self-government agreements would be presented in this House for ratification. I asked him if at the end of the negotiation there would be a willingness to present whatever it is that the government is prepared to sign -- not what they had signed -- but that they were prepared to sign. So before it was signed by this government, would they present

it in the House? The Premier, on June 30, 2000, replied yes. So I had always understood that we would have an opportunity to consider these agreements as they came forward with some time to really look at them meaningfully.

As things progressed and we saw legislative proposals coming from the government on Tlicho legislation, at one point we wrote back to the government and said these are different forms of agreements, there is a different thing happening here. This isn't the usual way government works, don't you think you could involve the committee in a more consultative process as things go along so that they were ready to consider the legislation when it appears in front of us. In 2001, the government wrote back and said no, we are satisfied with the usual process; we'll develop the legislation through the second reading and then send it to committee. So again, the message always was that the usual process would take place. Well, our usual process is that we have time to consider legislation; we have time to get comfortable with it to make sure we really understand what is there and make sure that the legislation is exactly what everybody wants to see. I suspect that the public probably doesn't understand that regular Members aren't intimately involved in a lot of what is happening in government so we don't know what is happening at the negotiations table. Sometimes we need some time to get to know what is in a deal that the government may have negotiated.

Mr. Chairman, this is really complicated, in my mind anyway, because there are surveys that show that the public generally holds politicians at pretty low esteem. Surveys have shown that many Canadians don't trust politicians although we fare quite a bit better in the Northwest Territories than what the Canadian average would be. But I know I have heard from some constituents who ask what is the rush, why are you rushing this through, is there something in there that we should be concerned about? Is there reason for the rush, are you hiding things?

We are in a situation now, as Mr. Bell said, this should be a celebration, we should be celebrating an historic document. I think it could have been if we had spent some time on it or if we had time for the consultation process and for the committee to take the legislation around the Territories and discuss it with people. We would have gotten a better opportunity for understanding. The public hearings would have offered people a chance to become more comfortable with what is there. It would have offered us a chance to talk to the public about how we can't change what is in the agreement. I understand that and accept that. I understand and welcome the choice that the Tlicho people have made to establish a form of governance that recognizes the Government of the Northwest Territories. They didn't have to do that, but we don't have a chance now to go around the Territories and help people get comfortable with that position, and to understand that this is an historic event, and that there has been a choice made here.

I have often heard that because this is a new deal, we have to look for new ways to do things. But if we are really partners we should respect each governments' traditions, and ours typically allows time for people to get comfortable with legislation, particularly important legislation. Yes, I know there are examples of legislation that we have pushed through without wide-ranging public consultation, but anytime that has happened it hasn't had a big impact on governance in the Northwest Territories. The legislation we are looking at today does and I think we should have taken the time, if for no other reason than it would have allowed more people to become more comfortable with what is encompassed by the legislation.

I think that that would have happened with more time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I sit here and I am not too sure if I want to cry or congratulate the Dogrib for taking the time to really invest \$28 million of their own money to negotiate a land claim agreement; \$28 million that they have to pay back out of their land claim agreement. I have a real problem when we sit here and say we haven't heard about it. For those of us that grew up in the Northwest Territories and were born and raised here, we have been bombarded by land claims, land claims, land claims, for over 20 years. It all started with the Inuvialuit claim back in 1984, which at that time there was a lot of dispute going on because the Inuvialuit got their claim in which treaties originated all the way to the coastline. A lot of lands were given up; there was a lot of dispute over that. Then came along the Dene/Metis claim process in which a lot of dollars were spent in that process again. Again, that was on the national scene, it was basically at every assembly you went to, it was covered live across the Northwest Territories. So we have been bombarded by information, negotiations, what is going on, what happened at the assemblies, and these information sessions were a process that was there to include the whole population of the Northwest Territories, not just the aboriginal population.

I have been involved in this process going on from the Dene/Metis process to the Gwich'in land claims settlement to the Sahtu agreement, and I am just totally appalled that we can sit here and say that we have not been informed of what is going on. The sad thing about it, the only thing the Government of the Northwest Territories has ever done with any land claim agreement was make a few amendments to the wildlife section to include the Inuvialuit wildlife rights in 1994. That is the only thing that this legislature has ever done to encompass a land claim agreement in territorial legislation. Even today, we are still trying to find ways to include the wildlife provisions of those other land claim agreements, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu agreement, and now the Tlicho agreement. Yet the Inuvialuit sections in their agreements have not even been totally implemented since they settled in 1984.

So I find it really hard to sit here saying that we are not totally involved in the process. The land claims process originally started through treaties which were signed back in 1921, Treaty 11; and 1889 in regard to Treaty 8. Those were treaties between two nations, the Government of Canada and First Nations governance in the Northwest Territories. What has happened since then because of court cases, the Paulette case and other cases that were out there, is that the First Nations people have never surrendered their rights to their lands and their resources, so that is basically where the claims process started from. Since then, there has been a long, drawn out process and a lot of negotiations, public meetings and also the whole process of ratification. First Nations people have a higher requirement to ratify their land claim agreements than most governments have to ratify a budget, in which you have to basically have a high percentage of turnout and then also have a high percentage for ratification. No other governments have to go through that strenuous a process of ratification for anything.

I think it is that process that gave the federal government and the First Nations people the opportunity to negotiate what we call today modern treaties, in which this is what this is. I think knowing that we have modern treaties to improve the old

treaties and what they were and the authority this government really has in the Northwest Territories is to deal with municipal legislation. The municipal legislation we are talking about would not happen through this legislation. It will happen with the next legislature. You have coming into force the Tlicho Community Governance Act and the Tlicho Community Services Agency Act, on top of that legislation you are still going to have to come back to this House to try to get ratification on your wildlife provisions which we have been pounding away on for over 10 years. I always come to this House with my land claims on my desk because for me there is an obligation that this government has in here, it is spelled out. It doesn't say the government should "make," it says they shall "do" certain things. For me this government has not acted on any of those endeavors. We have a parks provision here to establish territorial parks. We have a park just outside of Inuvik called the Gwich'in Territorial Park, that was established under our land claim agreement. It took them over 10 years to bring this thing to life where you can actually physically use it, and that was part of a land claim agreement. I touched on the other provisions dealing with forestry. There is a whole section dealing with forestry. We have never sat down with the government to negotiate that section yet we are spending millions of dollars on behalf of First Nations that basically comes from Ottawa by way of transfer agreements. We have other sections in this agreement, which basically talk about the wildlife section, which I touched on. We have wildlife boards, but technically, they don't have the legislative authority, the authority is still with the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to have the final say on if he wants to establish a regulation and he wants to shut your highway down or he basically wants to stop hunting on the highway. All he has to do is sign his name on a piece of paper. The boards don't have a say on that. It is the regulations that are passed by the Minister. It is not passed by the boards and until you make amendments to the Wildlife Act, none of that will happen.

I get totally frustrated sitting here and hearing that we did not take the time to have public hearings. I recommended to the committee that we have public hearings Wednesday night and yet they were forced to say okay, let's bring it back into the House right away and we will do it on the floor of the House. So which is it? You can't win or lose on this one. The legislation that we are bringing forth is just a number of clauses, it is no big deal. The big deal will happen when we basically pass the governance act in this Legislative Assembly. That is when we'll get down to detail and we'll be able to have full public consultation on the whole aspect of governance. That is where the responsibility of this government lies.

I think it is important to note that there has been a lot of emphasis in regard to the overall idea that everyone has to ratify this process. The only group that has to ratify this process is the Tlicho people; it is their land claim. They have made the deal with Canada to basically settle for what is laid out in their land claim agreement and part of that deal means that those other First Nations rights and rights of other people that are out there have been dealt with through other processes through overlapping agreements or working out boundary agreements with other First Nations to work together.

One thing that we don't hear much about is the whole idea of land claims is to give us certainty in the Northwest Territories, to give us comfort that we realize that without having these land claims settled, there will always be uncertainty in regard to the diamond industry and the oil and gas industry. Development in the Northwest Territories will come to a halt unless we conclude the land claims. Now we have an

opportunity to take one more step to try to conclude the land claims in the Northwest Territories by having this agreement be legislated into effect and that is what these land claims are supposed to do is to give us certainty, to give industry certainty and people in the Northwest Territories that those outstanding questions of land rights, rights of who is going to have what lands and what regulatory process or what systems are going to be in place so people can really understand it and that is what they are there for.

With that, I would just like to say that this is what this agreement does. It gives us the certainty we need, especially in regard to the diamond developments that are happening in the North Slave and elsewhere and also up and down the valley. The next agreements we are looking at are the Akaitcho Territory and the Deh Cho and we should be supporting them and moving them forward, not trying to find roadblocks to put up to avoid the implementation of those processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. General comments. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to offer a few general comments as well. Mr. Chairman, I think there is definitely a sense in this Assembly, probably because of the people we have in the gallery, I feel the sense of this being an historical moment in the life of this Assembly. It seems to be that whenever we have these moments, we usually have our friends from the Dogrib community.

Mr. Chairman, in the life of this Assembly I have had many occasions to reflect on the work that we do in this House. We spend a lot of days and nights going in and out of here, taking care of very mundane business, but when you take a step back and really look at that big picture, I am always amazed at how big a task that we are asked to look after in this Assembly. I think of the work that this government and the Premier have had to do for the last few years, whether it is the diamond file, or oil and gas file or whether it is the Premier going and negotiating with the multi-nationals in England or wherever, trying to wrestle the pipeline file away from Alaska and the Yukon. It is quite amazing when we are such a small population and we are being asked to do so much. We are a little mouse that is being asked to roar like a lion, and I think that we should appreciate the work that we are asked to do. I don't think there is anything more important than the rights of aboriginal people that we are being asked to recognize in this House.

Mr. Chairman, I have said this before in my time here. I had the opportunity to work here as an employee way before I became an MLA and in the 20 years that I have witnessed this House, I have seen the trails that we blaze in this Assembly in terms of the sheer representation of aboriginal power in the Territories and in this Assembly. Now we have an historical first, an agreement that encompasses a land claims agreement as well as self-government in Tlicho. It's quite breathtaking what we're being asked to do, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that most people in the Territories support the settlement of land claims and self-government agreements. I think the election pamphlets I've seen from the last election wanted people called on speedy resolution of land claim settlements because, as you mentioned, it will bring stability and certainty in getting these claims settled. Specifically for Tlicho, I have no doubt that this will bring economic benefits to Yellowknife and surrounding regions.

Mr. Chairman, many people have mentioned here about the process, and I would like the people from Tlicho to understand what the concerns are. The concerns about the process have to do with the agreement itself. I think they need to know that we were always under the understanding that we would not be ratifying this agreement in this Assembly, but that we would have some more time to do it.

Other Members have mentioned the fact that we always have this...We have a bill introduced here and that it gets first and second reading, and they go out to public hearings and then come back for third reading. But that's not necessarily true either, Mr. Chairman, because we've had cases where Members unanimously agreed to not have a public hearing and sent it back to Committee of the Whole for third reading. I recall the bill to give extra pension to Members didn't go to public hearings, so it's not entirely correct if we say we are totally discarding a process.

I do want to say, though, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe this bill is made up of simple clauses. It does say important things and I don't think there is any question that this is constitution-making. So that means that this is not a simple law. A constitution is a law that makes laws, and a constitution sets out the rules about how laws are made and about how policies are made. But more importantly, Mr. Chairman, constitution making is about creating different relationships. I do believe fundamentally that this legislation and this agreement is a start of a new relationship between not only the Tlicho people and the rest of the people in the area, but in the whole of the Territories.

So my concern about now having had a lot of time for process hasn't necessarily been to do with procedural step-by-step in this House, but it has to do with my belief that constitution making is about creating different relationships and that requires to me an opportunity for conversation among the people that are affected.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, I served as the co-chair on the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government, and we went around the Territories and we talked about how we get ourselves ready for the post-self-government NWT. In that report we said here on page 1, if I may read this, "We want to encourage a territory-wide conversation about what all NWT residents can expect in the future, the future of all NWT communities will be linked together even more closely than they are today. The new relationships that will develop among our northern governments will depend on our attitudes and our relationships with each other." That is talking about the different attitudes and relationships that we have to work towards in the post-self-government implementation period. I lament the fact that we have missed that opportunity to have that conversation, because I know the Tlicho people have worked on this for many, many years and all the aboriginal leaders have been very involved with that. But I can tell you that there are people in my riding who would have wanted to have that conversation, and I do believe it's not too late. I believe this is a start of a new relationship. This legislation will bring that start, and if anything my understanding of not only this self-government agreement but all those other ones that are being worked on will necessitate all of us, as well as all the aboriginal peoples in different regions and at different negotiating tables to continue to have a conversation about how we work together, we coordinate our law-making and budgeting process and, perhaps, sometimes conflicting rights.

So, Mr. Chairman, I realize that I'm running out of time here for this round. I just wanted to add my comment on it. I do have

specific questions from the Minister's statement that he made, so I will look to do that and I do believe that the few clauses that are in legislation need some explanation from the Minister as to its implications and its meanings, and I plan on pursuing that. But it was important to me that I explain why from my point of view, the government had an obligation, I believe, to let the people who are not directly under the influence of this agreement know what this new relationship is that has been created. Because of the cutting off of the time we have missed that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. General comments. Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, the gallery is filled with a lot of people, most of them are from the Tlicho region. They are here to witness an historic event, like some of my colleagues said. I would like to speak on a number of items that my colleagues spoke on.

First of all they're saying the normal process that this government should work on. Well, over the four years there have been a lot of decisions made in this House and outside of this House which are not normal processes. We've seen acts and bills come and go. Just yesterday we decided on one bill without consulting with the communities out there and this was a bill for official languages. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment made changes to a bill that was put forward by a committee which consulted with all of the Northwest Territories, but it wasn't taken into consideration that they should take it back to the people again because of the amendments and the changes. But it was done, it was dealt with in this House. That's one good example.

Another good example is the Human Rights Act. The request from one community for this committee to go there to have consultation was denied.

So I know my colleagues have concerns, they have a job to do, they need to communicate with their people, but when they say they need to go through the normal process I don't agree with them. This is not a normal process.

Like my colleague from Tu Nedhe said, this is an agreement between three parties, and we had representation there from the territorial government. Cabinet had a department in there; Aboriginal Affairs negotiated on behalf of this government. And it's not new. For the last 12 years you have read the paper, you have heard on the radio, you knew what was going on, everyone knew what was going on. If there were concerns before this date, why weren't those concerns brought up to their MLAs? Their MLAs were available. If they thought their rights were going to be affected, why didn't they come forward at that time? I don't see how that can be used as an argument.

We know that there are concerns that we're taking a shortcut. No, it's not. This is just another one of the bills that we think should go this route because that's the route that should be taken. We think it's the right way to do it. It's been there for 12 years. No other bill in this House has been put forward with that length of time, consultation and negotiation; no bill at all. So you have to take that and look at it in a different way.

Sometimes the things that are important, as mentioned from one of my colleagues in this document, yes, there are lots of important things in here. But this is the Tlicho self-government legislation. It's for the Tlicho people, how they govern themselves. So I'm sure that there are concerns out there, but if the concerns are not coming from the Tlicho people, then

why should we from the outside say that the government here says well, we have a concern but nothing has been put forward by the Tlicho people. They ratified it unanimously.

Today we're going to be putting this forward as legislation. Everyone has been at all the celebrations, the signing. Most of the government here has been at the signing. We must have agreed to something when we went over there to initial it and sign it. We had to. Why today are we saying that it's not a normal process? We all know that it's been happening. Some Members in this House say it's a numbers game. Of course it's a numbers game. I and my colleague from Mackenzie Delta lost three votes in this House this week. Of course it's a numbers game. That's how government works, the majority wins. So using arguments like that are not something that should slow down something that is very important to people of the Dogrib region.

Yesterday we agreed that we would change the name in the Languages Act, to Tlicho from Dogrib. We all agreed. We all recognized that they had a right. That right today is going to be exercised and we're going to go forward with it and all we need is the federal government to ratify this then the Tlicho people can go forward and govern themselves. We will be their partners at the territorial government, so will the federal government.

We hear arguments that it might affect the rights of other aboriginal groups. Well, at one time there were differences. The groups didn't agree, but they sat down, they negotiated. They were able to negotiate the overlaps, the boundaries. Now they're working hand in hand in the economic development areas and all that. I'm sure the Metis group from the North Slave, whenever they come to the table with the federal government and the territorial government, I'm sure the Tlicho people will be there by their side to support them because they will be going forward with their own agreement. They're recognized as a group that has rights to hunts, trap and harvest. So I'm sure the Tlicho people will be on their side to support them.

The act itself says that there's the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That's how they feel their right is written. You know, in any part of this governance act they can come forward with it. But if you really look at the whole picture and the whole act, it's for the Tlicho citizens. If you're a Tlicho citizen and you live in Yellowknife, you have a right to be governed under that act, it doesn't matter where you live. But the Tlicho government is not going to go into Yellowknife and tell non-aboriginal people this is what you have to do. No, they don't have a right to do that.

When you make a decision on this today, you have to consider that. This is an act, a bill that is to govern themselves, not to govern other people. The area where it's going to come into effect, where the governance model might affect some people would be in the next piece of legislation. At that time maybe we will have time for this government to do public consultation. But this ratification was done for all three of them, so you still have to take that into consideration, as well, when it comes to that time.

So in order to do this more effectively, the next turn we get at legislation for community governance, maybe the MLAs should be more proactive and start going forward, because the documents are there now, and start talking with their constituents. In that way, they can have their consultation. If the government cannot make it out there, then the MLAs should be out there doing it. Because to this date I haven't

heard any concerns from anyone, outside of the North Slave Metis Alliance, that have been raised about the Tlicho governance.

So I will have to say that we have to go forward with this legislation. It's not a short time, it's a new kind of way of making legislation. It's done, it's a done deal. They've signed on the dotted lines over and over, initialed, signed. We've been there. We had Mr. Kakfwi there, we had Mr. Antoine there, we had Members from this side of the House that were there. We knew what was happening. We can't say anyone didn't know.

To finish it off, I have to say that there are groups on all sides of the Tlicho and the Tlicho are in the middle. They've made arrangements with all of them. So far the negotiations they've done must have been positive because nobody else is coming back and saying it's a bad deal. So I'll have to encourage all my colleagues in this House that we have to pass this. We have the people up there waiting for our positive decision for an historical day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. Premier Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have many, many people watching us today and I think people are becoming aware that we are continuing to make history. There will be those that take leadership roles and those that will become a little afraid and apprehensive and ask for more time. We should be aware that we are still seen very much as a foreign institution by many people in the communities. Little things like Orders of the Day, our rules are confusing to people. They come into the legislature and all of a sudden they are told to be quiet, can't clap, can't laugh and they can't say anything. It's completely contrary to all the rules they have about how they make decisions back home in their own communities in the aboriginal institutions.

Our job is to try to bring dignity to the governments that we come in contact with. We should say and we should recognize the reason for people fighting all these years for aboriginal rights and self-government is because this government was never seen as good enough. The whole reason the Tlicho agreement is coming to us is because people are telling us we're trying to make it better, here are our suggestions. In this case, this agreement is between governments. It's between the federal government, the Tlicho government and this government. We shouldn't fool our constituents into asking them what do you think about aboriginal rights. That debate is over. We don't want to ask people if they support aboriginal rights or not.

I say we have an obligation to go out there and inform people about what the agreement is, I agree with that. But don't fool people into say do you agree with it or not, what do you want me to change? The fact is there's very little we can change. If we can change anything at all, it's the nature of it. It's an agreement that is going to be constitutionalized and it's going to be ratified by the federal government, and it has already been ratified in part by the Tlicho people. No one is going to go back and jeopardize this work by starting to tinker with clauses.

There's a reason for what I'm saying, because I think we have to be honest about it and we have to provide a certain kind of leadership. In this case, I think our constituents are going to look at us and say as my elected representative, what do you think I should do. How do you want me to think about it? It's our obligation to say this is an agreement between governments. It's the government that negotiated it. They've

done that within the rules of this country, and it is for their better judgment. That's what the government says they're going to do. You can go further than that and say in my best opinion I'm going to support it and so should everybody else. I don't know if that's going too far, but I know it's been done before.

When extra seats were being debated in this legislature, I didn't run home and ask the Sahtu people what I should do. I didn't ask them. It was about the rights of people in Yellowknife to have more representation, based on population. I didn't go and ask them what I should do with the rights of Yellowknife people. I took a stand and said I support it, much to the chagrin of my constituents and other aboriginal leaders, but that's what I did. I went into an election and got re-elected. That's what leadership is about.

I know that it's very close to election and we have to do some soul searching about how strong a stance we can take. It does take courage. I think if you look at the history of aboriginal people, we come from a time when we had no vote, we had no rights. This country stood up and said it's not in the Constitution, we don't see it in the rules, we don't see it in our institutions, you don't have any rights. We have processes and we have institutions, but we don't see you having any rights. We come from a time in the Northwest Territories when that was the rule of the land, and aboriginal people have taken the time to advance that. It takes a lot of courage to bend the rules and say this doesn't really follow the laws of this country and this institution to be prepared to take a leap of faith.

Some leaders in this country did that some years ago. Sometimes they were prodded by the Supreme Court of Canada, but it has been a long, hard struggle for everybody. And we're not there yet. If we think we have the credibility and the backing of all aboriginal people to be and to continue to be the Government of the Northwest Territories, we have to take stock here because I don't think we're there yet. We're getting there, but we're not there yet.

This is an offer to be partners. This is an offer, but the Tlicho could say we can make this a better government, we're going to endorse it. We're going with a public government, we're going to go with a partnership government. That's what I see here and I think again we need to take a stand and not be afraid. Maybe we skipped some steps and people are uncomfortable with it, but the fact is we're here. We're not back last year or even two weeks ago, we're here, we have to make a decision. As imperfect as this process is, this institution is, take a leap of faith, vote in support of it. This government will gain credibility, it will gain substance, it will gain support.

I said in Fort Rae in front of the Prime Minister, in front of everybody, one thing you have to understand -- and it applies to all the other aboriginal groups -- if you take care of the Tlicho, the Tlicho will take care of you. And it applies to this government particularly. They have taken a bold step to say we will partner with this government, we will take care of this government by endorsing it. That's the statement here today, it's not in the technical clauses. We can't get mired in what steps we've missed, we don't have time for that.

So I know there's due process, there's expectations from our constituents. I think we have to be honest with our constituents. Take a position of leadership, tell them what in your best judgment needs to be done here. There's a lot more at stake than this particular agreement, there's still a lot of other work to do and they're waiting for us to make a definitive statement and we should do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Premier. With that, I'm going to take a five-minute recess. Apparently the bylaw are concerned with all the vehicles parked down the road. You apparently have to park off the side of the road because bylaw has stated that you have to allow for emergency vehicles to get through and they're having problems getting vehicles through. So if I could ask those people in the visitors' gallery who do have vehicles parked on the road, if you could either move it to the visitors' side at the museum, or just move off the road so that your vehicle is not on the road. So we'll take a five-minute break and we'll come back so those people can run out, move your vehicles and we'll begin in five minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are under general comments dealing with Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Act. At this time I would like to call on Mr. McLeod from the Deh Cho. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We seem to have lost all our audience when it's my turn to speak. Mr. Chairman, I want to start off by commending the team that worked on this document, especially the negotiators. I know it's a tough job, a very lengthy process, and having this document signed this summer was really a huge milestone, a real feather in the cap. I also wanted to commend the Minister on the work that he's done, and also for having the courage to bring this forward, knowing full well that we had a real short window of opportunity to pass this document, or to even review this document.

I didn't expect to see this document in front of us within the life of what we had left in our term. We had I think all understood that the Tlicho agreement, the Tlicho legislation would come to the Members of the 15th Assembly because of the late signing. So it was a little bit of a surprise. However, I certainly encouraged the Minister to bring it forward. I voted in favour of this legislation in first and second reading, because I believe that we have to give the benefit of the doubt and try our best effort to accommodate this legislation. So that's why I voted to support the principle in first and second reading.

I was fully expecting us to take this on the road, given the short time frame, maybe even to a couple of communities. Unfortunately, it didn't look like it was possible to do public hearings. I don't know if there was a lack of political will or a lot of people watching the election clock that's ticking already. However, I was happy that we could at least agree and not let this whole legislation die and be in a process that was not going to go the last few steps. So I really want to also commend the Member for North Slave for taking it to this committee, Committee of the Whole.

I think whenever we have to fast track or try to push documents through, we're really in a pinch, especially when it comes to aboriginal issues. We've heard a couple of Members say today that we, as a territorial government, are always viewed as a stumbling block. I knew and I still feel had we delayed discussion on this legislation, it certainly would have been viewed as a stumbling block. So we were in a position that we were going to be criticized by either. By not proceeding, we would have, I understand, delayed the Tlicho legislation probably until sometime next spring. In order for us to proceed, we have to go this route. So going to Committee of the Whole is the only avenue we have at this time.

There is some objection that we have to take very seriously. We've had a lot of correspondence from the North Slave Metis

Alliance; there are a lot of questions being raised. We also have a document that we just got today from the Fort Providence community council. I don't believe there's a campaign against this legislation, but I believe there are a lot of questions that they are going to be asked. Given the time we have left in this House today, I don't think we will have enough time to ask the questions today, so I am sure it's going to be a two-day process. Hopefully we will be able to conclude this discussion tomorrow.

I understand though that this is the first of three bills. A lot of things have changed, even from the time this document was initialled. I had the privilege of attending the signing in Fort Rae and since that time we've had some other aboriginal groups, some legal cases settled. So it's an ever-evolving environment that we live in and I certainly don't want to see something held up as we try to get a legal opinion every step, but there has to be answers of the questions that are being posed.

I have a lot of questions I would like to ask the Minister when the time is appropriate. I have to have the comfort that this legislation will accommodate all recent and future changes and what affect it will have on other aboriginal groups. I am from the Deh Cho. I represent the Deh Cho. Our borders are parallel. We've had discussions with the Dogrib and Tlicho over the last few years. I have to have the assurance and give this bill due diligence. Since this is going to be our only avenue, I will have a lot of questions. I am hoping the Minister has really been studying the document because I am sure my vote is going to be based on his answers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. What is the wish of the committee? Clause by clause? Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 34, Deh Cho Land Claim Self-Government Agreement Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can the Minister inform us what the Tlicho tax agreement means and what does it mean for citizens that are non-Tlicho and residing in the Tlicho area when this comes into effect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a Tlicho tax agreement that is in place and recognizes the power of the Tlicho to enact laws for the Tlicho government proposed in relation to direct taxation of Tlicho citizens on Tlicho lands and in Tlicho communities. That's the clause you were referring to, I believe. The government tacks powers on the Tlicho agreement, clause 7.4.5. If that's the question, the Tlicho final agreement recognizes the power of the Tlicho government to enact the laws the Tlicho government proposed in relation to direct taxation of Tlicho citizens on Tlicho lands and in Tlicho communities. Tlicho in clause 7.5.11 clarifies for greater certainty that these powers are concurrent with the powers of the federal and territorial governments. Thank you.

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

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I didn't catch the last part of what the Minister said in reference to that. Did he refer to the fact of the impact? Now I understand that initially this tax agreement on clause 1 refers to giving the government status. For example, this government doesn't have to pay GST, for example, and can be registered along those lines, but I guess what I am looking for is does this tax agreement allow for any other taxation to occur and if it does, what impact does that have on non-Tlicho citizens residing in the area? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the tax treaty agreement that was entered between the Tlicho and the Canada and GNWT, sets out tax treatment of the Tlicho government and the Tlicho corporations for federal and territorial income tax and the federal GST. That's the way that is. It also sets out the treatment for the Tlicho trust, which will receive the capital transfer from Canada. I think the final question was does it have an impact on non-Tlicho citizens. I understand it does not have an impact on them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that response. In clause 1, it talks about the Tlicho government means the government of the Tlicho First Nations established in accordance with the Tlicho agreement. I think that refers to the actual Tlicho, not the community governments but more like the regional type government, the actual head of the organization. How would that be established?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: This clause defines the Tlicho government in accordance with the Tlicho agreement. The details of the Tlicho government including structure and authorities are found in chapter 7 of the Tlicho agreement.

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

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister referred to chapter 7 of the agreement -- and I am just referring to the plain speak that all Members have had a copy of -- is the understanding that that government will be made up completely of Tlicho citizens? Will there be room for non-Tlicho citizens, whether they are aboriginal or non-aboriginal, but residing on Tlicho land?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: In chapter 7, it's explanatory in 7.1.3 where the government body of the Tlicho government exercises law-making powers and the primary executive function will include at least the grand chief, elected at large. They have to be an eligible Tlicho citizen and the chief of each Tlicho community government will also make up this government and at least one representative from each of the Tlicho communities elected by residents of that community. I take it that at least one representative from each Tlicho community elected by residents of that community, so there's a

possibility perhaps there that it might be a non-Tlicho in that position. Thank you.

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

MR. ROLAND: That would be very different from what I initially understood, that that level of government would be made up of only Tlicho beneficiaries or citizens as they enroll. Is that accurate? I know the community government level, which we will not be dealing with, but the next government will be, the chief will be a Tlicho citizen and at least half of the council will be made up of Tlicho citizens, but for this one, there's not a whole lot to that. I guess I asked this because I want to ask the Minister, as Cabinet signed this document, initialed and then signed it officially, were they satisfied that their legal people reviewed this and felt that there was no derogation as responsible for other public citizens, that their rights were not going to be infringed upon as being able to be represented at this level of government? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, all these different chapters, particularly chapter 7 on the Tlicho government, yes, we've gone over it. The Department of Justice has gone over it thoroughly and we are quite satisfied in the way that it's developed. In this governing body of the Tlicho government, we must understand that this is a government, Tlicho government, that will have jurisdiction over the Tlicho citizens and over the Tlicho land. It's therefore designed as such. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister then saying at that level of government, the Tlicho government will have no authority or law making over non-Tlicho citizens at that level? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way I understand it, Mr. Chairman, is this government will be dealing with the lands and the jurisdictions over the Tlicho. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not clear with the Minister's response. When we talk about the regional government level, Tlicho government. He gave us the breakdown as to what the representation on this would be and said they would have jurisdiction over citizens and lands only. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me the difference between a citizen and a resident. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask counsel, Mr. Goldney, to reply to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The definition of a Tlicho citizen is provided for in the agreement itself and it clearly captures Tlicho persons enrolled under the agreement.

Residents is broader, of course, and includes others. It's perhaps a bit of a clarification. I don't think the Minister was suggesting the Tlicho regional government won't have jurisdictions that effect non-Tlicho, but primarily those jurisdictions relate to Tlicho citizens and Tlicho lands and as the Tlicho government makes laws respecting lands in its other jurisdictions, there will be some effect on non-Tlicho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's the point that wasn't coming clear from the Minister's answer. It's my understanding from reading the agreement, that in its role in making laws and being able to tax citizens and have jurisdiction over the land, that residents will be captured by this and potentially the Tlicho government will tax its people and residents on these lands and, in theory, those residents could potentially be non-beneficiaries or non-citizens. That's correct, isn't it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Deputy Minister.

MR. BARGERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I heard that question correctly, it referred to taxation of Tlicho and non-Tlicho residents on Tlicho land. The Tlicho government would have power, direct taxation powers, for the Tlicho citizens only and have jurisdiction for Tlicho lands. So it has some responsibilities for the management of the resources on those lands and activities that occur on those lands, but taxation is limited to Tlicho citizens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bargery. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: I appreciate that explanation. I think that's one of the things that's been discussed and one of the things that I have had a number of people talk to me about; this provision. There seems to be a lot of mystery around it and I don't think it's entirely clear, but it seems... Maybe I could ask you this way, did the government have any concern of taxation without representation? Was that discussed in the negotiation of this agreement, as we see that the makeup of the government includes the grand chief, the community chiefs and one representative from each of the communities elected at large, as it were, which would allow for non-beneficiaries to be involved in that government? My understanding though was that this government could impose taxes on residents, not necessarily citizens, but on residents and then the concern could become whether or not this passes the test of representation and taxation. So in the government's mind then there isn't a concern here with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in that respect. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. Richard Bargery.

MR. BARGERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to be clear, clause 7.45 of the final agreement recognizes the power of the Tlicho government to enact laws and part of that is direct taxation of Tlicho citizens on Tlicho lands and in Tlicho communities. It doesn't have the power to tax non-Tlicho citizens with one exception. It can do so through agreement. The Tlicho agreement is permissive in that way. Governments can enter into agreements to share tax. It allows for those negotiations. It doesn't prescribe that there must be an agreement, only that negotiations may occur in that respect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions. First of all, I wanted to ask the Minister regarding the public review that was mentioned earlier, about having unprecedented public review and consultation with the 40 groups. I just wonder if you could clarify where that was all held.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Excuse me, Mr. McLeod. We are already on clause 1. So can you rephrase your comment to clause 1, which talks about the Tlicho government and tax agreement? Please keep your question to that section. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: I request we go back to general comments.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

General Comments

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The yeas have it and the nays don't. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I will rephrase my question. In the Tlicho agreement, there was a consultation process. I would like to ask the Minister, what consultation process took place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, the public had an opportunity to review and comment on the Tlicho agreement on a number of different occasions. There have been information periods that were held by the chief negotiators in October and November of 2002 and they met with a number of different groups. I take it that from the list here, most of the meetings probably occurred in Yellowknife. There have been some teleconferences with the Deh Cho representatives, as well as the Akaitcho First Nations. I think consultations took place in all four of the Tlicho communities as well, but the majority has been in Yellowknife. There was one public session in Yellowknife. They made different presentations in different forums and different conferences. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, as a follow-up to the response by the Minister, it appears there were meetings held in Yellowknife. I am just wondering if the North Slave Metis Alliance had made a presentation at that juncture.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: From the information I have, they had two meetings with the North Slave Metis Alliance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree to continue on with clause 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, 2.7 covers specific guarantees. Would the Minister explain to me whether that covers the Metis concerns by the Fort Providence Metis and the North Slave Metis Alliance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod, we are on clause 2. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I understand this is the clause that covers 2.7 in the agreement where it refers to specific guarantees. I would like to ask that same question and if it does cover the same issues raised by the Metis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In clause 4, I would make reference to the agreement itself to 2.7.1(b) that states that no provisions in the agreement shall be construed to effect any treaty right of any aboriginal people other than the Tlicho where the right exists before the provision of the agreement was in effect or any aboriginal rights of aboriginal people other than the Tlicho. I believe that from our legal advice, this provision covers the concern, but for a more specific explanation, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to our legal counsel, Mr. Goldney.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the Department of Justice's view that clause 2.7.1 does address the substantive concerns of the North Slave Metis Alliance. As we understand those concerns, it does. Essentially, 2.7.1(b) provides that if another aboriginal peoples establish an aboriginal right or a treaty right, the Tlicho agreement cannot operate to effect that right. So if any court finds that the Tlicho agreement impacts any other aboriginal rights, any party to the agreement can give notice. The agreement is itself flexible if it is established either through negotiation or through litigation that an aboriginal right of another aboriginal peoples is affected by the Tlicho agreement. There are also provisions in the Tlicho agreement to amend the contours of the Tlicho agreement to make room for that right. Again, in first instance, if the right is established and the Tlicho agreement in any way affects that right, the provision of the Tlicho agreement that affects that right isn't operative to the extent that it offends or somehow denigrates or affects the rights of other aboriginal peoples. Quite considerable care was coming to this arrangement and a lot of attention was given to it.

We could also point out that clause 2.7.1 was considered by the federal Court of Canada in the North Slave Metis Alliance's mitigation. You may recall, the North Slave Metis Alliance, as part of their mitigation, sought an injunction from the court that would prevent the governments of Canada and the GNWT from taking any further steps to conclude the agreements and the federal Court of Canada ruled that it was satisfied that 2.7 adequately addresses the concerns of other aboriginal peoples, including the North Slave Metis because if the North Slave Metis establish aboriginal rights, and it has shown that these aboriginal rights are affected by the Tlicho agreement, then 2.7.1(b) comes into play.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Further to that, I am trying to get the comfort here that this clause covers all existing rights, all future rights. For example, since this agreement has been signed, we've seen the Powley case settled. Can the Minister tell us if the rights arising from that will be covered and accommodated through this agreement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer again to legal counsel, Mr. Goldney, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to that question is yes, 2.7.1 would apply to the rights of the North Slave Metis and if those rights occur as a result of the test established under the Powley case, it applies. Powley sets out, as an important landmark case, the test for Metis claimant groups to establish their rights in courts and the North Slave Metis Alliance were successful in meeting that test and if the court were to find that they had aboriginal rights, then 2.7.1 would apply.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again with clause 4, the Tlicho agreement is proved, given effect and declared valid and has the force of law. We've heard that there are other pieces of legislation yet to flow from this agreement that the future government will have to deal with, but when you look at this whole agreement, it includes items such as community governments that are established in the agreement. I would like to know from the Minister in that area, there's a lot more detail in the community government section about how things will go, property tax and so on. So I would like to know from the Minister, by giving this effect and declared valid and has the force of law, are we already approving the next piece of legislation that would come forward? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, before getting into the specifics, I will refer it to Mark Aitken.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Aitken.

MR. AITKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Tlicho agreement contemplates there would be separate territorial legislation to implement the provisions of chapter 8 relating to Tlicho community governments. That, in fact, has been worked and will be brought forward during the 15th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you. I thank them for that response. It clears up a lot. The other one is by passing this "by giving this effect and declared valid and has the force of law," my understanding is that even in this agreement when you look at ratification, it talks to the process being the signatures of all parties and ratification by the Tlicho and then through this government, the signage from the Minister that was given the authority by Executive Council and then coming into force, settlement legislation. Now we are in that process right now being c), the coming into force of territorial settlement legislation. Further on in there, it talks about the federal

government and once the federal government passes their law, then the agreement is given effect. Is that not so? Just in response to clause 4, my understanding is that this law is not valid until the federal passage occurs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland, did you get that answer?

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am used to the Minister being quite lengthy in his responses and I wasn't prepared for that quick shot. So if he can give me that again.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister, can you restate your answer?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, the Member is correct that when coming into force, all legislation will have to be in place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that settlement legislation by the federal government going to include the amendments to the NWT Act that would give us the authority to actually go through this process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The federal legislation that will put this Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act will contain subsequent amendments to the NWT Act to provide authority to pass laws to implement land claims and self-government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that clarification. I guess my next question is when do we expect the federal government to be able to put this through and bring it to passage?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We understand that the federal legislation is currently being drafted. Our government representative has been involved along with the Tlicho to try to get this legislation done. We understand that it will be introduced some time in December. That's our information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, in fact, today as we sit, we are going through this as more of a formality because we don't have the legislative authority to actually bring this into effect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, the amendments to provide the Government of the Northwest Territories with authority is something that is in question, but our information is that the Yukon territory had brought settlement legislation in prior to receiving any federal authority to do so. Subsequently

an amendment was made to the Yukon Act to provide that authority. So to date, the Yukon settlement legislation has not been challenged, I understand. We have been in contact and discussions with the federal government to have this similar type of arrangement done so that even if we do pass our legislation, then the amendment that the federal government will make to the NWT Act to put this into effect could be retroactive. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, clause 4(3) speaks to third parties. I know this question has been asked already, but I would like to get more certainty. I would like to ask the Minister what effect will this agreement have on other aboriginal governments who want to come to similar arrangements with the federal and territorial governments within the Tlicho settlement area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, there have been several third party obligations that were negotiated in this settlement claim. This confirms that basically the negotiation was that the third parties were bound by other obligations and they can rely on provisions within this agreement to have that. As for other First Nations, other aboriginal governments, I think there are provisions in the Tlicho agreement to work with the other aboriginal governments. In this Tlicho land claims and self-government agreement, they are defining their own rights. They are not defining anybody else's rights. I think the rights of other aboriginal people, like we said earlier, are protected through the different provisions in this agreement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, outside of the individual rights of the people who are non-Tlicho citizens, the question I am referring to is specific to land. I represent a constituency that is Treaty 8. I know Treaty 8 has negotiated their boundary agreements with the Tlicho citizens. I just want to get reassurance from the Minister that this agreement would recognize and honour that overlap agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to reassure the Member that it was at great length that the overlap agreements were reached with the Akaitcho. As a result of consultation, that agreement is part of this claim here and will be there the way it was agreed on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, specific to the North Slave Metis Alliance again, I know the Powley decision was recent. We don't understand the full magnitude of that decision yet, but it is a Supreme Court decision and normally it's been demonstrated through history that any Supreme Court decision has a national implication. Would the North Slave Metis have the same ability without a formal agreement with the Tlicho, similar to that of the Deh Cho and Akaitcho have with the Tlicho, have the same ability to come to terms with Canada and the Northwest Territories on a similar agreement within the settlement area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Powley decision, as I stated earlier, provides the test for Metis claimant groups to establish their rights and if the North Slave Metis Alliance were successful in pursuing their rights through litigation, the agreement would operate to make room for those rights. I think the Member is asking whether or not it would be available for the North Slave Metis Alliance to negotiate those rights and that's certainly another way of establishing the North Slave Metis Alliance's rights. To date, however, Canada has not recognized the North Slave Metis Alliance as a distinct aboriginal peoples. That might change as their aboriginal rights are established and maybe further defined through the courts. But at present, there are no negotiations with the North Slave Metis Alliance. That willingness may change on the part of Canada and if it does, and the North Slave Metis Alliance have their aboriginal rights established in a treaty and have treaty rights, then 2.7(1) will allow for the accommodation of those rights.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing as section 4 addresses the whole Tlicho agreement, I have a question with regard to the requirement for consultation. I have the plain speak version of the agreement. Section 7.5.13 says, before enacting a law in relation to the matter set out in 7.4.2, the Tlicho government shall consult with government, and it's plainly interpreted here and I read that to mean that there is a certain requirement for consultation where Tlicho government is making new laws that may affect the laws of Canada.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee, could you have your question based on clause 4 and refer to that clause, not refer to different sections of the agreement? Just the clause that we're discussing now. Clause 4.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I was doing a good job explaining that, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, section 4 says the Tlicho agreement is approved giving effect and declared valid and has the force of law. This clause gives effect to the agreement. That means that we are ratifying the whole agreement with this clause. I have a question about something in the agreement which deals with the requirement for consultation. I'd just like to put it on record as to what the requirements are. What are we envisioning in terms of the requirement on the part of Tlicho government to do consultation when they're setting up new laws that affect Canada and the NWT? I just want the Minister to simply describe what the consultation process might look like. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the clause that the Member is referring to makes reference that the Tlicho government shall consult with government. I think it's specifically making reference to 7.4.2 and in that particular 7.4.2, the Tlicho government has the power to enact laws in relation to the use, management, administration and protection of Tlicho lands and the renewable and non-renewable resources on there. There are a number of different points there that make reference specifically to those different provisions in there. In that aspect they will be consulting with the government on how they're going to do it in terms of granting interests in Tlicho lands, land use plans, business occupation activities on the lands, control or prohibition of transportation, sale and manufacturing

provisions, use of weapons, dangerous substances on Tlicho land and so forth. I think the provision the Member is referring to deals with how Tlicho government will be consulting with government when they start dealing with the powers they have to enact laws in these particular areas on their lands and resources. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's how I read it and my question is, has the government planned for how this kind of consultation would take place? Because the way I read it, there is a legislated requirement for consultation. So I thought I would hear from the Minister on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, the term "consultation" is also defined in the act and I think the rationale behind the different provisions in the area of consulting with government is that our laws and our regulations be compatible with the Tlicho government and the territorial government in regard to the land and the use of the land and what happens on the land and so forth. Since we're partnership governments, we want to collaborate and want to have the different provisions controlling or administering the provisions there to be compatible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question also dealing with the Tlicho government's jurisdiction and powers to legislate taxation on its land and I believe that's part of the agreement. I understand for that reason the Tlicho government had to enter into the tax treatment agreement. I just wanted to put on record, I wanted to ask this question for public information purposes. Is there any agreement in it about possible sharing of tax between Tlicho government and territorial government or the federal government? Or does it just speak to the Tlicho government's power to tax their own people? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Deputy Minister Bargery to respond to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bargery.

MR. BARGERY: Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman, was the Member referring to the tax treatment agreement or a specific clause in the agreement, 7.4.5? That provides for direct taxation of Tlicho citizens on Tlicho lands and in Tlicho communities which they can do and enact laws to do. It doesn't anticipate tax sharing agreements, which I think is the Member's point. The agreement itself is permissive, as I said earlier, in terms of tax sharing agreements for taxation purposes. We are not in discussions with the Tlicho on tax sharing at this point. We have had some in the past, but they're not ongoing. I do understand that the federal government does have some discussions ongoing about tax sharing. I'm not certain where those are, but again, my understanding of that discussion is that it's about tax sharing, but it's about tax sharing based on the current rates that are in place so it wouldn't increase the tax burden on any citizens in the Tlicho region. I hope that answers the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the negotiations are between the Tlicho government and the Government Canada, but not with the GNWT. I'm no expert in taxation and I don't claim to know a lot about it, but if there's an agreement between Tlicho government and Government of Canada to share tax, would that affect the share that the GNWT would get out of the taxes that the government would be collecting? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Just a reminder, Ms. Lee. The taxation section comes under clause 8, but I'll allow your question. You can probably get a little more input when we get to clause 8. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: I'll refer this one to Mr. Bargery, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bargery.

MR. BARGERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, the agreement is bilateral between Canada and the Tlicho, but my understanding is it deals with federal income tax, not taxation that the Government of the Northwest Territories raises. I guess the short answer is no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. We'll rise and report progress. I'd like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Sergeant-at-arms, could you escort the witnesses out.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine, seconds the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed?

The motion is carried, in the chair's opinion.

---Carried

I just want to take a moment to thank the members of Tlicho for coming to observe this very important debate in the House. I was asked to explain what we're doing. We're taking a break today, a normal routine, and we'll resume that important debate again tomorrow at 10:00 in the morning. You're most welcome again to be here to participate or to observe the progress that your Assembly is making.

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 22: Waste Reduction And Recovery Act

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

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 22 has had third reading. Item 21, third 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 third time.

---Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Now that's loyalty. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 24 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Bill 32: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2003-2004

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2003-2004, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 32 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Bill 25: Municipal Statutes Replacement Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 25, Municipal

Statutes Replacement Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 25 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Bill 31: An Act To Amend The Official Languages Act, No. 3

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3, be read for a third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 31 has had third reading.

---Applause

Item 21, third reading of bills. Colleagues, at this point in our Orders of the Day, I would like to remind the House that after a very long and distinguished career as our Clerk and for the final time in this Assembly, Mr. Clerk, may we have the Orders of the Day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Orders of the day for Friday, October 10th:

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

9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

- Motion 21-14(6), Censure of the Minister of Health and Social Services

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 29, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Act

- Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3

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 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act

- Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million to NWT Resource Highways

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

---Applause

---Applause

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Thank you, thank you. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned to Friday, October 10, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

