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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Box 1320
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784
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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Members Present

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 38-15(4): RCMP Drug Enforcement Activity**

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is an honour today, on behalf of the government and people of the Northwest Territories, to congratulate the RCMP on their actions to fight drug trafficking in our communities.

---Applause

Since April 2004, "G" division's federal drug enforcement section has been investigating high level drug supply and distribution in the Northwest Territories. This project, code named "Gunship," culminated in a series of arrests late last week. These arrests mark the end of the covert phase of the project, but are not the end of the investigation, which is ongoing. This is a major step forward for the RCMP in reducing the main supply lines that bring drugs and their destructive effects into our communities.

I'm pleased to join with the RCMP in announcing a one-year pilot project to reallocate existing resources to form a street level drug enforcement team.

---Applause

This four-member team will target street level distributors, couriers and dealers in all communities across the NWT. This project, developed in cooperation with the Department of Justice, is a direct response to public concerns regarding the drug trade.

However, Mr. Speaker, while we applaud the work of the RCMP, we must remember that the drug problem is not simply a policing issue. Mr. Speaker, the police play a role in reducing the supply of drugs, but communities can help reduce the demand for them. Each of us must contribute to the fight against drugs. This means reporting illegal activity you become aware of, and being prepared to testify in court if necessary. It may also mean supporting friends or family members in their efforts to get off drugs. Most importantly, we must ensure our children know the dangers of drugs and help them find safe, healthy activities that reduce their exposure to drugs and alcohol.

As with any social issue, the fight against drugs requires us to work together and, Mr. Speaker, this government is taking a lead role. A number of departments, including Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Justice; the Workers' Compensation Board; the RCMP, and industry will hold a strategic planning workshop in November to develop a comprehensive and coordinated drug awareness campaign for the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I congratulate the RCMP on the success of a long and demanding operation, and thank them for their commitment to making our communities safer for all of us. Our government will continue to support and work closely with the RCMP to make sure those who would supply illegal drugs to our communities are not welcome in the NWT, and their activities are not tolerated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 39-15(4): Samuel Hearne Secondary School

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker. Over the past few weeks, the students attending high school programs in Inuvik were given a clear demonstration from the community that their education ranks high in their town's priorities. In just one week, following the closure of the secondary school, alternate facilities were set up in order to create classroom spaces and provide for the continuation of learning opportunities for all high school students.

Samuel Hearne Secondary School was closed temporarily due to possible risk factors related to the facility's wood pile foundations. This closure created a problem: where to house the over 350 students and how to make sure that students would continue their studies and meet the curriculum requirements.

To address this challenge, and through collaboration and cooperation between the Inuvik District Education Authority, the Town of Inuvik, Aurora College and several GNWT departments, classes have been set up in three locations. For students in grades 7 and 8, classes have been organized in the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School. Students in grades 9 to 12 are being housed at Aurora Campus and in the Town of Inuvik's recreation centre. In the rec centre, temporary classrooms have been built on the curling rink, and students have been given access to the wide range of activities that are housed in this facility.

I recently visited the community and each of the learning sites. I was very impressed by the work that has been

done by all involved to make the very best of a difficult situation.

I would like to recognize and extend our thanks to the students for taking a positive approach to the change in venue for their classrooms; to the DEC, DEA and education staff for taking on the challenge with great professionalism; and to the Town of Inuvik and the members of the Inuvik community for pulling together and working quickly and effectively to address the needs of the children of Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Wilderness Camps

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today will be about wilderness corrections camps. We, in the Northwest Territories, especially the aboriginal population, are overrepresented in the justice system. It would be good to say that we have too many lawyers, judges and administrators in the Justice department; however, this is not the case. We are overrepresented in the corrections system. The big building with the big dollars. My communities ask why we don't have our own method of dealing with our own people. The justice system, at least the corrections system, isn't working in the Northwest Territories. More and more youth and adults, even school children, have entered the world of lock and key. I had research look up some stats, and this is what they showed me.

Stats in the Northwest Territories show they are failing the aboriginal people. From 2001 to 2003, the last year for which the NWT's crime stats are available, crime had increased territory-wide by almost 25 percent, and crimes in the Northwest Territories are well over four times the national average. Aboriginal people comprise three percent of the population, yet make up 20 percent of the population in custody.

In 2002-2003, 83 percent of total sentence admissions in the Northwest Territories were aboriginal. The year before that was 90 percent. We need northern solutions. We need culturally appropriate justice systems in the Northwest Territories. Restorative justice focuses on healing rather than incarceration and punishment. There are a number of aboriginal communities that have led the way for restorative justice. One of the communities is Hollow Water, where traditional culture is the vehicle for healing, and the importance of an elder in that system where they undertake traditional roles, beliefs and cultural ceremonies have become very crucial to participants.

The Northwest Territories is supposed to be a leader in the area of leadership and healing in this government. During the pre-budget consultations, people across the Northwest Territories were willing to support the wilderness camps for people with lesser crimes. The government can, and should, do more to set programs in place.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to quote the legendary George Jones in my statement.

---Laughter

The right/left hand. This is the time you got this right. We need the right hand talking to the left hand. We need wilderness camps in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today, I want to talk about funding for NGOs. Like my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I found the pre-budget process to be very valuable. Of course, I hear from my constituents on a daily basis, but to hear the same message repeated again and again from many groups from practically every community really brings the message home.

The message, Mr. Speaker, is that NGOs need better funding arrangements so that they can do what they do best, which is provide social support and services to the communities that they serve.

For years, Mr. Speaker, NGOs have been kept on a very short funding tether. Although this government recognizes the crucial work they do in the communities, indeed depends on them as a service delivery vehicle within the integrated services delivery model -- despite this, funding is doled out so that the NGOs have their hands tied.

One of the major problems, Mr. Speaker, is the challenge NGOs face hiring staff. Key positions in important agencies sometimes remain empty. How can they compete, Mr. Speaker? How can they compete with the big players when the big players can offer so much more to employees? The reality is that they can't compete. Staff turnover is a problem. It is a frequent occurrence that staff are trained for a position only to see them leave for better pay and benefits elsewhere, and this understandably so.

Recently, the UNW and the GNWT signed a new Collective Agreement that provides a three percent salary increase over four years. NGOs have not seen this kind of increase to their funding arrangements to reflect increased pay levels in other sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this government set up a funding arrangement for NGOs to provide services on behalf of the GNWT that includes automatic escalators that respond to increases and reflects the increases that are paid to the UNW under their Collective Agreement. An automatic escalator would enable NGOs to provide a salary increase for their staff to be somewhat competitive with the GNWT and other employers. This would be a valuable tool to recruit and retain the staff that they need to provide the services that they provide so well.

Mr. Speaker, if the GNWT truly stands behind the integrated service delivery model, they should step up to the plate and provide adequate and fair funding for their partners, our NGOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Pre-Budget Consultation

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this fall, the Regular Members from all committees joined together on, really, an historic initiative for this Assembly. It was the first time that we have seriously gone out to our communities, to our regions, to ask their opinions for our upcoming budget process and the three-year business planning cycle that our government has operated under for so long.

This really was a fascinating exercise. One that was very well understood too, Mr. Speaker, because when we were first looking at how to go about this, we were concerned that our message or what we wanted to hear out of this might turn into something like a very long wish list or a loud round of complaints. You know, it didn't turn out that way at all. It was something that was wonderfully constructive, very informative. It was candid, it was fresh, it was on the record. It is something that this Assembly and departments are certain to hear more about in the future. It is the consensus government that we operate under here. We are proud of this style of government, and we have to make efforts to make it work, and giving regular people, non-government organizations and professional organizations a chance to come before us and tell us what their expectations are is very much in keeping with our job and why we should be here.

A scan of what other jurisdictions in Canada do, Mr. Speaker, shows that up until this year, we were one of only three jurisdictions in Canada that did not have some kind of public consultation process going on. I am very pleased that we have changed that, and I really look forward to more of this kind of thing in the future and the annual visits to the communities and the regions that will really help us advance our style of government and the way we do our business. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Pre-Budget Consultation

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues said, earlier this fall we did go on a pre-budget consultation tour. This tour allowed us to visit communities in the northern and southern parts of the NWT, to hear what people had to say about what they think of where the government should be going.

I won't repeat, Mr. Speaker, where some thought we should go.

---Laughter

This was the first time that this was attempted, and we did not know what to expect. What we found, Mr. Speaker, was an informed and articulate public who pay very close attention to what we do in this Assembly...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCLEOD: ...and hold us accountable for our actions, or lack of actions in some cases. Mr. Speaker, this was an excellent opportunity for Regular Members to see many of the issues facing the other MLAs in the ridings they represent.

The issues, Mr. Speaker, are the same across the NWT. Every community has concerns with housing, with health, with the road system, and education.

---Laughter

Many think that this is nothing new, but hearing it over and over again, proved that to the residents of the NWT, the government is still lacking in many important areas. Once the people realized that we were just Regular Members, and we sometimes share the same frustrations in trying to get commitments from the government, they began to speak of all the issues in their communities, hoping that a united voice will help their cause.

Mr. Speaker, the northern group, chaired by Chief Hawkeye, heard from residents in Inuvik, Paulatuk, Fort Good Hope and Whati. We listened to residents speak on the lack of progress on the pipeline, the need for regional treatment centres, transparency from the Housing Corporation on their programs, the location of an income support office in one school. One young lady said that people should work for what they get.

Mr. Speaker, we visited a senior's home in Fort Good Hope and met with an 84-year-old lady who, despite the warm weather, had to have a heater going to keep warm. All she wanted, and deserves, was a new window and main doors to help keep the cold out so she could stay warm. My colleagues and I left her residence quite upset that Housing and this government would allow this elder to live in these conditions.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

MR. MCLEOD: They plan on building a \$41 million court house, and all Rosie wanted was new windows to keep warm. Shame on this government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, while it is up to each community...I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, while it is up to each community to look after their residents, this government should equip them with the resources they require.

I want to thank the residents of Inuvik and Paulatuk, Fort Good Hope and Whati for their hospitality and input into the consultation, and hope that we can spend more time in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On On-The-Land Corrections Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to speak about the benefit of our way of life, and the on-the-land program as part of the initiative in the rehabilitation process for offenders.

Mr. Speaker, during the pre-budget consultation this summer, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight gave the GNWT definite direction, from the community perspective, on spending priorities. With each consultation, I was struck by the frequency and intensity of the support of the on-the-land correction program.

The Department of Justice establishment policy clearly states that their mandate is to administer justice, including policing and corrections in the Northwest Territories, in a manner which respects aboriginal values, and encourages the communities in increasing responsibility. In the community of Behchoko, for 2002-03 fiscal year, over \$1.8 million was spent on corrections and policing services, Mr. Speaker. For the same period, only \$53,000 was spent on the Community Justice Program, representing less than three percent of the funding spent on corrections.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the restorative process of aboriginal offenders, we need to look at implementing traditional healing programs; on-the-land programs, which have aboriginal offenders making retribution to their crimes through hunting and providing for their communities.

On-the-land programs, or wilderness correction camps, have had difficulty in the past; but like many important projects, they require nurturing. Funding is needed for this. I am not talking about a huge \$40 million infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about allocating funding to run camps. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Health Services In Tu Nedhe

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about some of the health concerns in my constituency of Tu Nedhe, namely in Deninu Kue. The community of Deninu Kue has been without a resident nurse for the past couple of months, Mr. Speaker, and currently relies on temporary non-resident nurses to deliver health services within the community. This type of situation, left for extended periods of time, can lead to some grave results, Mr. Speaker. I am speaking literally.

Mr. Speaker, I received numerous calls over the past few days from concerned residents, that there are some elderly persons in the community who are not receiving proper or timely care that they require within the community, mainly because the non-residents have no knowledge or experience of the patient's medical history or lifestyle.

To add to this, also the lack of proper and expedient medical services in the community of Hay River, the long waiting times, and the lack of availability of a doctor does not help the situation at all. Although there are home care workers in the community, they are also not available to assist these elders that require 24-hour care unless the

elder is actually living in the elders' facility in which, in this case, many are not.

Mr. Speaker, the community is requesting, from Health and Social Services, a timely resolution to fill the position of a permanent resident nurse within the community and ensure the residents that their health is still a high priority of this government.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions in regard to this situation later in today's session. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Pre-Budget Consultation

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past September, for the first time ever, the Legislative Assembly took the budget process to the public. We encountered many ideas, thoughts and concerns from residents around the territory. For one full week, half of the Regular Members on this side of the House went north, while the other half went south to visit communities there. We also had two full days of discussions here in Yellowknife. From the feedback we received, this type of public involvement was long overdue. I will certainly be looking for ways going forward that we can find other ways that the government can open up the budgeting process. We need to allow more public presence in the lead-up to our budget discussions that ultimately end up here on the floor of this House. I don't really understand the necessity, Mr. Speaker, to keep all of the good work in the business plan review process behind closed doors. As a public government, we have to be more transparent and open about how we do business.

The pre-budget consultation exercise was a step in the right direction. Now we have to examine how we can increase our exposure, and the scrutiny that comes along with it, to the public that we serve.

Our budget process and committee structure does not normally allow for any type of public participation. Now that we have the door slightly ajar with the pre-budget consultations, we have to look at ways to let the public in on the business plan reviews. The public deserves, and has to have the opportunity, to see MLAs doing committee work. This will do two things, Mr. Speaker. First, it will increase public trust and lead to a more open and accountable government. Secondly, it will ensure Members take a more active and involved role in committee work. Ultimately, what you would achieve is better government. Isn't that why we are all here today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Inadequate School Facilities In Paulatuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to raise an issue about education that has been a great

concern to Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk. Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk was built in the 1990s to accommodate kindergarten to Grade 9. However, it was renovated to accommodate students to Grade 12. Today, Mr. Speaker, the Tuktoyaktuk District Education Authority is concerned that the present setup does not work in having students from K to 9 in one school setup. Many of the students utilize their hallways and share the same bathroom. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult during recess, because of what they have in IA, young students seeing the older students smoking cigarettes. Mangilaluk School does not have a resource centre; for example, a library. Many of the resource materials are stored in the room. This should not be tolerated because resource materials play an important part in education. When will Mangilaluk School have a library so that the students can find the necessary materials to complete their projects? Mr. Speaker, this year, the home economics room was turned into a classroom. Why? Because of shortage of space for appropriate classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, in Paulatuk, the Angik School was to have a Grade 11 extension this year. The Beaufort-Delta Divisional Education Council approved the extension this year. However, it was brought to my attention that the Grade 11 extension of Paulatuk was cancelled. Why?

Mr. Speaker, education throughout the Northwest Territories is important for our students. Without the classrooms and resources, we are failing our most important people: our students. In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment needs to address the needs of our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague before me, Mrs. Groenewegen, I am going to continue to talk about NGOs on the pre-budget consultation. Since I became a Member two years ago, I have had regular and ongoing contact with a number of our NGOs out there, like the NWT Seniors' Society, that deliver programs on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories to residents in Yellowknife, as well.

Again, one of the most pressing concerns that I heard from them is the ongoing funding problems. Every year these organizations are waiting in limbo for the government or one of the health and social services authorities to confirm that they will be funded at the same level of the last fiscal year for the new one. It is time that this government drops the rhetoric and starts going through and doing some meaningful work that helps these agencies.

In the face of funding uncertainty, these organizations are unable to provide assurance to their employees that they will be, in fact, employed, once the government money does show up. Consequently, NGOs regularly lose employees who have to leave because of the uncertainty that this unstable position creates. That is not good for a family. That makes job security impossible. No one can

get a mortgage without knowing that they will have a job next year. How does a person really start a true family working towards their future? The undue stress is not right. The red tape must end today.

Mr. Speaker, organizations again like the NWT Seniors' Society, and, of course, as well as many others, have a fantastic track record in delivering services to the people of the NWT. So I ask myself, how many years do these organizations have to demonstrate themselves to finally get the respect they truly deserve? Mr. Speaker, they should not have to spend inordinate amounts of time each year filling out administrative request after administrative request when they have truly a solid track record of providing great services at a great value. So again I say, if the government is listening, the red tape needs to end. We need to find ways to help these NGOs.

In 2002, the Social Agenda, a draft for the people of the NWT, recommended multi-year funding. We have got stone feet on this issue again. Every year, costs go up and the GNWT raises its rates. Authorities get more funding. Labour rates get covered, costs, et cetera, but NGOs continue to get the same amount of funding year to year.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions later for the Minister of Health and Social Services, but I have to stress, we talk about pipelines and devolution. Let's make multi-year funding a hallmark of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Member's statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Pre-Budget Consultation

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I, too, wish to speak to this House about our pre-budget consultation process that we began in August and September of this year. I was very happy to be part of a process that allows more input from our people into how we plan and spend our budget as a government, and also on how we can improve the delivery of our programs and services.

What I heard, Mr. Speaker, in each community that I travelled to, was accessibility and affordability of our living costs that reoccur over and over. I was also very pleased that the community of Wrigley took the time and effort to drive to Fort Simpson to make a presentation and have their say in how they would like their government to be spending their money.

My most memorable time, Mr. Speaker, was in Trout Lake, when Mr. Joe Punch went out of his way to ensure that we were taken care of.

---Applause

This is all he and our people ever ask of us, is that we take care of them and their needs. I look forward to ensure that this happens, Mr. Speaker. I want to make sure that the needs of our community and our people will be heard at each and every stage of our budget and capital planning process. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Pre-Budget Consultation

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to comment on the pre-budget tour. I have to start off by saying a big warm hello to elder Joe Punch of Trout Lake...

---Applause

...our member from Nahendeh kind of took that line, but I really want to thank Joe Punch for being with us every second that we were there. He even took us into his home. We had an opportunity to get access to some of their cranberries. It really was a nice time. I want to say hello to elder Punch.

I have to tell you that this really was an experience that was highly informative, meaningful and heartwarming. I am glad we made a decision to do this and, now that we have started it, we have to continue to do it. Most importantly, we need to make sure that we act on the advice, suggestions and directions given to us by the people of the NWT, in the nine communities that we visited and many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much to say and do about what we saw and what we heard, but let me just point out two things. The first one is how impressed I was with the fact that Chief Dennis Deneron of Trout Lake has a whole community hooked up with wireless Internet. He is a young and dynamic leader who is very proud of using technology to build on the strength, and to use it to preserve and enhance traditional knowledge, including the fact that he has satellite chips on animals that roam around his community. He actually keeps track of them with the latest technology. Who knew that one of the smallest communities like Trout Lake is more wired than this fancy building that we work in, and so much more advanced than some of the technological dinosaurs that I have to work with in this building?

---Laughter

But we will talk about that later.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot complete my statement without telling you of the everlasting image I have of the children of Lutselk'e and how this government and all of us have failed in looking after the future of these precious children. Mr. Speaker, we were given a presentation from the day care manager. We had the opportunity to visit those facilities the next morning. Basically, these children have no day care home of their own. They go to the community hall in the morning. They have to set up everything from scratch. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that these children really have no home to go to for their day care program. They are in this big community hall. They have to set up everything and take everything down at the

end of the day. They are supposed to be controlled in how to behave. It is just not possible to be done in a place like this. When there are events for adults, they are the first ones to be kicked out. What kind of message are we sending to the children, and what importance are we putting on them? Mr. Speaker, coincidentally, there is much talk about our day care program. There is a lot of work to be done. I believe it is about time that this government addresses this issue head on. I will be pursuing that further during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am very proud to recognize five members of the RCMP with us today who were instrumental in Project Gunship that we saw last week. They are: Superintendent Rick Roy, who is the officer in charge of criminal operations for 'G' division.

---Applause

Also, Inspector Jim Cunningham, Project Gunship team leader.

---Applause

Sergeant Mike Payne of the Yellowknife detachment.

---Applause

Also, I want to recognize Larry O'Brien...

---Applause

...and Tom Wasiuta, who were two key investigators in the project.

---Applause

On behalf of the entire Northwest Territories, I want to make sure that we show our appreciation and recognize these five members of the force. I think we all have a better understanding of exactly how dangerous this line of work can be. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my son, Ryan, and my wife, Judy, who are visiting from Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, six of the Pages in here today are from Inuvik. We have Kaylin Horassi, Angela Donley, Jessica Wilson, Alaska Edwards, Alyssa Ross, Hayley Rogers, and my constituency assistant and their chaperone, Meeka Kisoun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the most important person in my life, my wife, Lucille Pokiak, up in the gallery,...

---Applause

...for the past 26 years and counting. I should also mention that she has worked for the Tuktoyaktuk Housing Association for over 18 years, and that she is presently the chair of the district education authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to show my appreciation to the RCMP, and I recognize them in their efforts, but I will start with my constituent first. Of course, in no particular order, Superintendent Rick Roy, Inspector Jim Cunningham, Corporal Larry O'Brien, Corporal Tom Wasiuta, and Sergeant Mike Payne. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to say welcome to Lucille Pokiak, who is originally from the community of Rae. At this time, I would like to say thank you to Mrs. Pokiak, originally from the community of Rae.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for Minister Brendan Bell, the Minister of Justice. What is the department doing in terms of supporting restorative justice programs in the smaller communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, we have community justice committees throughout the Northwest Territories that are doing work in this area. I have asked the department to analyze the success and the frequency with which we are using our community justice committees. I think we have some that have been more successful than others, and I am trying to get a better understanding, and follow some of the trends, to see if we can make improvements to

reinforce this very important area of our justice system. In addition, I think the Member is aware, I have agreed to sit down and talk about a way to redouble our efforts in the area of wilderness camp programs. While everybody recognizes the importance of the program and the potential, we haven't been able to deliver the type of service that I would like to see. I am going to take another shot at it and see if we can't come up with a model that can be more successful. I look forward to working with the committee and Members in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary question, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as he mentioned, he's going to look at the success and come up with a model. Would he make a commitment to work with the communities to set up wilderness camps? People have limited education to fill out the application process. That model isn't working in its present state. Will he look at alternative ways to help the communities fill out the applications, the process, to set up these camps? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll give my commitment to the Member that we will work with communities. We will work with people in communities who we think can be very useful in helping us get this model off the ground. This is not going to be about who is best able to respond to a request for proposals in the newspaper and who can submit the best proposal. It's going to be working with people in these communities to get this program back up and running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister, in addition to his help in the communities, look at the other jurisdictions within Canada that have this type of model of wilderness camps or the approach that we may be looking at to visit them and have a site visit with these camps to see how we may replicate this type of service in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'd certainly be willing to do that. Unfortunately, I think the department has had quite a look at this, and it's not something that's currently used in the Yukon. It's used, to some degree, in Nunavut, but in the South it's largely unheard of, Mr. Speaker. So I think we were forerunners in the development of this type of programming and, as I've said, I think we need to redouble our efforts and look

at how we can make it more successful. But we have been breaking trail here. If the Member is aware of any models that we could look at, I'd certainly like to discuss that with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is correct that the Northwest Territories is leading the way in terms of the types of wilderness camps we have up here. We have the Ti'oon dih Healing Society up there in Fort McPherson that has an excellent facility...

AN HON. MEMBER: Excellent.

MR. YAKELEYA: ...and has an excellent program.

AN HON. MEMBER: You tell them.

MR. YAKELEYA: It's a crying shame that we're not using it more often.

AN HON. MEMBER: Crying shame.

MR. YAKELEYA: However, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, when he looks at these models in the Northwest Territories, would he take into consideration having a family healing concept camp with this type of model where families can also be involved in these models in terms of reintegration of people back into the community and the healthy lifestyle? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 123-15(4): Restorative Justice Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree that families are very important in successful reintegration, especially when we're dealing with young offenders. I think the Member is probably aware, the last two years running we've used Ti'oon dih in talking about transitioning people from the corrections system back into society. We are planning to use that facility again this year. The reports from the programming have been overwhelmingly positive, and it's something that we're going to continue. But I would agree with the Member that it really is about working with the entire family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's statement, I want to ask questions about day care programs to the Minister of ECE. Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is a very complicated issue, but it is a common theme that we hear all over the Territories. That is that we are just not doing enough to provide a healthy learning environment for our young children at the preschool ages. In Yellowknife, it is just well known that the workers that work in day care centres are notoriously underpaid. Any kind of subsidy that government makes available doesn't go anywhere near addressing the issue.

Across the Territories, there are places where there are just not day care homes available. The government insists on that funding, any capital funding for these day cares. While we are passing the buck around saying that this is a federal responsibility, it is a territorial responsibility. The territorial government doesn't pay for capital funding. We have all these children with no educational opportunities at the preschool level. I'd like to know from the Minister what he's doing, as the Minister of ECE, to address this question. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, the Minister of Social Development, the Honourable Ken Dryden, announced a program that would see, he said, \$5 billion coming to Canadians to assist the provinces and territories in providing improved services and access to day care. However, we have, to this point, not been successful at seeing this money come to the Northwest Territories. The federal government, in this situation, has offered us nothing more than per capita funding, which wouldn't allow us to make a significant change or improvement in what we are offering in the Northwest Territories. So at this point, we are continuing to negotiate. The Premiers of the three territories have together written to the Prime Minister to protest the position that has been taken by Social Development, and we are hopeful that we will be able to resolve this so that we can see some money coming to the North. I would then hope to be able to make sure that we can improve what is being offered in early childhood education. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of what's happening in that file, but I think we have to realize that's just one aspect of this very important issue, and that should not be used as an excuse for this government to continue to not act on this issue. This government has no real comprehensive policy on what we are doing for the children in creating spaces for day care services. For example, even if we got \$2 million that we are asking for under this program with Minister Dryden, that's not going anywhere near addressing the needs, and it's not going to deal with the capital questions. So I'd like to know what, separate from that, is the Minister doing to address this very important issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of years ago, the government undertook a plan for what should take place in early childhood education, and set that plan or made that plan public. That is the guideline document that we would use when improving the services. The Member is right; there is no plan for us to get into providing space for early childhood education. We have, at this point, talked, in the amendment to the

Education Act, about allowing schools to get into full-day kindergarten, but, at this point, the government has not looked at providing space for day cares for children who are four and younger.

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

Supplementary To Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the Minister is saying that we're not doing anything about that, and I'm here to tell him that it's about time we did something about that because, Mr. Speaker, there are lots of things we can do. For example, in Lutselk'e I felt so sorry for that day care manager. He was at wits end, and the guy is not going to last there very long if somebody does not help him to find a place. We need a champion for children. Will the Minister at least look at Lutselk'e and see if you can find a space for these little ones right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education, Culture and Employment would be happy to work with anybody in any community in terms of trying to find a way to help operations get started. But care for children under the age of four is the primary responsibility of the parents. Our government provides assistance to day cares to get started in terms of capital. We have start-up grants. In terms of operations, we have grants to both day care providers and to parents. But it has been our policy that this government is providing assistance to parents, we're not the primary caregivers.

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

Supplementary To Question 124-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that whatever policies he's outlining are not working. It is time for us to look at how to do this differently. We have a champion for the pipeline; we have a champion for devolution; we have a champion for highways; we have Ministers doing all sorts of trilateral government negotiations; there are meetings; they are burning the airplane routes talking about all these big issues, and there is not one child advocate or champion for children at that table and it's about time that somebody does that job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't hear a question there. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and

Social Services. His department funds a lot of non-government organizations and has them under his purview. We heard in our pre-budget consultations from many non-government organizations that look after a number of social concerns in the communities, everything from youth centres, women's shelters, seniors' societies, and the recurring message is that they have difficulty recruiting and retaining staff because they do not have sufficient funds to be competitive. I'd like to know, as I said in my Member's statement, if it's possible to build into the contribution agreements two things: escalators to address inflation and, number two, multi-year funding so that they can deal with these challenges they face. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

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

Return To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, it is possible to build in multi-year funding agreements. The issue of escalators to non-government organizations is one that as a government we're currently struggling with, recognizing the fact that there are costs, as the Member has articulately outlined. They have to bear the same as government, yet we don't have the capacity to build into our budgets those kinds of increases. We're looking at a third-party accountability that will hopefully allow us to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I'm hearing then is yes to multi-year funding. So what I want to know now is what kinds of criteria would an NGO have to meet to qualify for that? Would there be some importance placed on the fact that many of these NGOs have been around for 20 years or more? We know they're there. They are there to stay. They're doing incredible work for this government and for our communities. What kinds of criteria would we put on for multi-year funding, and are there any administrative obstacles in terms of our government in extending that and getting it rolling? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no obstacles preventing us as a government from entering into multi-year contracts, as far as I'm aware. The only caveat being, as with every contract we enter into, it's always contingent upon the Legislative Assembly having the final approval of the budget that were putting forward for that year. So, Mr. Speaker, in terms of who is Health and Social Services prepared to enter into multi-year contracts with, clearly we have a long-term relationship with many, many NGOs and

all those NGOs, as I've indicated in my travels as well, we're prepared to enter into long-term multi-year contracts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just too much good news.

---Laughter

I don't know what to ask now. No, seriously, are the NGOs that have contribution agreements with the Department of Health and Social Services, have they been formally notified of these prospects for multi-year funding? If they haven't been, how will they be notified? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been making that commitment to NGOs, and it is a position that it's clear that we have that capacity as a government. The condition always is, it's going to be dependent on the funds being voted, and it's going to be based on, at this point, the existing dollars that are in the contracts until we can work out the issue of the third-party accountabilities and what we're going to do or how we're going to address the forced-growth issues that affect NGOs the same as government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. So for the fiscal year, funding year, of April 1, 2006, then NGOs can propose their contributions, propose their budgets on a multi-year basis. Is that correct? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 125-14(5): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage them to do so and only working as we normally do through the various Health and Social Services authorities and their budgeting process, which ties into the broader GNWT budgeting process. But the starting point would be for them to pull together their requirements and work with the local authority and then on through there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice...

(Translation) During the pre-budget consultation, I heard loud and clear that the people want to see more justice dollars allocated to on-the-land corrections camps. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me what the department is doing to encourage and facilitate on-the-land corrections camps? What is the department going to do to work with the communities to assist them by the way of funding and providing advice and how to access programs and set up an on-the-land corrections camp? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some have been very successful and others not so. I was concerned about the length of time a review would take, so I've asked the department to speed this process up. I think we already are aware of several of the shortcomings. We know that we can't force inmates to attend such camps. We know that only those who are not a threat to themselves and/or others are going to be eligible. I think we know that we really tried to make the model too much of a business model where we were looking for somebody to come forward, be very entrepreneurial, also have counselling skills, and be able to deliver programming, and I think we made it much too cumbersome and convoluted. I'd like to simplify it and work with the Members on the other side of the House to see if we can't come up with a model that would allow us to roll something out by April 1st. I will be approaching the Members, as a start, to sit down and talk to them about what I think and what they think would be the most viable option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister please tell the House what barriers or challenges the department has encountered that hindered the on-the-land corrections in the NWT? I know that we had some on-the-land houses, but they have been closed. What is the Minister doing about that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the problems we've encountered is operators have made a significant investment in infrastructure on the land and incurred quite an overhead to get up and running, and then we had difficulty attracting inmates to those camps. With a significant overhead, it's hard to make a go of a program or project of that nature. So I think one of the best things we can do is talk about no permanent structures. This really doesn't need to be about much

more than some tents and some equipment. The concept and the idea is paying restitution to the community, and I think that even if we can't deliver significant different types of programming, we can certainly have inmates who are willing to go out on the land with an elder or respected community member and potentially hunt and bring meat to those who can't hunt for themselves in the communities. I think there are some things of that nature that we can do that will be much more workable than some of the programs we've tried in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another question. Will the Minister comment on working with interested communities such as the Tlicho Wilderness Program to address these obstacles and get on-the-land programs running for these people? Will they reallocate or rebuild this kind of facility in our area? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll work with the Member and the Member's office. I'll also work with the regional leadership to talk about where the best location might be for such a program. I think this will be something that doesn't need permanent infrastructure, so it will be portable. I'm certainly willing to sit down with the Member and talk about his region. I'm eager to get this concept rolled out. It is our wish to ensure that this option is available for inmates. I think it can be very successful if we approach it in the right manner. I look forward to working with the Member in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last question: Will we be provided with the proper adequate funding to re-establish the on-the-land corrections camps? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 126-15(4): On-The-Land Correctional Camps

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we can accommodate that. I know that we have had funding in the past for wilderness camps that we're not using currently. We have one adult facility at Kozo Lake in the south, and I think we have about 11 inmates there and that is, and has been, successful. But we can ramp up, and should it require additional funds and require me to go back to the FMBS and back to the Assembly, I would be prepared to do that. But I think the nature of the program that we're talking about is something that can be accommodated from within existing resources, at least initially. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier today in my Member's statement, I know the government has received many requests from various communities over the past number of years in the NWT to what may seem, sometimes, as drastic changes to human resources within various health departments and Municipal and Community Affairs departments within the communities. But it is still this government's responsibility to provide proper health services for its residents, even when it is the residents themselves who have contributed to their inadequacies that arise out of these communities' situations. I just want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he can just advise if the Department of Health and Social Services is going to be reviewing the situation of not having a permanent resident nurse in Deninu Kue, and after reviewing that, are they going to be pushing the health authority to expedite the process in filling that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people of Deninu Kue, in fact, had the benefit of a very long-term experienced nurse in the community, but made it very clear, and very publicly made it clear, that they were unhappy for a number of reasons to the extent that the individual in question chose to leave the community. So now we're faced with the situation, as we have been in other communities in the past, where the provider or the nurse has left, and in a time of tight staffing we have to struggle to accommodate on a rotational basis, on a short-term locum basis. We are interested in every community, if we can, to have long-term nurses, long-term staff in general, but it has to be clear that this is a two-way relationship and that these people in these professions are very, very mobile and they will not stay in communities where they think that they are not really welcome. They are, as well, as I've indicated in the past, a very small fraternity where the word gets around. So, yes, we are prepared to work with the community to see what we can do about re-staffing, but very clearly we are going to have to work collaboratively, recognizing that it's going to have to be a welcome work environment for the professionals to stay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that, that they are going to be working with the community to establish some kind of collaborative working relationship with the community and the employees with the Health and Social Services department. I just wanted to ask the Minister if the Department of Health and Social Services can alleviate some of the communication gaps

that are happening, because we have these short-term rotational nurses that are working in the communities right now and a lot of residents go see one nurse and get one answer, and then six hours later they go see another nurse and they get another answer. There seems to be some miscommunication happening with the nurses and the doctors that are located in Hay River. I'm just wondering how the department plans on, or if the department can actually get the health authority to help the nurses that are there on a rotational basis to make sure that they're giving the people the right answers and referring them to the proper doctors and referring them when it's actually required. How can the authority help with that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Deninu Kue has a relationship and a seat on the board with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, and their lines of communication work that way. If there are requirements to approach Hay River, then there is the capacity to do that. We have committed, as a department, to do a review that we agreed to a number of years ago, when we first started the new arrangement with Yellowknife and the people of Deninu Kue, to look at the services that are delivered, how they're delivered, and if there are issues to be addressed. That review is proceeding. The RFP has been put out, I understand, and we anticipate proceeding with that review, which will hopefully address some of the concerns the Member has raised. As well, by virtue of the discussion in this House, we will as well be following up on your concerns. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Short supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear from the Minister that the review that was requested a couple years ago is actually moving forward today and the RFP has gone out. I didn't see it, but I'm sure it would come to my attention. I'm just kind of looking forward to finding out when this review is going to be concluded and when we can move forward on the recommendations of the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I anticipate the review process to take a number of weeks, after which time we'll be getting the report. We'll be sharing it with the community, we'll be sharing it with the authority and we'll be sitting down to look at the recommendations and then, from there, how best we can respond. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, I guess, number of weeks, what are we looking at? Fifty-two weeks, 104 weeks, two weeks, one week, I don't know what number of weeks we're looking at. I just need a better scope on the timelines, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 127-15(4): Permanent Nurse For Deninu Kue

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll commit to the Member that this review will be done by the first week of January. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today go back to my Member's statement from earlier, and the questions are for the Minister responsible for the budgeting process, the Honourable Floyd Roland. First off, I was happy to be a part of the historic venture that the Regular Members took upon themselves to go out and listen to the public with our pre-budget consultations that happened in September. I think they were very fruitful and certainly a step in the right direction. We went into the communities, and we listened to what their concerns were.

But, Mr. Speaker, something was missing, and that's what happens between us going about these pre-budget consultations; the business plans happen and then the budget session. The public doesn't get to see what their MLAs are doing or what they're saying in the business plan review. Some of the best debate that I've heard as a Regular Member in this House happens in committee. The public does not get to see that debate take place, Mr. Speaker. They see us hibernate for four months only to come out with a bullet proof, well-orchestrated budget. I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance, why are all the business plan reviews done in this veil of secrecy, and what can the government do to try to open up the process to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member speaks of a veil of secrecy around our budgeting process. I think I should remind all Members here that, in fact, our process for business plans and the budgeting exercises is one of the most open processes we have, when we compare ourselves to other jurisdictions in Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good government.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We receive the input, as Members receive their input, from their constituencies, as well as, for example, the exercise the Members have spoken a lot about here today. They come and meet with us as we present the budget or the business plan, and go from there as we look to making possible changes. That doesn't say that we won't, at some time, sit down and decide if we need to open up the process any more, but we do have a very open process compared to other jurisdictions across Canada. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Finance Minister what his definition of "open" is when, from my standpoint as a Regular Member, the general public has no ability to attend any of the committee meetings that take place in the fall right up to the lead-up to the budget session in February. What does the Minister describe as "open?" Right now it is as closed as I can imagine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the definition of openness, as we would make it here in this Assembly, is a consensus style government. The way we operate and the way we practice business here is one of the most open, again, in comparison to other jurisdictions in Canada.

As I stated earlier, the input Members receive, we receive; we also receive input from NGOs and from organizations out there. We make some adjustments on the information we receive from Members as we go through that plan. Again, we go through a very public process of the main estimates in this House when we present the budget. I think we do have a very open system and, again, I say that in comparison to other jurisdictions. If we compared ourselves to the federal government, you would be presented with a budget on budget day, never seeing anything of it the day before that, and day by day we would have to go through that process. I think in that comparison, in that light, we are fairly open. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to compare this style of consensus government to that in Ottawa or any of the provinces, for that matter, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the government is prepared to explore options to open up our committee meetings and the committee structure to allow the public to attend these meetings. Unless we do that, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we have an open process whatsoever. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think there would be opportunities for us to look at how we would like to see the process open up even further. I say we, because as the Assembly, all Members have input as to how we do business and conduct our business here. I would be prepared to listen to the Members if there is a common position they see in opening some of the process up. To what degree is going to be critical. Because if I decide as a Finance Minister to put down a plan for an issue around taxation, I am sure that everybody out there would tell us no more taxes, but want more spending, on the other hand. There is a balance here that we have to be able to maintain to get business done in government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the Finance Minister for a commitment to work with the Regular Members on this side of the House to ensure that we open up the committee meetings to the best of our ability, to ensure that the public at least gets a chance to be in the room, and at least gets the chance to see some of the best debate that can take place in this building that doesn't see the light of day. I would like to see that change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 128-15(4): Business Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that the best debate that can happen should be right here in this House on the floor here, at the time, have that debate and put the information out; a very public, open process and the system we have in place.

One of the concerns we have is if we open up a committee meeting in a community, do the rest of the residents of the Territories have the same input as those that would be served by that one committee meeting in that particular community? That is a balance we also have to keep in mind. Thank you.

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

Question 129-15(4): Public Budget Planning Process

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions, too, will be for the Minister of Finance who I don't think gets it quite yet on what we have discovered here, and that is that the public really does value the opportunity to have input. When the Minister said that we do have a consensus and an open style of government, amongst ourselves, as Members and Ministers and committees, we do. It is something that I have talked about in this Assembly before, and it is a reality that when the government releases the budget planning and business planning process to us, which actually happens in

September, we are gagged. We are restricted from discussing a lot of the information, a lot of the program detail with our constituents, with our communities, with our NGOs.

This is the part of the process that we want to open up. My question, Mr. Speaker, is that, with due consideration, we have to work through this carefully, how can the government go about releasing Members from the restriction of confidentiality, as I say, this gag order that we are under, so that we can have more freedom to talk with our communities, with our constituents, about the budget and the planning process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 129-15(4): Public Budget Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as much as the Member may think that I don't get the picture, maybe he doesn't understand my responses. Again, in comparison to other jurisdictions of Canada, we have one of the most open systems when we talk about this forum that we are in now. In fact, the budget building process -- and it happens much before the Members get it in a three-year business plan -- we go right down to the community level with departments, and they build in their requests of what they would like to see. That takes place with their discussions with NGOs in the community asking for more money, and the department would build up their request to our level where we would have to make some decisions on the overall fiscal environment that we operate in.

I think there may be opportunities that we have to be somewhat strategic in a sense of looking at how much more open do we make our meetings and some of the debate that goes on, some of the input. There is going to be critical pieces of information that we won't be able to put out. For example, in the years of negotiations with our employees and so on, are we going to put out the percentages we are looking at or the overall target of the dollars that we are looking for? There is going to have to be a balance. I think that, again, working with Members, we will have an opportunity to sit down and look at whatever avenues we can work together on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Short supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 129-15(4): Public Budget Planning Process

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear the Minister say that there is an openness to look at how we can improve this process. The objective must continue to be to allow the communities and the NGOs and people to have a say in this. Mr. Speaker, the question I would like to follow up with is specific to our boards and agencies and our NGOs, and we should remind ourselves that 60 percent of the spending of this government is through these authorities. Could the Minister tell us what steps are taken right now to include them in this budget process on an annual and a three-year horizon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 129-15(4): Public Budget Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member stated, over 60 percent of our budget flows through boards and agencies. I must also say that those boards and agencies are directly tied to, for example, the Department of Health and Social Services or the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and there is a framework, formulas and so on, that are built in for forced growth, for new initiatives and so on. Even though they are somewhat at arm's length and we require third-party accountability framework, as the Minister of Health and Social Services spoke of earlier, there is a requirement and a process they are involved in, in requesting their budget items, their line items, for the upcoming year. They are directly involved from the ground up in those regions and communities up to the departments. Then the departments pull their pieces together, and then we go through the exercise of prioritizing throughout the whole government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 129-15(4): Public Budget Planning Process

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very confident that the process that we started this fall will be repeated, and an annual one. Will the government seriously take a look at how much more information could be released prior to the September pre-budget consultations, so the communities, NGOs and citizens are better informed and ready when we do go out on the road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 129-15(4): Public Budget Planning Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess we would have to sit down and look at all the information of what the individuals would want out there. It could get to the point where the Minister of Finance could maybe do the pre-budget tour and give all the information, then we would have to ask the Members what their response to that would be. So we can go from one end of the spectrum to the other. I think what the Members have embarked on here is a good practice and will help us work together. Again, there has to be a balance as to how we can do business and conduct business in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Braden. Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask questions of the Minister of Transportation. This is with regard to the ferry strike that is currently occurring. It's a very sensitive issue right now in the community of Fort Simpson, and is dividing the community because they are talking about the conflict that resides with their cousins and brothers who are working on the ferry. I understand that a mediator was appointed, Mr. Speaker. I am just

wondering if the Minister is aware of what kind of work plan the mediator is going to have for this dispute at this moment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our information is that a mediator has been appointed by the Canadian Industrial Review Board. I don't have any information as to whether or not they have a work plan. If they do, they have not shared that with us, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout the weekend, I was overwhelmed by the community. I have well over 200 letters in support of finding some resolution to this dispute. Of course, in any dispute, the best solution is a negotiated solution. The people are wondering how the government can partake in this to help resolve this labour dispute. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly can understand the frustrations with the travelling public and the members of Wrigley and Fort Simpson over this issue. The ferry contract is an important one. We have a lot of travelling public that were disrupted this weekend. I, too, got a number of calls and letters where people were concerned over the service being interrupted.

However, as the Department of Transportation, we are not really players in the labour dispute. We certainly encourage the two sides to sit down together to have further discussions. There is correspondence going back and forth between the employer and the employees. We certainly encourage the federal government to provide the resources they can. This is regulated through the Canadian Labour Code and being monitored by the Canadian Industrial Review Board. Our contract is with Rowe Construction in Fort Simpson, along with their partners Nogha Enterprises. We will continue to monitor the situation, the infrastructure and the services to ensure that it continues to be safe. We will also continue to provide whatever resources we can to see this come to a conclusion. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in agreement that the first priority is safe service for the travelling public. Recently, I think it was the board of industry and trade gave a ruling that the ferry service in Nahendeh, Fort Simpson, was not going to be supported

as an essential service. I wonder if our government has appealed that decision, along with many others, that it should be deemed an essential service. You are well aware, even if our other ferry at the Mackenzie River had similar problems, it would certainly be called an essential service. Why couldn't our ferry be declared an essential service, as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to have the ferry service deemed essential is a federal decision; it's not our decision. We have not appealed that decision. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think at this time, I would like to urge this government to ask for an appeal to reconsider that decision. Every one of the 200 people who signed these letters, and even more, would like this to be deemed an essential service. That saves the travelling public. Can this government appeal, on behalf of the Nahendeh residents, that this is an essential service? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 130-15(4): Ferry Services At Fort Liard

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we have not appealed this decision passed down by the Canadian Industrial Relations Board. We certainly consider the ferry service at the Liard River very important. We consider all our ferry services of all our five ferries very important; however, we don't consider them to be essential services. There are other modes of transportation. They may prove to be very inconvenient and costly, but we are not in a position where we would declare them as essential; therefore, we will not be appealing their decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 131-15(4): Addressing Student Needs In Paulatuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I spoke about the Mangilaluk School and the school in Paulatuk. Back during the May session, the Minister indicated that they would do a review of the classroom extension of the Mangilaluk School in Tuk. I am just wondering if the review has been conducted to date. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 131-15(4): Addressing Student Needs In Paulatuk

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a program review done for the school. It is now in draft form and should be ready to share with the community within the next couple of weeks.

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

Supplementary To Question 131-15(4): Addressing Student Needs In Paulatuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate, with regard to the draft form, whether there were any recommendations out of it, and will they be followed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 131-15(4): Addressing Student Needs In Paulatuk

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the report is in draft form, I am happy to share the draft with the Member, but before we get into a public discussion, I would like to conclude the document so that we have it in its final form. That will happen within the next few weeks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today, I spoke of the difficulties that NGOs, like the NWT Seniors' Society, face given the lack of multi-year funding arrangements and the failure of this government to allow increased cost to NGOs. Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Health and Social Services is responsible for the bulk of those agreements with these NGOs, I would like to ask the Minister what he's doing to make multi-year agreements a reality, given the fact that he did say we could do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Member for Hay River South, we have that capacity, and we are prepared to work with NGOs. If it's not a reality, we will make it a reality. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea what the heck he just said.

---Laughter

Reality, reality...I have no idea. I appreciate whatever that answer murmured out to be. I am going to ask another question, anyway. In recognition of the social agenda that was tabled in 2002, can the Minister tell this Assembly whether Health and Social Services requires their authorities in any way to fund multi-year agreements to work through the NGO process where appropriate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't quite understand the question. However...

---Laughter

...Mr. Speaker, I will take a stab at it. The social agenda was an important occurrence and it came out with some directions and recommendations, one of which was multi-year funding, which was seriously considered by the government. As I have indicated, the capacity is there, and I am prepared to work with NGOs to sign multi-year agreements if they don't already exist. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell this Assembly whether any of the funding agreements with his department or authorities that are made with NGOs allowed for increased costs? I am making reference to heating oil, which has spiked significantly in recent days. During the course of their agreements, are they allowed to have increased costs reflected to the times? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As I indicated earlier in this House, we don't allow for forced growth right now. We have a third party accountability framework we are working on as a government to try to reconcile the fact that we have a fundamental program being delivered by NGOs on our behalf, and recognizing that they face forced growth pressures, as we do as a government. At this point, the capacity is not there for any kind of automatic increases. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly sad that we don't recognize forced growth, because the NWT Seniors' Society has been asking for a multi-year agreement for four years, and even back on February 25, 2005, the Premier said all they have to do is ask. Mr.

Speaker, would the Minister publicly commit today to the use of multi-year funding agreements, and look at ways to implement this immediately through either an advisory committee or task force that represents the needs that the NGOs are calling for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 132-15(4): Multi-Year Funding For Non-Government Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I clearly articulated a number of times in this House today that multi-year contribution agreements are a reality and possibility that we are prepared to work on with NGOs, and that we have that capacity, as a government, and we have made that decision to enter into multi-year contracts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of the Housing Corporation, the Honourable David Krutko. Last week, I asked some questions in this House regarding a tender that was cancelled in the community of Rae. A local construction company had won the tender, but wasn't awarded the work, and there was some political wrangling. I would like to ask the Minister today where it's at in the process. He mentioned last week that he was going to look into it, and I would like to ask him today what the disposition is. Have they talked to my constituents who lost the contract? What is happening with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at a legal opinion that hasn't been totally reviewed yet. We are trying to find a solution to this problem, and I hope to have an answer before the end of the week for the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe last week he mentioned the legal opinion. Would the Minister be willing to share this legal opinion with me as the MLA for the company who has been done wrong here? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the rules are that those opinions are confidential and not to be released. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had some experience with legal opinions, and I don't believe all of them are to be treated confidentially. I think when we are dealing with an issue like negotiated contracts, I think it's probably in the government's best interest to perhaps even table that legal opinion, Mr. Speaker. Eventually, we are going to need to see what it says. I would like to ask the Minister today if he would even consider tabling that legal opinion, so that everybody can see it and we know what's happening. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I would have to run it by my Cabinet colleagues and see where we go from here, but at this time I am not willing to table that legal opinion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we had a tender. My constituents should have been awarded the tender. They weren't. Now we are going back and negotiating with another company for a higher price. I don't understand how that works. I fail to see why we are doing that. I would like the Minister to provide a timeline on when I can expect some answers on this, because I have constituents who are waiting to have some answers. I think the government at least owes them that much. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 133-15(4): Status Of Cancelled Housing Tender In Behchoko

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have not issued a tender to anyone else and we are still reviewing our options. As I mentioned to the Member privately, we are hoping to find a solution that is comfortable to everyone. Hopefully that's how we are able to resolve this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees people's mobility rights across the country. I think we should be keeping the spirit of that in mind when designing programs. I recently heard from a constituent who has been caught in the bureaucratic nightmare with student financial assistance. He had been working here for five years, so he's no longer eligible for assistance from the Province of New Brunswick where he lived previously. The best the GNWT is prepared to offer him is repayable loans. My question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is, can he explain why, when we are short of skilled workers in the Northwest Territories, the GNWT has nothing to offer other than repayable loans to someone who has already lived here for five years and wants to finish his education, so he can pursue his teaching career in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our program is as good or better than the Canada Student Loans Program that is available to students all across Canada. So what is being offered to anybody, whether they were schooled in the Northwest Territories or not, is at least that good. I would say that the funding, the repayable loans program, is a very good program. We make available up to \$1,100 a month through this program. The repayment terms are quite reasonable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Time for oral question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member to continue his supplementary questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my constituent has done the math. If he completes his education degree without any support other than a repayable loan, at the end he will owe up to \$100,000 out of his own pocket, including the \$47,000 he already owes on his first degree. Can the Minister tell me whether the average teacher's salary in the Northwest Territories is high enough to make a \$100,000 student loan debt affordable? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't say whether or not a teacher can afford to pay off \$100,000 in student loans, but I can say that nobody would be allowed to get that high in debt in our student loan program. Our limit is lower than \$100,000. So this person, if they are interested in furthering their education, will have to look at other options, perhaps working with people through the local office with

Education, Culture and Employment to find out what might be available. There are things like the Millennium Scholarship. There are scholarships for second degrees, masters and PhDs that are very attractive. So there are other opportunities for people who live in the North to find money for schooling.

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

Supplementary To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the student who I am talking about, that is what he adds up, \$100,000. What is the maximum scholarship that an undergraduate student can receive in a year under the SFA program?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Millennium Scholarship is up to \$3,000. There are other scholarships that students may qualify for, depending on their marks. As undergrads, they are not as significant as they are for the graduate amounts, but there are opportunities for private scholarships, as well. The best investment a person can make is in themselves, and in education. So our Student Financial Assistance Program is just that, an assistance program. It was never intended to provide full support. We expect that everybody who comes into the program will bring something from themselves or their family to the table as well, but we would encourage people to discuss with the local ECE office what options are available, what supports are out there, and perhaps find some guidance to other support. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more that a person's best investment is education. At the end of the day, it's a bureaucratic nightmare, and the student still, after all their homework is done, owes \$100,000. It is \$3,000 minimum that you can get from the scholarship fund. What is the Minister or his department doing to help the students with repayable loans? That is the question I want to ask. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 134-15(4): Student Financial Assistance Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we made a number of changes to the regulations in the Student Financial Assistance program to try to make the program work better for northern students. We believe the program is one of the best in Canada. Whether you are getting grants or loans, I think you will find that it is a very attractive program. As I said, the program is at least as good as the Canada Student Loans Program. At this point, we are not looking to make significant changes to the program for the amounts that

we are going to provide in terms of repayable loans. We are looking at changes we can make within the program that will make it easier for students to access some of the features, but they won't be significant for those who are accessing repayable loans.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Time for oral questions has expired. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue with item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. We have already gone by that. If you want to rephrase your request to go back to oral questions...

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 135-15(4): Resident Judge For Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Brendan Bell. Many residents in Hay River have been curious about this question, so I wanted to ask him on the public record. Awhile back, when this government was contemplating the closure of our courthouse in Hay River, a topic came up which was the subject of a resident judge for Hay River. Subsequent to that, we were very happy that the government decided that they would have a resident judge in Hay River. There was quite a bit of fanfare about the swearing in. There were a press release and an order-in-council. All of these documents indicate the residency of this judge to be Hay River; however, we haven't seen this judge yet, and we were wondering what's happening. Where is Hay River's resident judge?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 135-15(4): Resident Judge For Hay River

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The appointment stipulated that Judge Schmaltz reside in Hay River as of April 1, 2005. For a couple of reasons around scheduling, that was delayed by a month, but the judge now resides in Hay River, as was indicated in the appointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 135-15(4): Resident Judge For Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will have to follow up on that and see if we can locate the judge. I, personally, have not seen the judge in Hay River myself. Maybe that's a good thing. I haven't been to court lately.

---Laughter

Having said that, is the Minister prepared in this House today to assure us that Judge Schmaltz's principal residence is located in Hay River? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 135-15(4): Resident Judge For Hay River

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The definition of "residence" is a difficult one. It isn't spelled out in the Territorial Court Act. I am sure that the judge has a residence in Hay River. One of the issues that has become more obvious than we had understood at the time is that there are probably, on average, three or four days of court time per month required in Hay River, some months more, depending on the workload, some months less. So this judge will have to travel on circuit and have to fill in the north part of the territory and Yellowknife, as well. So as the Member has indicated, the presence of the judge in the community will depend on workload. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 135-15(4): Resident Judge For Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those of us who serve in this House well understand the definition of principal residence. I think it's very clearly defined under Revenue Canada's tax rules, as well. Anyway, we won't get into whether her principal residence is here in Yellowknife, and she just has an apartment in Hay River. But airplanes fly both ways. If Judge Schmaltz has court circuit to perform in the Beaufort-Delta, in Yellowknife, it's not just sitting days in Hay River. There is a whole South Slave circuit, as well. We had, for many years, a resident chief judge in Hay River, and truly he was on the plane on Friday nights, and he left on Monday mornings. He resided in Hay River. When he was doing the South Slave, you would see him in the community. He was actively involved in our community. So my question again is, to the Minister's knowledge, does Judge Schmaltz maintain a residence in Yellowknife? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 135-15(4): Resident Judge For Hay River

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do know that the judge would have to spend a significant amount of her time in Yellowknife on circuit. I am not sure where she lives in Yellowknife when she is here. I do know that it's scheduling, and the requirement to come up with a schedule for judges is the sole duty of the chief judge. It's very difficult. In fact, we would not

want to suggest to the chief judge how that schedule should be conducted. I can tell the Member that if there are individuals who are not satisfied with the way that scheduling is done, not satisfied with the terms of the residency requirement, they can make an appeal to the judicial council and level that complaint. As far as I am concerned, and have knowledge, the judge does have a residence in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 136-15(4): Retirement Difficulties Of Public Servants

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat. They go back to an issue I brought up last week, and that has to do with two of my constituents who are both having a tremendous amount of difficulty trying to retire from the Government of the Northwest Territories. One had given four months' notice, and the other gave five months' notice. In one case, a meeting took place four days prior to retirement, and in the other case, a week after retirement. The senior pay and benefits officer actually showed up to the one meeting with forms in hand already pre-dated, pre-signed, and giving my constituent not enough time to go over it or even, for that matter, to understand what was happening. I asked this question last week and I am going to ask it again today.

I got a phone call today from my constituent, very upset with the Government of the Northwest Territories, having only gotten paid for 13 weeks' severance when they thought they were entitled to 30 weeks' severance pay. This is a situation for a number of retirees. When I talked about those forms that the senior pay and benefits officer had brought to the meeting, they state "resignation" and not "retirement." How does FMBS communicate to our employees? We have a number of them that are going to be retiring here within the next five years. How do we communicate how to retire from the GNWT? Do we just leave it up to employees to read that big thick Collective Agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 136-15(4): Retirement Difficulties Of Public Servants

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue that the Member has raised here about retirements versus resignation is one that is spelled out in the Employee Handbook and, indeed, in our forms that are required for superannuation and other things. The fact is, after looking into this, it has been pointed out to me that the stipulations laid out on...if one is to retire or to resign from government, it depends on the years of service, the age of the employee and, I believe, there is one other factor that comes into play. So the years of services, age of employee or a combination of the two to come up with a total amount of time that then can be qualified, or one can qualify for retirement as we put it. I am not sure of the specific forms that are there or when they do have meetings with them, but I will look into that

and make sure that that is highlighted in any future meetings. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 136-15(4): Retirement Difficulties Of Public Servants

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am interested to know how FMBS communicates this type of information with its employees, because in both cases with my constituents, they thought they were entitled to 30 weeks. They thought they were leaving the public service. They thought everything would be fine and dandy. They tried in one case for four months, and the other case for five months, to get a meeting with FMBS to go over the paperwork to try to understand this. FMBS was negligent because they did not meet with these constituents of mine. I would like the Minister responsible for FMBS today to say that he will look into this situation and try to correct what I see as a big wrong so that we get it right and others don't have to go through the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 136-15(4): Retirement Difficulties Of Public Servants

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, we will look into how that message and the meetings that are set up are organized, and what information is laid out. As Members are aware, since the decision was made that we would go with the Human Resource Service Centre, that has caused us some problems as we have made the transfer from each department to a Human Resource Service Centre program. As well, we have also a lot of files that have come along with that that are not complete and needed some work. We are putting in the resources to try to clear that up. Again, I would like to commit in this House that, as we meet with employees that are looking to retirement, we would let it be known that what is going to be required of them, timelines and everything else that would come into play here before they make a final decision. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 136-15(4): Retirement Difficulties Of Public Servants

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just have another question for the Minister responsible for FMBS. I am wondering if he can commit today to try to come up with some type of checklist or something to that effect. As I mentioned, we have a number of employees who are going to be leaving the public service here in the next five years. I think it is imperative that FMBS get their act together and send this information out to employees so that everybody knows what the rules are and what the standards are here when they are getting set to retire. I would like to ask the Minister if they can come up with a simple checklist so that everybody knows what the rules are. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 136-15(4): Retirement Difficulties Of Public Servants

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have been informed, there is a checklist one goes through with an employee of what the required documents and the procedures are for getting pensions and so on in place. As for preparing our employees for future retirement, or resignation in some cases, from this government, we could probably do a mail-out as part of the paycheque that gives them information as to what steps they will have to take, what forms and what things they should be aware of. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask some questions to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources on the decline of the caribou. There are huge numbers and a high percentage reported on the decline of caribou, and the management plans for these renewable resource boards across the regions are addressing them. The department says that the caribou are disappearing. The outfitters say the caribou are fine; they are not disappearing. Who should we believe, Mr. Speaker? What is the most accurate information the Minister can let the people know about the decline or the increase of the caribou? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we put the information out giving the public and all the people of the Northwest Territories access to the numbers that we have in terms of caribou numbers, the census data that we do have. We are of the opinion that it is the only information that is accurate, and we are moving on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The restrictions, I understand, may be imposed within this year. Caribou is a very important food to the aboriginal people who may have a lack of dry meat this year. I want to ask the Minister how he is going to balance that delicate equation of the outfitters with the economics and then the aboriginal food in terms of the consumption that they take in, and also under the land claim agreements that protect their rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to work with the boards in the Sahtu and with the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit when it comes to the Cape Bathurst, the Bluenose East and the Bluenose West herds. We are going to rely on the traditional knowledge for the numbers that we have. We have consulted with them. They are looking at our information. They are going to be coming back with recommendations on what they suggest. I will sit down and look at that information and make the best determination possible in terms of acting on those recommendations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, caribou for the aboriginal people is especially important as the sole food for our people here. Ninety percent of the households of the aboriginal people have reported that they consume country foods. Seventy percent hunt and fish. Twenty-five percent still hunt and trap in this area. Wildlife in the Northwest Territories is the most precious resource. In saying this, I would like to ask the Minister, what is he doing to renewable resource boards in terms of monitoring this caribou population in the regions that are affected? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been doing a considerable amount of work, which is why we have come forward with the numbers. We have invested a considerable amount of time, money and effort in terms of the collaring, using the satellite imagery to give us the best numbers available. We have spent a lot of time talking to hunters in and around that part of the country to get their feedback, as well, of what they are seeing on the land. We have come forward with what we think are the best numbers; what we are sure are the numbers. We have committed to work with the boards to look at their recommendations. They have asked us to consider doing another census survey next year to corroborate existing numbers. We are going to look very seriously at that. That is about a half a million dollar project to do the three herds. So we are going to look at that as well. Based on the recommendation and advice that we get from the three boards in question, we will look at those recommendations and act accordingly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to his recommendations. Mr. Speaker, the co-management plans have expired. I want to ask the Minister what plans he has in place to have separate co-management plans with the regions. I want to ask that question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. I wasn't paying close enough attention. Could I ask the Member to just repeat the question? He said an agreement had lapsed, but I never caught the detail. Sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Could you repeat your question, Mr. Yakeleya?

Supplementary To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask the question again. With the fact that the co-management plans that have expired, are there any plans to continue to have separate co-management plans put in place? Could the Minister inform me and the rest of the people in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 137-15(4): Decline In Caribou Populations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very clearly, we are committed to an ongoing relationship and planning relationship with the co-management boards. We are going to work on that as a territorial government as well. It is clear we have to have some broad terms of reference as well for caribou in general, because it is a concern in all the herds across the territory that we are involved in. There are some that have crossed different jurisdictions. Yes, we are going to continue to plan collaboratively. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 138-15(4): Status Of Regional Dialysis Machine

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the honourable Minister of Health and Social Services with respect to the regional dialysis machine program he spoke about in the springtime. I was just wondering if the Minister has done any more work with that. The residents of Nahendeh were very pleased to hear that they are on the radar screen for this. Can the Minister inform this House what other plans have taken place so far? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 138-15(4): Status Of Regional Dialysis Machine

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention is to continue to work with those individuals from Nahendeh that require that service, currently in Yellowknife, to make sure that they have the contact with home and that they are not isolated and left here. We are planning, as the next step for Hay River and then right on the heels of Hay River, to have dialysis services in the Member's riding. We are looking

at the numbers that are there and what requirements that will entail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 138-15(4): Status Of Regional Dialysis Machine

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear that. Would the Minister care to venture when this dialysis service would be available to Nahendeh or what kind of time frame we would be looking at? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 138-15(4): Status Of Regional Dialysis Machine

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, based on the current projections and numbers we have in terms of need, we are budgeting and planning for this coming fiscal year for Hay River, and then the subsequent year for the Member's riding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 138-15(4): Status Of Regional Dialysis Machine

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, can the Minister confirm that? So it sounds like we are looking at a timing of 2007 for dialysis services in the Nahendeh riding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 138-15(4): Status Of Regional Dialysis Machine

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Should there be a change in demand or an increase in demand, we will, of course, be prepared to revisit that. But based on our current projections, the Member is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 139-15(4): Telecommunication Services In Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I might as well get this one in today while I have the chance. My questions are for the Honourable Floyd Roland, the Minister of Public Works and Services. The Minister is responsible for communications and systems within our government and, therefore, has occasion to deal with the telephone service provider in the Northwest Territories, NorthwesTel, which is a monopoly and an essential service. We have had substandard phone services in Hay River. It is the second largest community in the Northwest Territories. We have had substandard telephone services in Hay River for many years, specifically I refer now to our cell phone service. When all

of Yellowknife is on a digital system, Hay River finds itself on an analog cell phone service, where, after about three phone calls, your battery has gone dead. We also have a tower in Hay River which does not even transmit to the old town in Hay River, so anybody that works in that area of town, or contractors, or anybody travelling down there, cannot receive cell phone service. I think that in this modern day and age, these are appalling service. NorthwesTel is a monopoly. I would like to know if the Minister ever has occasion to discuss these types of issues with NorthwesTel. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 139-15(4): Telecommunication Services In Hay River

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, from time to time, we do have contact with the providers of our phone service here in the Northwest Territories and take opportunity to raise concerns that have been brought forward. I share the same concerns as the Member. For example, Inuvik is analog from the NorthwesTel side, but we also have a different provider that is providing on a digital level from their end. It can be done. Other companies have shown it can be done. I think we need to expect more from those that provide service in the Northwest Territories. So we will work with them and pass on the information and concerns. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a follow-up to Mrs. Groenewegen. I will take the opportunity also to ask this question. My question is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation in terms of the initial plans of the ATCO trailers for the Mackenzie gas project, the potential if it does come through. What type of support is the Minister getting from regions like the Sahtu in terms of putting in these types of units into our communities? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are working with industry and looking at the possibility of camp construction for the pipeline. It is called Novel, which is a unique way of converting industrial construction camps into mobile homes after the project is completed. We have had several people from the Mackenzie Valley travel to Calgary and see for themselves exactly how these are constructed. We had, I believe, 32 people throughout the Northwest Territories go through this facility. From what we have heard so far, we have received a pretty positive response. We can look forward to continue working with communities up and down the valley. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Krutko has indicated that 32 people from the Northwest Territories had gone down to Calgary to look at these Novel industrial camps here. I want to ask the Minister when he foresees trailers going into our community. What type of time frame is he looking at for having these trailers come in? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at a time frame of somewhere in 2010 or 2011, but it is all hinging on the pipeline. The pipeline is key. Without a pipeline, we don't have a project. But we are working with the bridge corporation to look at the possibility of putting five units into Fort Providence using this concept. So we are trying it out with regard to first run by using the bridge camp for the bridge construction of the Deh Cho Bridge. We are hoping to use that as the pilot project and see exactly how this unwinds in the Northwest Territories and use those numbers before we decide to proceed forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I quote the legend George Jones, if these walls could talk. What type of action would the Minister look at in terms of putting units into our communities? The pipeline is a big question right now and 2010 or 2011 is far away. What is the Minister doing in terms of ensuring that standard, quality affordable units are going into our communities in the time being? You have lots of time in five years. I wanted to ask that question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have to provide an in-depth report. We are presently in the process of developing one to look at the whole implementation, and the time frames, and when these are going to be available to communities. I mentioned 2010 or 2011 going forward. I believe it is important that we have to have good planning and also how the conversion is going to take place, where it's going to take place, and exactly which communities these are going to go into.

So we are developing a strategic plan in regard to a business case on how this is going to happen. Again, it all hinges on the pipeline. That's key. So without this pipeline, we don't have a project. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. This is a big if, Mr. Speaker. If the pipeline does not go through, then what? Would the Housing Minister maintain status quo and just continue on with the amount of houses going into communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 140-15(4): Pipeline Camp Construction In The Sahtu Region

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, we're going to continue as we usually do. Right now, we're constructing about 58 houses a year. We're hoping to pick that up to about 100; but still, with the core needs of the Territories, we need something like 2,300 units, and if we wait another 10 years we're looking at 4,000 units. So we have to find a way that's unique to meet our housing challenges. So it is an area we have to be cognizant of, but, again, it's business as usual. We're probably looking at somewhere between 50 and 100 units a year going forward. Thank you.

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

Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it is with regard to the day care program. As I was saying earlier, we really are not discussing enough about the needs of children, and we are very good at passing the buck about it's the parent's responsibility, it's the government's responsibility, the federal government's responsibility, and I would like to say it's a responsibility for all of us. The GNWT has a day care program. We do have people that are working on this program, and we should have the right to expect that these people should be aware of what is available, and where there are communities where children are left with no day care facility or programs at all, the Minister's office has to take responsibility of taking a leadership role and see what they can do and stop passing the buck in that regard. So I would like to know if the Minister has any intention of working on a territorial strategy on a day care program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member that this government should have a leadership position in the field of early childhood education, and the Member will be happy to know that we do. We have a strategy, and it's been in place for a couple of years now. This government is quite prepared to move forward. We had been working with our partners, the federal government, to try and expand the program with some extra money from them. After hearing

the announcements that there was going to be \$5 billion to spend, I was excited, like most people in the Northwest Territories, that we were actually going to be able to make a significant change to our programs, and improve them significantly. I've been quite disappointed with the response of the federal government, and the Member will know that I have worked very hard to get Minister Dryden on side so that we can see some of the benefits of the program that's flowing to other parts of Canada that we're not yet seeing. So, yes, this government is prepared to work towards improving the program. We do have a strategy in place, and I am prepared to work with the federal government to try and get some of that money geared for the Northwest Territories.

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

Supplementary To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if you've noticed, but I noticed the fact that the Minister kind of slid into GNWT responsibility, but ended the sentence by blaming the whole game to the federal government, and this is what I don't want to hear anymore. Frankly, I don't think there has been enough done by this government to bend the ear of Mr. Dryden, who is not able to see beyond per capita formulas. That's just one little file. I want to know if the Minister has a day care strategy. Does he have any understanding of what programs are available in communities, what funding is available; does he have anybody on the ground looking at what the needs are and figuring out what to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm aware of what the program offers in terms of supports to new day cares to get started. We offer subsidies. We offer subsidies to parents who want to put their kids into licensed day care spaces. We offer subsidies to operators who provide those day care spaces. I know that we have spaces in almost every community in the Northwest Territories. So, yes, I know that there are 1,400 licensed spaces in the Northwest Territories that are available right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicates that there are 1,400 spaces. Does he know what the needs are? He's speaking about 1,400 spaces as being what's available, but how does that compare to what the needs are? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The needs are different in every community, and that's why our program is set up so that it responds to community

needs. When parents in a community decide that they want to set up a day care, our program will work with them. As the Member pointed out, we have staff who specialize in early childhood education and day care. We have developed easy-to-understand detailed booklets outlining how to start a day care and how to make sure that your day care meets the regulations. It's easy to follow, and it's set up in a step-by-step basis so that people in every community can understand how to do it. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have staff who will help people in every community to do that.

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

Supplementary To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to tell you that the programs are not as comprehensive and as ideal as the Minister makes them out to be. If it were so, we wouldn't have the situation that we saw in Lutselk'e and so many other communities. It's not as proactive and positive as the Minister would like to portray. I would like to know from the Minister what the department has done for a community like Lutselk'e, where not every community has parents' groups, or whatever groups, coming up with a proposal. We have about 20 children in Lutselk'e without a home to go to and there has been nobody looking to see where they can be housed that's appropriate for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 141-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we are prepared to work with every community. This government doesn't have the money right now. We were hoping to get a bunch of money from the federal government, but so far they have been stalling us and we don't have the money to build day care centres. So we have to work with people in the communities to try and find solutions. In some communities we can find space in buildings, like in Fort Smith, the Aurora College has provided space. In other communities there are other solutions, but we're prepared to work with each community to help them find ways to develop day cares, but it's going to have to be a partnership, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we're going to have the money to take on complete ownership. I know that the Member will be aware that at a public hearing last week, we had an activist from Yellowknife who said that she didn't believe that this government should be institutionalizing kids, that we should be supporting parents to do the job that parents should do first. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. Before we go on to the next item on the agenda, I would like to draw the attention of the Members to the presence in the visitors' gallery of Ms. Nitya Iyer, the Northwest Territories Equal Pay Commissioner. Her report will be tabled later on in the House today. Not only is it her first annual report, it is also the first report since the Equal Pay Commissioner's office was established in the Northwest Territories. Welcome to the House, Ms. Iyer.

---Applause

Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 10-15(4): Student Financial Assistance

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

- 1) How many people in the category of northern residents not schooled in the Northwest Territories have applied for student financial assistance from the government in each of the last three years?
- 2) How many of those have received student financial assistance?
- 3) How many of those are enrolled in educational degree programs?

Thank you.

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

Written Question 11-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment,

- 1) When is the last time the ECE staff went into Lutselk'e to look at the day care program and spaces?
- 2) When they did, what did they find and what did they do?
- 3) What are the other communities in the NWT without day care programs, and what does the department plan to do to address those?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 3-15(4): Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Report On Pre-Budget Consultations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is pleased to provide its pre-budget consultation report, and commends it to the House.

---Applause

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is pleased to present its first report on pre-budget consultations.

The committee held hearings in Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Inuvik, Lutselk'e, Paulatuk, Trout Lake, Whati and Yellowknife, between August 25 and September 2, 2005. Following the Yellowknife hearings, the committee members split into northern NWT and southern NWT groups in order to visit as many communities as possible within the short time we had available.

These were our first pre-budget consultations, and we were not sure what to expect, or if people would even be interested in talking to us. As it turned out, the response was very positive. Meetings were well attended, and many people expressed support for what we were doing. In every community, we heard from representatives of local governments, frontline workers, NGOs, business and individuals speaking on their own behalf. We were especially impressed with the number of youth who attended our meetings, and the few who spoke to us very convincingly about their priorities and ideas. We hope to have even more participation by youth in future meetings. It was very encouraging for us to see the numbers of people who did come to meet us. Our only regret is that we could not accommodate all the requests for additional meetings and longer stays in some of the communities we did visit.

To get the discussion started, we asked people the following questions:

- What government programs are most important for you?
- What are the biggest concerns in your community today?
- What kind of government spending would help your community the most?
- Are there things government is spending money on in your community that are not doing any good?

Keeping the discussion going was never a problem, and, as a result, some of our meetings went very late into the evening, with many people patiently waiting hours to have a turn at the microphone.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to make presentations to us or to send us written comments. A list of their names and organizations is attached to this report. We especially want to thank the people who traveled from other communities, such as Wrigley and Tsiigehtchic, to be at our meetings in regional centres.

These consultations would not have been a success without local people who provided us with meeting places, catering, accommodations, interpretation, transportation and sound services. Often these people who set up chairs and tables, feed us, drive us around, give us a place to sleep, and make sure we can hear and understand each other go unrecognized, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

In the course of these consultations, most of us visited at least one community we had never been to before. Although we are elected to represent our constituents, we are also expected to be involved in decisions that have a territory-wide impact, having the chance to see other

communities and meet each other's constituents helps us to do a better job. We would, therefore, like to thank all the communities we visited for making us feel welcome, and for letting us get to know you better.

Why Pre-Budget Consultations?

From the beginning of the 15th Assembly, our committee has struggled to find a way to give members of the public a meaningful opportunity to influence the government's business plans and budget. In the past, we do not think enough people and organizations have had a chance to tell MLAs about their priorities and views of how government should spend its money.

The government's budgets are not made public until February. By this time, it is too late to make major changes, and even minor adjustments can be difficult to fit in. However, the work on the budget begins several months earlier. Standing committees get their first opportunity to see and to question potential cuts, new spending, and other budget changes when they review the government's draft three-year business plans. This takes place over a two-week period in September, when there is still room for changes. Committees use this time to discuss government-wide issues with the Premier and Minister of Finance, and then meet with the Minister and senior staff of each Department to go over the draft plans in detail.

This September, the timing of the pre-budget consultations allowed Members to ask the questions and raise the issues we heard as we reviewed individual Departmental business plans with the Ministers and senior staff. Although we have an obligation to keep the details of our discussions on the draft business plans confidential, we would like to assure the public that we did use the opportunity to try to influence the government to align its plans more closely with what you told us, and to encourage the government to keep going where it is already heading in the right direction. You will also be hearing your comments reflected in statements and questions by individual Members during upcoming sessions of the Legislative Assembly, in future reports by standing committees, and in the debate on the budget that will happen next February and March.

We would like to caution, however, that patience will be required as many of the issues you raised demand long-term solutions, and are far beyond what can be addressed in one year's budget and business plans. We look forward to working with the government over the remainder of our mandate on longer-term approaches and strategic investments toward reversing the negative trends you have identified and achieving the goals you have set for us.

General Comments

The committee found a number of common themes throughout our consultations.

By far the majority of issues people brought to our attention were in the social programs area. In every community, we heard requests for more adequate, affordable housing, better prevention and treatment of addictions, and help to deal with the high cost of living. Concerns for particular groups, such as elders, women, persons with disabilities and youth, crossed a number of different areas, particularly education, health and

employment. As reflected in many sections of this report, throughout our consultations, the committee heard a great deal of concern for youth especially and the need for them to have safe activities and places to go. More than one person pointed out that it is disappointing, to say the least, that although we are spending roughly half of our billion dollar budget on Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment, we are still a long way from achieving our goals in a number of key areas and we have stalled on implementing the Social Agenda.

Outside of the social programs area, two of the more common priorities were dealing with rising energy costs and supporting economic development, particularly in renewable resource sectors.

One message that came up in one form or another everywhere we went was that there is a lot the government could do differently to better support frontline organizations and workers. This is a key issue that affects many different program areas as will be discussed in the next section of this report.

The committee is well aware that until we can establish new revenue sources, the government's ability to respond to requests for new money without taking away from other programs will be very limited. As stated earlier, we also realize that some issues will require many years of investments. However, we want to emphasize that we did not only hear about problems and funding shortfalls. We also heard several examples of programs that are already working well and ideas for new revenue sources, saving money or better ways to spend the money we do have.

Motion That Committee Report 3-15(4) Be Deemed Read And Printed In Hansard, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Pre-Budget Consultation Report of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 3-15(4): Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Pre-Budget Consultation Report

What We Heard

Support For Community And Frontline Organizations

The committee heard from several territorial and local non-governmental organizations and frontline agencies working in a broad range of areas such as literacy, youth, family violence, addictions and homelessness. While they told us a great deal about their specific program areas, as will be related in later sections of this report, they all had a lot to say generally about the working relationship between themselves and the GNWT.

The value of the work these organizations do cannot be underestimated. If they were ever to disappear, there is no way that government could step in to fill the gap. As it

is, these are the organizations that pick up the pieces when government programs such as income support, legal aid, and the education system let people fall through the holes in the safety net.

Not only are these organizations experts in their program areas, they are experts at stretching every dollar as far as it will go. In the words of Ms. Lydia Bardak from the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition, "In the non-government sector, we have an amazing, amazing amount of collective experience, commitment and dedication. We do that with very little or next to no resources." For example, the NWT Seniors' Society told us that their work has been valued by an independent consultant at \$1.5 million if it were being done by government. Yet their budget for this year is roughly \$100,000, and they have repeatedly been denied the additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year they need to fulfill their mandate and to keep up with rising costs. We heard similar stories from several other groups. As Ms. Lyda Fuller from the YWCA said of negotiating funding with the GNWT, "It's not a process of saying what do you need to keep this service running and moderately healthy. You get targets and the targets are the same as you had last year or sometimes less, and then you have to structure your budget to meet that target."

A particular concern of several NGOs is the lack of forced growth funding in recent years. Like everyone else, they and their staff are immediately impacted when the costs of insurance, utilities, fuel and food go up. Although the government budgets for this in its own operations, it is not consistently doing the same for NGOs. For example, Mr. Bill Enge from the North Slave Métis Alliance told us that their core funding is still at 1995 levels. Forced growth funding to raise staff wages to keep up with the cost of living is also lacking. We were told that, in the past, the GNWT provided some additional funding to NGOs every time the public service received an increase. This has not happened in the last few years. Like many employers across the Territories, NGOs already have difficulty recruiting and keeping trained staff. They are at a particular disadvantage, shared by many community governments as well, because the wages they can offer are falling further and further behind everyone else. Inuvik Family Counselling Services told us their workers have more qualifications than GNWT staff in the same field, but are paid less and receive less program support. We heard that workers are burning out, not only from the high stress of constantly dealing with clients in crisis, but also from having to work at more than one job to make ends meet. This is impacting the effectiveness of programs and services.

Another major problem for NGOs is the lack of multi-year funding, which limits their ability to make long-range plans and commitments, including providing job security for their staff. Many NGOs have been operating effectively for several years and believe they have long since proven themselves and are now deserving of some trust from the GNWT. As Reverend Haydn Schofield from the Hay River Ministerial Association said, "Why doesn't somebody trust us enough, come look at what we're doing, look at our proposal, come and see the centre, look at our history, and then trust us enough and say we will give a three-year project or three-year funding for an assistant?"

Funds for necessary building repairs and maintenance are also insufficient. With budgets already being stretched so thin, NGOs are hard pressed to deal with a furnace that

suddenly quits working or a sprinkler system that needs replacing. The Hay River Family Support Centre suggested a special fund that NGOs could access to deal with these types of situations.

Many NGOs expressed frustration with the complexity and inflexibility of program funds and the constant struggle to match them to their clients' actual needs. To get funding for a program or service, NGOs often have to pool together money from multiple departments and/or levels of government. Each funding source has its own program criteria and reporting requirements. Often one funding source will want to know that another funding source is on board before committing to a project. The burden of coordinating all of this falls on the NGOs, in addition to their day-to-day jobs of providing programs and services. Ironically, as one presenter commented, funding for coordinator-type positions is usually the first thing government cuts.

Even knowing what resources are out there can be a challenge. Several people, particularly in the youth field, told us they are never sure where to go for funding. In Paulatuk, Ms. Frances Wolki spoke about how small communities lack the knowledge to access dollars, which are often already spoken for by the time they have a chance to make a request.

Aside from finding sources of funding for projects, NGOs often struggle to match program dollars to clients' actual needs. Securing funding depends on being able to massage projects to fit within programs instead of the other way around. As was pointed out in the presentation by the Hay River Community Youth Centre, sometimes very worthwhile activities just do not look all that grand on paper. Some NGOs, like the Hay River Family Support Centre, also fear losing funding for core programs if they expand too far beyond their original mandate, even if the intent is to provide needed services to the same core of clients.

The GNWT's programs and funding practices also fail to recognize that real clients typically have more than one issue to deal with. An individual may be unemployed, and coping with a disability and an addiction, or they may be in trouble with the law and homeless. As Ms. Arlene Hache from the Centre for Northern Families told us, because they are in the frontlines, NGOs find themselves forced into a position of helping people they do not have the resources to help; for example, by filling some of the gaps left by the legal aid system. Several NGOs suggested that with a little additional funding they would be able to fill some of these gaps and provide a more holistic service. Too often they have seen the GNWT spend money on strategies and office renovations instead of giving those resources to the people who know how to get the job done. The perspective of several NGOs was captured in a comment by Ms. Hache who said that although the government works hard, "I just believe that they don't know how to support communities and families the way that is effective. That's all it is."

This brings us to another request from NGOs, which is to be included more often in planning and decision-making. They believe they have a great deal to offer, especially in suggesting how resources can be used most effectively, ensuring there is no duplication of services and setting priorities so that resources are not spread so thinly they are no longer effective. Ms. Hache told us that federal dollars often go through the departments and boards and

get allocated before community groups have a chance to put forward ideas. She gave the example of funding that was used to renovate a clinic to make it suitable for drop-ins, rather than building on the service already being provided at the Centre for Northern Families.

Several presenters mentioned Yellowknife's Homelessness Coalition as a good model for cooperative decision-making, which they hope can be copied in the future. In Lutselk'e, we heard how Social Agenda funding is working and helping community organizations to pull together.

Many NGOs depend, to a great extent, on volunteers. The NWT Seniors' Society identified a need for more support for volunteers and the volunteer spirit, which they are concerned is declining. A strong volunteer spirit is needed for the continued success of many NGOs and the overall well being of communities. In the words of Mr. Alvin Armstrong, "You can't get anyone to do anything unless they're getting paid." He suggested volunteer groups should have priority for funding over organizations that pay honoraria.

The committee notes that much of what NGOs are asking for -- multi-year funding, program flexibility and more inclusive decision-making -- is not about more dollars, but about a better working relationship. Despite our fiscal situation, these are areas where we should be able to make improvements. As Mr. Dave Harder from the Salvation Army said, "Help us to do the work we are already doing."

With respect to the calls for additional funding, the committee heard a great deal of evidence that money provided to NGOs is money well spent. As Ms. Suzanne Robinson from the Inuvik Literacy Committee said of her program, "For the amount of money we put it together for, it's real bang for your buck." We were continually impressed by what people were able to accomplish on shoestring budgets.

Support For Frontline Workers

The committee also heard concerns about the level of support provided to frontline workers. Wages are low, and many NGOs and community organizations do not have adequate funding to provide benefits. Staff and volunteers are burning out. The Status of Women Council wrote to us with a recommendation that the GNWT make a renewed commitment to implementing the Social Agenda, including strengthening and increasing the frontline resources in NWT communities, with particular attention to non-government and volunteer resources. As the Status of Women Council noted, the majority of frontline workers and volunteers in the wellness field are women, and their already heavy workload will likely continue to increase with the social impacts of industrial development. Training and professional development dollars are often the first to be cut when budgets are tight, but are needed to meet current and future demands.

There was concern that many frontline workers, especially additions workers, are not given enough coaching and supervisory support. Ms. Bardak also suggested they do not have enough decision-making authority, which limits their ability to participate effectively on community interagency groups. It is frustrating for communities trying to work together on local issues when a key player has to

keep going back to their regional office or headquarters for approvals.

This mirrors what we heard directly from community residents, who told us they can do the job and want more local authority over programs. In Whati, Ms. Mary Anne Jeremick'a insisted local people have good ideas and the capacity to deliver, but are too often held up by inflexible program guidelines and rules such as degree requirements. "What about the degree that our people have learned from the land?" she asked. Another Whati resident, Mr. Alphonse Nitsiza, said, "The problem with bureaucrats running the communities for so many years is people at times have become dependent on the system and do not want to do anything for themselves anymore. Now we have to undo that." And as Chief Charlie Nitsiza said, "What we want to do in the communities is put the program together ourselves to fit the community." Chief Nitsiza's comment was echoed by people from Trout Lake to Paulatuk.

Inadequate support for frontline workers was most noticeable in small communities where the need is probably greatest. In Trout Lake, the committee heard that the home care worker has a full-time caseload with 12 elders and others to look after, but is only funded part time. She is also short of equipment and supplies. In Paulatuk, Mayor Ray Ruben and Ms. Marlene Wolki told us that their health care workers are in a very stressful position and need help to do their jobs. The situation is at the point that people are worried the nurses are so busy they could make potentially serious mistakes. They also mentioned that the doctors and nurses who are sent to their community seem to be the ones with the least experience. Mayor Ruben suggested a possible solution would be putting the nursing staff on short-term rotations, for example, three to four months, but sending the same pool of staff on the rotations so they would still have a chance to become familiar with the community and its residents. He also suggested that community involvement in staffing both nursing and teaching positions would help to ensure that they got the right people who would be able to work with their community.

One of the basic resources frontline workers need is a suitable place to do their job. The committee was, therefore, appalled to learn that the income support office in Paulatuk is located in the school. Not only is this potentially humiliating for the clients who need to visit the office, it sends the wrong message to youth. The income support worker told us students walk by and joke about when they can come to her for assistance. This situation is clearly unacceptable, and we are concerned there may be similar situations in other communities.

Cost Of Living And Poverty

The cost of living was an issue everywhere we went. It impacts on individuals, on businesses, and other employers who need to attract and keep workers, and on small communities who want to stay viable and not lose all their young people to larger centres. Fuel and housing prices are the two areas of most concern, and are discussed in more detail in later sections of this report. Food and freight continue to be very expensive, especially in the smallest, most isolated communities. Chief Dennis Deneron of Trout Lake told us the cost of charters, which are needed to fly groceries and other supplies into the community, has doubled. This is a serious concern in a community where jobs are scarce and people are already

struggling to make ends meet. In Whati, we heard from the school principal that some students come to class hungry because their parents cannot afford nutritious food. As the Status of Women Council warned, "The NWT will pay a large price in the future for social programs and the justice system, if we do not invest more in families with children now to ensure a basic quality of life."

Youth, who cannot access income support or public housing on their own, are especially vulnerable. Several Yellowknife agencies have identified a need to establish a youth coalition modeled on the Homelessness Coalition. As Ms. Bardak told us, "We have a large number of kids who are not in school and who are not employable and not engaged generally."

While people are seeing a growing gap in quality of living between larger and smaller communities, they are also concerned about what is happening within communities. Although many people have been able to take advantage of opportunities in resource development, government and other sectors, many have been left behind. As Ms. Angie Lantz told us in Lutsel'k'e, "There's a big gap between the employed and the unemployed. What is happening is it's dividing the community in a bad way." This comment was echoed by Alternatives North, who reminded us that are not everyone will "be able to rise to self-reliance by the simple provision of opportunities."

Several presenters raised concerns with the Income Support Program. The Status of Women Council recommended a complete overhaul, involving public consultation with income assistance recipients, NGOs and aboriginal organizations. The concerns we heard were not only with the levels of assistance, but also with the way the program is administered. The YWCA reiterated past recommendations to hire enough workers for reasonable caseloads, pay those workers enough to attract skilled helpers and do real social work with clients. As we discussed with Ms. Fuller, we are all familiar with situations where individuals have had to make due without their cheques for weeks or months at a time through no fault of their own. In the words of Ms. Fuller, "It shouldn't take six months of work by four staff people in an agency to get one client a replacement cheque when somebody steals their cheque and cashes it. It shouldn't happen that a house in the community that has people with disabilities living in it gets their fuel cut off in the middle of winter, and then work gets done to help that not happen and it happens again the following month. It shouldn't deny help to a woman who is living in an abusive situation and force her to come back into the shelter instead of finding an apartment somewhere, and meanwhile her 17-year-old son lives in a vehicle."

Specific suggestions we heard were to address the high cost of living and poverty were to:

- develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate poverty (Alternatives North);
- immediately eliminate the National Child Tax Benefit clawback on income support (Alternatives North and the Status of Women Council);
- immediately increase income support allowances for food and make provisions for basic necessities such as phone service, toiletries, school expenses and household cleaning and personal care items.

(Alternatives North and the Status of Women Council); and

- lower the corporate tax and payroll tax burden (Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce).

Another suggestion came from Ms. Evelyn Coleman of the Territorial Farmers' Association, who told us we could do much more to grow and produce food right in communities, either using arable land where it is available or running greenhouses and livestock operations. As she said in reference to a \$4 onion in Aklavik, "There's no reason food in the NWT should cost that much anywhere when we have the ability to grow it."

Adequate, Affordable Housing

The lack of adequate and affordable housing is a crisis in many NWT communities that we were told is contributing not only to homelessness, but also to social problems, crime, young people leaving smaller communities for good, and difficulties recruiting and retaining nurses, teachers and other workers.

The affordability of private rental housing was discussed in both Yellowknife and Inuvik. As Ms. Barbara Beck wrote to us, "The average single parent or single person store clerk or waitress cannot rent an apartment due to extremely high rental rates. ...people do want to work but cannot afford an apartment on their minimum wage job. If you do not have a place to live, how can you work?" In Inuvik, Ms. Sharon Spinks told us that government needs to take a stand, and suggested rent control as an option to protect tenants from gouging.

Everywhere we went, we were told about long waiting lists for public housing. People in Fort Good Hope, Inuvik and Trout Lake specifically mentioned the shortage of housing for single people and young families. Too many young adults are forced to either leave their community or continue living in overcrowded homes with their parents or other relatives because there is nowhere else for them to go. Several people also mentioned the shortage of housing for seniors and persons with disabilities.

On the other side of the equation, we heard from Fort Simpson businessman Jan Van Der Veen about his difficulties accessing funding programs for landlord residential rehabilitation and new rental housing developments.

The age and poor condition of the public housing units we do have was a serious concern in several communities. As one Inuvik resident pointed out, much of our housing stock is over 50 years old and probably not up to standard. Local housing authorities find themselves in an impossible position when the small amount of modernization and improvements funding available is not enough to cover even the most necessary repairs. Ms. Debbie Gordon-Ruben of Paulatuk explained to us, "One of our units is condemnable, but there is a family of 12 living there. Where are we going to move them?"

The committee was especially disturbed by the condition of the elders' home in Fort Good Hope which is in such a state of disrepair that a woman in her eighties has to resort to putting blankets on her doors and using her cook stove to stay warm, while her neighbours are forced to sit wrapped in blankets waiting for the heat to come on.

Some people fear the situation will get worse as the Public Housing Program is transferred from the NWT Housing Corporation to Education, Culture and Employment. The NWT Seniors' Society told us they doubt the department has the ability to provide a "quality sensitive service" considering all of their other responsibilities. Ms. Hache recalled how special allowances such as those for layettes and people with diabetes disappeared from the Income Support Program when it was transferred from Health and Social Services.

A few individuals asked for changes to the rent scale. Suggestions included basing the rent scale on net, rather than gross income; setting lower rents for elders and people with disabilities; and setting a different scale for trappers, casual and seasonal workers. One individual expressed frustration that the current rent scale penalizes working people by making them pay more. The Hay River Seniors' Society stressed the need for fairness, pointing to the current situation in Hay River where seniors in the private rental market are paying more than seniors in public housing who have larger units.

We also heard that some working people are at the point of getting evicted because they have not made rent payments. When people go from being unemployed to having a good income, their rent can take a drastic jump. Higher rents mean that arrears build up faster and quickly become unmanageable. The Centre for Northern Families suggested that more could be done to educate people about their responsibilities to pay rent when they can afford to do so.

Given the current state of the public housing system, we are not surprised that some people, like Mayor Peter Clarkson of Inuvik, have come to the conclusion that what we have now is not sustainable, and we need to do more to get people into their own homes and to help elders stay in their own homes. Mayor Clarkson recommended that the NWT develop a comprehensive housing strategy that includes energy efficiency, lot development, and a move to private ownership.

For such a strategy to succeed, we would first need to address some significant barriers to homeownership. For example, individuals in Hay River, Paulatuk and Fort Good Hope told us about the difficulty they have affording maintenance on their homes or, in some cases, even finding local people who have the time to do the work. If a Paulatuk elder's furnace breaks down in the middle of winter, they have to be able to get it fixed. They cannot be expected to pay for a maintainer to fly in from another community or wait for the local maintainer to finish work on the public housing units to find time to help them. Heating and utilities costs, which are discussed in the next section of this report, are also a barrier to homeownership for some people.

Energy

In its presentation to the committee, Ecology North criticized the GNWT for not taking energy and environmental issues seriously, especially climate change. The recent jump in oil prices has created an opportunity for conservation and energy issues to become a top priority for all of us.

The committee heard pleas from several individuals to help them cope with the rising costs, through new or increased rebates or subsidies or lobbying for reduced

federal taxes. Some people told us that even before fuel prices rose, the subsidies we already had were inadequate. The Territorial Power Subsidy Program subsidizes residential customers so they pay the same rate as Yellowknife on their first 700 kilowatt hours each month. Any consumption above 700 kilowatt hours is charged at the community rate, which can be several times the amount of the Yellowknife rate. In Paulatuk, we were told that many people's monthly power bills are several hundred dollars. This is because the average household energy consumption is roughly 1,100 to 1,400 kilowatt hours, well above the 700 kilowatt hour subsidy level. The Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program was also criticized in Whati, because elders who have adult children or other relatives living with them do not qualify for the subsidy, regardless of what those other adults are actually contributing to household expenses.

Several people recommended that programs encouraging conservation would be a better solution than straight subsidies, which are not sustainable. Suggested examples of such programs included incentives for people to buy more energy efficient appliances and furnaces, and even converting back to woodstoves.

Ecology North advocated for cheaper, renewable, more labour-intensive locally provided energy sources, such as wood. Alternatives North acknowledged that we will likely need more hydro development, but warned that mega-projects lead to mega-disruption, and that the government should not proceed with the Bear River project without more discussion of other options.

A few people mentioned the need to dust off or rewrite the 2003 Energy Strategy. Ecology North further recommended the GNWT establish a well-resourced energy policy office that would champion greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy, as well as developing policies and programs to promote conservation.

We also heard several suggestions for ways the GNWT itself could conserve:

- investing upfront in more energy efficient buildings. The glass wall on the school in Inuvik was given as an example of recent construction that could have been made much more heat efficient (several presenters);
- replacing old inefficient appliances in public housing units (Mr. Tyler Katz);
- building multiplexes instead of standalone units for public housing (Ms. Sharon Katz);
- running the ferry at Tsiigehtchic once per hour instead of on demand (Mr. Tyler Katz);
- using high efficiency vehicles for GNWT business where large pick-ups are not required (Mr. Tyler Katz).

Early Childhood Programs

The importance of early childhood programs as an investment that pays off down the road for children was a frequent topic in our consultations. As the NWT Literacy Council said, these early investments "are much more effective than program interventions made later in life. A long-term commitment, a more comprehensive approach

and improved integration are needed if early childhood programming is to be effective. A piecemeal approach and unstable funding will not achieve the intended result." The shortage of affordable, quality early childhood programs is also a barrier for many parents, especially women, trying to make productive choices by working or furthering their education. As the Status of Women Council wrote, "Access to childcare is an essential factor in achieving economic equality for women, and in maximizing the potential of the NWT labour force."

We also heard in both Lutselk'e and Trout Lake that the lack of suitable facilities and/or trained staff prevents them from taking advantage of the federal Aboriginal Head Start program. Residents of Lutselk'e were especially concerned, because the community hall they are currently using for day care showed high levels of radon in tests conducted several years ago, and has not been adequately monitored since.

The Status of Women Council recommended a review of the NWT Childcare Program in order to eliminate barriers and improve access to childcare services in NWT communities. The review would involve a collaboration of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and stakeholders, and would include assessing the impact of lack of access to reliable childcare on women leaving education, training and employment. They further recommended a major initiative to improve access to quality, licensed, non-profit childcare services in the NWT.

Other specific suggestions were to:

- continue to lobby the federal government for a fairer basis for allocating childcare dollars to the territories (Alternatives North; Status of Women Council);
- make the operations and maintenance funding for day cares space-based instead of attendance-based to avoid fluctuations in revenue (Alternatives North);
- develop an early childhood development certificate program through Aurora College, including a work co-op component (Alternatives North);
- eventually require at least one certified staff member per license, and provide the necessary assistance to get to that standard (Alternatives North);
- allow day homes to be operated in public housing (Status of Women Council);
- provide a program of capital grants to enable construction of childcare centres in communities that have no available building or space for a centre (Status of Women Council).

Literacy

As we heard from Mr. Ken Latour of Hay River, literacy is internationally recognized as a key indicator of the health of societies. Many groups expressed disappointment that funding to this critical area has been cut in the last two budgets, just as awareness campaigns were succeeding at raising interest, demand for programs was on the increase and the capacity of communities to deliver their own programs was developing.

People in Inuvik, Hay River, Lutselk'e and Yellowknife told us that literacy programming is one area where we are

beginning to see results. As the NWT Literacy Council stressed, a long-term commitment is needed, or we may lose ground. Family literacy programs have been especially successful in some communities. The council requested increased funding for community training and programs, which would, for example, allow programs to run for longer periods. Current funding is \$3,000 per community.

There was also significant concern that Aurora College lacks adequate resources to deliver effective adult literacy programs, and requests for more funding to this important area.

Requests to enhance literacy programming included:

- strengthening the Literacy Strategy and looking at ways to fill the remaining gaps, especially programming for out-of-school youth (NWT Literacy Council; Mr. Ken Latour);
- funding for literacy research and resource development (NWT Literacy Council);
- core funding for the NWT Literacy Council; (NWT Literacy Council Mr. Ken Latour);
- looking at financial literacy training as well (John Howard Society).

Kindergarten To Grade 12

Several people pointed out areas that are under-resourced in the K to 12 system. The most common concern was the lack of support for children with disabilities beyond the primary level. Many of these children need one-on-one assistance to succeed, and despite the Education Act's inclusive schooling policy, the supports are not there to make that happen. As the NWT Teachers' Association wrote to us, many of their members "are stretched to the limit, physically and emotionally, by the sheer numbers and severity of special needs in their classrooms. The problems are immense. The numbers of our students who need assistance above and beyond what is currently available is beyond the means and resources available to most of our schools, especially those in the smaller communities." A related issue brought to the committee's attention was the lack of resources to deal with students with behavioural problems, who often end up getting expelled. High pupil-teacher ratios in some schools contribute to this problem.

There were also general concerns about how schools are funded. The NWT Teachers' Association pointed to the problems caused by applying a one-size-fits-all funding formula to small, isolated community schools. We heard an example of this in Lutselk'e, where we were told that enrolment, on which funding levels are based, can vary a great deal from year to year for a number of reasons, including parents leaving temporarily to attend Aurora College.

The committee also heard requests for more relevant programming in schools, including aboriginal language and culture, NWT history, small engine repairs, land claim agreements, on-the-land programs to teach traditional skills, and more exposure to the trades.

The quality of higher grades was a concern in Lutselk'e, Fort Good Hope and Paulatuk. In Lutselk'e, we heard

support for sending high school students to larger communities, and a request that this be funded even if students go out of territory. Ms. Edna Tobac, a Fort Good Hope parent, told us that students who have completed Grade 12 are not ready for further education and still need to do upgrading elsewhere before they can consider university. As an example of how students are being "pushed along", she told us about a student receiving seven credits for a two-week program. She was especially concerned about the quality of education for the sciences, because of the lack of specialized teachers in those subjects. Mayor Ray Ruben of Paulatuk also raised concerns with social passing, and pointed to the absence of a school counsellor, which he considered an essential for students' success.

Post-Secondary Education

Student Financial Assistance and trades and apprenticeships were the two most discussed topics under post-secondary education.

The committee heard comments from a few individuals that the level of funding under the Student Financial Assistance program is not enough, especially for tuition and living expenses such as childcare and housing.

The committee was also informed of two specific gaps in the Student Financial Assistance program. We heard from the North Slave Metis Alliance that Metis students are being denied eligibility under the University and College Entrance Preparation Program. While this is a federal program and the decision to exclude Metis was made by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the North Slave Metis Alliance requested that the GNWT consider filling this gap as it did with extended health benefits. In Fort Simpson, Ms. Lorraine Menicoche-Moses suggested that because there is not enough money in the UCEP program to go around, it should be allocated by region instead of on a first come/first-served basis.

We also heard from Ms. Lillian Crook from the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities that people with intellectual disabilities have not been able to access Student Financial Assistance in order to be able to attend specialized schools in the South because they have been told their programs do not qualify.

In Fort Simpson, Mayor Raymond Michaud spoke about the severe shortage of tradespeople that will become a crisis as demand from the non-renewable resource sector rises and people retire. As Mayor Michaud said, "If we were to look tomorrow and spend money on every journeyman that we have in the Territories right now that does not have an apprentice, four years from now you wouldn't have a problem. If we do not invest any funding in the apprenticeship program, four years from now we're going to be in dire straits." Several people, including Mayor Michaud, spoke about the importance of training and hiring local people, who are more likely to stay and work in the community for the long term.

Other specific suggestions the committee received for improving post-secondary programs included:

- providing core funding to Aurora College for all trades programs instead of relying on soft funding from industry and other partners (Mayor Peter Clarkson, Inuvik);

- putting conditions on government tenders and resource development permits requiring the use of apprentices (Alternatives North);
- applying affirmative action criteria to apprenticeships (Alternatives North);
- Internet training centres in communities capable of supporting post-graduate work (Mr. Wes Hardisty, Fort Simpson); and
- an Aurora College Campus in Yellowknife (Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce).

Employment And Training

As mentioned earlier in this report, the committee heard concerns that not everyone is benefiting from the opportunities created by the NWT's heated economy. Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities, and women were the groups mentioned as still facing barriers to employment. Small communities especially are challenged to find meaningful work, especially for the younger generation. Suggestions we heard from people included:

- reinstating "make work projects" in smaller communities (several presenters);
- creating jobs in traditional communities for both the traditional and modern economy (Ms. Barbara Beck);
- expanding employability programs for people with disabilities, which are currently working well in the North Slave and Fort Simpson regions, to the rest of the NWT (NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities);
- making the GNWT a model employer for persons with disabilities (NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities); and
- providing consultation and support to address the needs of women with disabilities in training and employment programs (Status of Women Council).

It is critical that we work at removing these barriers. As Ms. Cecily Hewitt from the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities said, "The more people are employed, the less we're struggling with things like income support."

The committee also heard a number of concerns with the GNWT's own affirmative action policy, which, as Alternatives North reminded us, is long overdue for a review.

The committee heard positive comments about past and ongoing training initiatives such as partnerships between business and the GNWT, adult education, summer student funding, and the financial support provided to the Status of Women Council for the Women in Mining, Oil and Gas project.

The Summer Student Hiring Program has a number of benefits, especially for smaller communities, and people were concerned that its funding was cut last year. The program provides not only a good source of labour for community organizations such as municipal governments, but, as we heard in Whati and Trout Lake, gives youth in small communities especially something productive to do with their time. One individual suggested that more on-

the-job training might be a way to engage some youth who have dropped out of school.

As the Native Women's Association reminded us, people bring their other challenges with them to training, such as literacy, language, program costs, abuse, addictions, mental illness, FASD, and disabilities. Ms. Lena Pederson from the Association explained, "Helping people with personal problems while assisting them in their learning is holistic and successful." For example, she told us, in some cases, people may need help filling out government forms. This adds to the already heavy workload of instructors. A little support for this extra assistance could reduce costs elsewhere in the system.

As several presenters pointed out, training programs also help communities to build their local workforce so they are not continually trying to recruit and retain people from outside to fill critical positions in their local governments and organizations. There is also a demand for more local training opportunities, to help people overcome some of the barriers they would face if they had to relocate for their education. For example, as Fort Good Hope Sub-Chief Robert Kelly told us, people who want to go away for a year to take a program would have to give up their house, and may not be able to find another one when they return.

As with employment, access to training programs is still not equal for all groups.

Specific suggestions for improvement were to:

- develop a strategy to increase the number of NWT women in trades and technical occupations, and resources for the delivery of trades orientation and access programs specifically for women, recognizing additional needs such as childcare and mutual support/mentoring (Status of Women Council);
- give people with intellectual disabilities who have completed training programs access to internships through the Northern Graduate Employment Program (NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities).

Another issue raised by the Status of Women Council is workplace harassment, which they wrote, "has wide-ranging, severe, and costly impacts on the victim, the workplace and the employer." The council recommended to us that the government's business plan include the goal of preventing and addressing workplace harassment, including awareness and prevention activities. They also recommended amendments to the Labour Standards Act to provide a process for workplace harassment complaints and remedies similar to current Quebec legislation, and the inclusion of workplace harassment under workers' compensation and safety legislation.

As mentioned earlier in this report, businesses, communities and other employers are experiencing a number of challenges in recruiting and retaining employees. Even if we succeed in removing barriers and integrating more women, persons with disabilities, and aboriginal people into the workforce, we would still find ourselves with a labour shortage which will only worsen as more resource development projects come online. The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce suggested the GNWT could help to alleviate this situation by doing more to market the NWT as a desirable place to work and live. They also recommended an Aurora College campus in Yellowknife, to help stem the tide of young northerners

who go south to technical schools in Alberta and do not come back.

Economic Development

Several presenters provided ideas for how the GNWT could do more to support economic development. Two individuals mentioned the need for a new Economic Development Agreement with Canada so that the NWT does not continue to lose out on federal dollars. Hay River businessman Rocky Simpson spoke about the difficulties businesses have accessing capital, especially working capital, and pointed to the untapped potential of the small business sector in the NWT. As he told us, decisions in the oil and gas industry are made quickly and businesses often lose out on opportunities because they cannot get financing in place fast enough. Mr. Van Der Veen wrote to us about the need for literature on business assistance programs to be more up front about what is expected from businesses and what criteria will be considered in decision-making.

Several presenters cautioned against relying overly on government or non-renewable resource development, and stressed the importance of developing other sectors, as well.

The NWT Tourism Association pointed out that, "Tourism offers Northwest Territories residents the ability to stay and to grow their businesses and careers in their home communities and to maintain a lifestyle on the land." They requested that the GNWT provide more resources for product and infrastructure development and marketing. A specific suggestion for tourism infrastructure from Mayor Clarkson of Inuvik was to complete the Mackenzie Valley highway to Tuktoyaktuk so that tourists could drive a highway loop connecting to the Dempster.

The Territorial Farmers' Association called for a vision for agriculture and an updated economic impact study of the sector. They asked for the vision to address the future and potential for agriculture in all regions of the NWT; current and future land requirements, taking into account activities such as greenhouses and livestock operations that are not necessarily dependent on access to fertile land; economic sustainability and value; and the building of knowledge, skill and resource capacity among producers and potential producers at the community level. As mentioned earlier in this report, the benefits of a stronger agricultural industry could include lower food costs as well as local employment. Ms. Coleman also made us aware of a study that found people in the agricultural and renewable resource harvesting economy spend 95 percent of their income in the community they live beside. As she pointed out, this sector, unlike mining, oil and gas, "isn't here and gone tomorrow, and it doesn't leave the social impacts that those industries are going to leave on our economy and our people."

The association's other specific recommendations to assist the agricultural sector were for government to identify arable land and plan to ensure it is not used for other activities, establish an agricultural land reserve designation, support projects to demonstrate the economic value and commercial viability of agriculture, amend the Motor Vehicles Act to allow farm vehicles to travel on NWT highways without being registered, and develop an appropriate property assessment and taxation treatment for agricultural lands. Along with several individuals from other communities, the association called

for assistance for hunters, trappers, farmers, and the fisheries to offset rising costs, for example, an off-road gas rebate.

Another idea for sustainable development came from Mr. Tyler Katz of Tsiigehtchic, who suggested the GNWT look at taking advantage of the North's intellectual capital and develop a university, which, 20 or 30 years from now, could be producing world-class research and innovations.

Some presenters suggested we could do more to take advantage of opportunities in manufacturing. As an example, Mr. Rocky Simpson pointed to the shortage of oilfield trailers in Alberta and British Columbia, which could be manufactured in the NWT and exported to fill this gap.

Most of what we heard about non-renewable resource development centred around concerns that the GNWT is not doing enough to prepare for social and environmental impacts. As Chief Nitsiza said in Whati, "(translation) every time you resolve the job problem, social problems arise at the same time." Chief Deneron had similar comments in Trout Lake. The Native Women's Association told us the government is putting too much emphasis on industry and not enough on social issues. In the words of Alternatives North, "There needs to be planning for and investment in health and social services, infrastructure and programs so that all northerners, including the poorest and least powerful in the smallest communities, can cope with the change that is coming."

Lack of information and discussion was a common concern. Fort Simpson resident Mr. Wes Hardisty suggested the GNWT should undertake a baseline study of youth. Alternatives North asked for a realistic and critical assessment of the state of people for the upcoming pipeline project. The Native Women's Association pointed to the lack of resources even to get together and talk about the impacts. As Mayor Peter Clarkson said, the "GNWT needs to stay engaged to ensure the Mackenzie gas project happens in a socially and environmentally responsible way."

Elder John Louison of Fort Good Hope spoke to us about his negative experiences with Imperial Oil and Norman Wells businesses, who treat trappers the same way as large resource companies. He talked about the need for industry to develop better working relationships than currently exist with local people. As Fort Good Hope Elder Thomas Manuel said, "When this pipeline comes, all these workers have to work well with our children."

Several presenters in Yellowknife, Whati and Lutselk'e suggested that we have not yet even dealt with the impacts from the diamond mines. Many presenters drew a direct link between the mines and the worsening crack cocaine problem in Yellowknife and other communities. As Mr. Bill Enge pointed out, the federal government has promised \$500 million to deal with the pipeline, but has provided zero dollars for the mines. Ms. Lantz spoke about the impact of the mines on caribou around Lutselk'e.

Some disagreed with the GNWT's emphasis on non-renewable resource development altogether. Pointing to the acceleration of mining and oil and gas development over the last 10 years, and high suicide rates, poverty, scarcity of meaningful work in small communities, loss of culture, language and environment and disruption of

families, Ecology North told us "there is a complete disconnect between economic development...and what northerners need to actually improve their lives." They recommended, instead, a shift to environmentally sustainable community-based development that will strengthen local economies, keep people at home and improve social conditions.

Justice

Several people in the smaller communities we visited were surprised and disappointed to see the amount of money being spent locally on corrections, much of which is used transporting prisoners back and forth to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. As Ms. Frances Wolki commented, "You send them to Yellowknife. What good is that? ... What are they learning? They don't get to build on their self-esteem, self-worth." People in both Whati and Trout Lake asked for more support for local justice committees. Several communities asked for resources for on-the-land programs for people who have committed less serious crimes, especially for youth at risk and young offenders, including funding to build permanent facilities such as cabins. Many people spoke about the need for offenders to reconnect with traditional values, which is not happening in custody. "Not in jail," said Elder Jim Pierrot of Fort Good Hope, "...you'll never make them understand." His comments were echoed by people in Whati, Paulatuk, and Lutselk'e. Others wanted to see people learning skills and working for their communities. Ms. Wolki's suggestions included sending offenders to outpost camps to hunt for elders and other community members, and training them on housing construction and maintenance projects. Ms. Tammy Proctor, a young Fort Good Hope resident, suggested, "These kids that are getting into trouble, breaking into places, instead of putting them to jail and doing nothing, just spending taxpayers' money, put them to work. They want this recreation centre, okay, they build it for free, then that's their community service."

For offenders who do go to YCC, the John Howard Society suggested there should be more education and training programs. As Ms. Bardak pointed out, some repeat offenders spend years in jail; "dead time" that could have been used to teach them skills to make them more employable. She also indicated that as with addictions, there is a need for long-term supports for people released from custody to help them reintegrate into society.

Presenters from Wrigley, Fort Good Hope and Hay River raised concerns about the numbers of RCMP available to deal with resource development issues, especially drugs. One Hay River resident suggested having roadside searches on the highway between the NWT/Alberta border and Enterprise, and putting more dogs capable of detecting drugs in our airports. A Fort Simpson resident also had a concern that the GNWT's renewable resource officers are not able to effectively enforce our laws and stop poaching because they have so many other duties.

The plan for a new NWT law courts building in Yellowknife was a controversial topic. The Canadian Bar Association provided a detailed presentation, making a strong case for the need for the new building. However, the committee also heard from several individuals in smaller communities about their own lack of justice programming and facilities, which they see as a higher priority.

Family Violence And Sexual Assault

As the committee heard from NGOs such as the Hay River Family Support Centre, which provided us with shocking statistics, family violence continues to devastate the Northwest Territories. In the words of the NWT Seniors' Society, "We will have stronger and healthier communities when incidents of abuse, neglect and violations against the family, which of course includes older adults, ceases. Stronger communities will be able to participate in the wage economy and bring more resources to the North. We will see students who can attend schools, women who can become participants in an equal opportunity workforce, and older adults who can support and mentor the family as a healthy unit."

The Status of Women Council recommended to us that adequate resources be provided for transition houses, and to develop safe homes in communities where the need is identified. The council further recommended that transition houses be funded directly by the Department of Health and Social Services, rather than through the health and social services authorities, as there have been some instances of authorities not passing along all of the funds designated by the department for a particular transition house. Further, as both the council and the Hay River Family Support Centre indicated, abused women and children are often moved to transition houses outside of their region, which supports the argument to fund this as a territorial rather than a regional program.

The council also recommended implementation dollars for programs and actions to address family violence, as recommended in the Coalition Action Plan on Family Violence 2003-2008; continuation of public education and training on the new Protection Against Family Violence Act in 2006-2007; and a particular focus on the special needs and barriers of women with disabilities within family violence programs.

The council reminded the committee that the NWT rate of reported sexual assaults is six times the national average, and recommended a major new GNWT initiative, in collaboration with all other stakeholders, to address the high level of sexual assault and sexual abuse in the NWT.

In the words of the council, "How can we expect to truly benefit from economic development when this cycle of violence continues? Until individuals and families can lead non-violent lives, and children can grow up safely, the extra income from increased economic development may only make the problem worse. Preventing and responding to family violence and sexual assault and abuse should be a top priority of the territorial government."

Addictions

The committee heard about and saw the human suffering caused by addictions in every community where these consultations were held. While alcohol continues to destroy individuals and families throughout the NWT, people are also very worried about the increasing availability of crack cocaine and the potential for crystal meth to gain a foothold in NWT communities. People are especially concerned about youth, and many spoke of the need for prevention, including on-the-land programs for youth at risk. In Whati, Elder Louis Wedawin, who told us the only problem for elders is their worry for young people, said, "(translation) We don't want our young people to die

in the street, we want them to die peacefully and respectfully.”

In Fort Good Hope, Ms. Edna Tobac noted the GNWT expects net revenues of approximately \$20 million from liquor sales, and asked why this money is not specifically allocated to addictions. She also suggested requiring a permit to buy large quantities of liquor in order to discourage bootleggers.

Nearly every community we visited requested that people have access to treatment closer to home and family supports, either through a regional treatment centre, on-the-land programs or both. Several individuals and groups, such as the Native Women’s Association, spoke of the need for a holistic approach, including supports for family and follow-up. As Dr. Ross Wheeler said, “We don’t need more money, but we need to spend it differently. There are the people here in town who could do a good outpatient program, but we all work for different authorities and different agencies. ... We have trouble enough dealing with the people in Yellowknife, and it’s virtually impossible to deal with people from the communities because you bring them in for any kind of outpatient thing and there is no place for them to stay, so they go back home...to unstructured aftercare.”

The committee heard directly from many people working in the addictions field who highlighted the importance of aftercare, and told us that the real need is not for new buildings, but for more support resources in the communities in the form of social and youth workers, addictions counsellors, opportunities for meaningful work, capacity building, and “clean and sober housing.” As Mr. Harder said to us, “We need to develop this continuing care model where we move from just putting people through residential treatment and they come out the other end and we expect them to be all put back together and ready to function in the community, when many of those people have chronic living problems, addiction being one of them. ... What’s needed is something beyond that to help them practice the skills that they are learning, to have a safe environment to come back to, to have a peer support system in place, and those kinds of things can be done with very little money put into it.”

The use of Stanton Territorial Hospital for detox was identified as a service that could be carried out at less cost elsewhere. For example, Ms. Hache told us the Centre for Northern Families is already functioning like a detox, because most of their clients have addictions issues. What they need is not a new building, but a boost to their existing resources; for example, funding to hire a nurse. Several organizations expressed frustration that \$600,000 originally slated for detox was withdrawn at the last minute.

Health Services

The committee heard examples of several successful programs, for which people hope funding will continue or even increase. These include: mental health, health promotion, new public health units, healing camps, elders’ day programs, healthy babies, diabetes, healthy food in institutions, and public service announcements. A number of presenters stressed the importance of prevention rather than continuing to treat symptoms, and the link to residential school healing as well as recreation, culture and language programs, especially for youth.

Lack of funding for ambulance services came up in both Hay River and Fort Good Hope. In Fort Good Hope, as in many other NWT communities, there are no ambulance services at all, which means that people must do their best to transport the injured and sick to the health centre on their own. In Hay River, Deputy Mayor McMeekin explained that the Town provides ambulances services with a corps of volunteers to a large area extending well beyond their municipal boundaries. The \$25,000 they receive is not sufficient for the maintenance and fuel, and their vehicles need to be replaced.

We also heard concerns about the lack of needed treatment for children with learning disabilities and behavioural problems. The principal of the school in Whati told us he has had difficulties accessing professional help, such as psychologists, for children who need it. An Inuvik parent described to the committee in detail the battle she had just to get her son’s central auditory processing disorder diagnosed, which eventually required her and her son to spend six months in Calgary, and her ongoing frustration at the unavailability of the treatment he needs, particularly speech therapy. She also spoke about the importance of early diagnosis, and her concern for other children with the same condition, quoting studies that suggest the number could be as high as 20 percent. As she said to the committee, “My son got that because I argued for it and I pushed for it. What happens to the rest of the children who are in the same boat?”

Other specific requests for additional health resources were:

- to expand the long-term care facility in Fort Simpson and build a new facility in the Sahtu region;
- healing centres and/or camps;
- reduction of the amount of co-payment for dental services under the non-insured health benefits program for items such as dentures;
- additional resources for medical escorts and interpreters, especially for unilingual elders; and
- flexibility for Hay River women to give birth in High Level, which is closer than Yellowknife, if the services cannot be provided locally.

The committee also heard concerns about boards and funding arrangements. Ms. Hache expressed frustration with what she referred to as a “shell game” between health and social services authorities and the department in terms of responsibility. This frustration was echoed by Dr. Wheeler, who told us that while the department considers the Salvation Army to be a treatment centre, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority refuses to fund it accordingly. One Fort Simpson presenter suggested getting rid of the boards altogether.

In Inuvik, the committee was told about concerns with the funding to the regional health board, which serves all eight communities in the Beaufort-Delta, as well as continuing to provide some services to the five Sahtu communities. Ms. Arlene Hansen explained that their board serves a large region with a scattered population, and always has a shortfall. Although they have asked the GNWT to examine their books to identify potential savings, this has not happened. A specific concern she raised was the

formula for doctors in smaller centres. Although they are paid the same as Yellowknife doctors, they have less access to specialists, are on call more, and have fewer services such as cell phones and vehicles.

Programs And Initiatives For Specific Groups

In addition to the comments and suggestions made on specific topics such as employment and training and family violence, the committee heard requests for targeted services and initiatives for elders, women, persons with disabilities and newcomers.

The committee heard more help is needed to assist elders with wills and other legal documents and financial planning. Lack of transportation is also an issue in many communities, which contributes to isolation and depression among elders and creates barriers to developing seniors' groups that could help. The NWT Seniors' Society suggested vans that are used for youth and other activities could also be used to help elders get to their appointments and to events in the community. The society also recommended the establishment of a seniors' secretariat to coordinate programs and funding for elders across government.

Both the Status of Women Council and the Native Women's Association identified a need for leadership initiatives for women, including young women, to address barriers, and encourage their participation. Both also recommended sufficient resources to encourage women's participation on boards and committees, which may include compensation for childcare. Another priority of the council is to see the GNWT implementation of gender analysis to review current policies and programs, and incorporate gender analysis as an integral part of the development of all new policies and programs.

The committee heard from groups and individuals speaking on behalf of persons with disabilities in several communities, and a number of specific concerns are included in other sections of this report. Sadly, as Ms. Rita Cazon told us in Fort Simpson, many people with disabilities feel like third-class citizens who are shoved aside. This is a loss to all of us. As Ms. Hewitt said, "A number of people with disabilities have talents, have skills, have knowledge. They want to be contributing members of our society here, and our society would be enriched if they did have the opportunity to contribute." Council representatives did express support for the recently developed disability framework, and their hope that it will be adequately resourced and implemented.

The Status of Women Council also drew our attention to the barriers faced by newcomers to Canada, including access to employment, housing and other services, recognition of credentials, language, racism, and climate and cultural changes. While the federal government has much of the responsibility for this area, as the council acknowledged, there are many GNWT programs and policies that are significant for newcomers. The council recommended a dedicated GNWT position or function for matters related to immigration and newcomers, and a review to determine the ways in which the increasing diversity of the NWT and the arrival of more newcomers will impact on GNWT programs which may lead to new policies and initiatives.

Municipal

The committee heard a great deal about challenges faced by community governments. In small communities, we were told about the difficulties of maintaining even basic services. In Trout Lake, we heard the current funding is not enough for isolated communities as it does not take into account costs such as having to fly in mechanics to repair equipment, and equipment insurance. The water/sewer funding has stayed the same even though the population has grown and the cost of fuel is rising. In Paulatuk, we heard about the challenge of dealing with 10 to 15-foot high snowdrifts in order to be able to keep the community serviceable. Mayor Michaud of Fort Simpson spoke at length about his municipality's struggles with the funding formula as the NWT's only village.

Municipal government representatives in both Fort Simpson and Hay River expressed support for recent funding provided to them to prepare for the pipeline, but also voiced concern that it is not enough. As Deputy Mayor McMeekin of Hay River said, "Unless we get some sort of assistance in the near future, Hay River could be headed from a family orientated community with manageable growth and economic development to a community that could find itself in the exact opposite position." The Town has, therefore, requested funding for a three-year term pipeline coordinator position. Mayor Peter Clarkson of Inuvik suggested municipal governments should get a share of property taxes on facilities just outside of their boundaries to help cover off the additional demand on municipal services and infrastructure arising from those operations.

We heard concern from some community governments about the government's plans for allocating the recently announced Northern Strategy dollars. Mayor Michaud stated that the requirement for the village, the band and the Métis to all work together was creating confusion and delay. Mayor Clarkson asked for a fairer, consistent process for allocating federal funding that does not penalize larger communities. Fort Good Hope band councillor Paul T'Seleie suggested that funding should have been distributed where it was needed most.

A priority for every community was investment in recreation, especially for youth. As Lutselk'e resident Ms. Mary Rose Casaway said, "I strongly believe that if your kids are in a structured recreation program, they stay out of trouble, they stay away from drugs and alcohol." Several people listed the benefits of recreation, including better overall individual and community wellness, less crime among youth especially, and recruitment and retention of staff. Mayor Clarkson suggested funding formulas should require residents of non-tax-based communities to also contribute to their local recreation facilities for fairness to residents of tax-based communities, and also to promote pride of ownership and respect for facilities.

Dust control and lot development were also common municipal priorities.

Infrastructure

For some years, the GNWT's capital budget has been far short of actual needs, and the committee was, therefore, not surprised to hear comments about the poor condition of GNWT buildings in some communities. However, the committee was dismayed to learn that many buildings are

still not accessible for persons with disabilities. As Ms. Cazon told us in Fort Simpson, not one government building there is wheelchair accessible. In Trout Lake, residents expressed concern that the steps to the health centre are dangerous and too steep for the elders.

The committee heard several requests for the GNWT to work more closely with communities on capital projects. New buildings such as schools have a significant impact on communities, and people want to be involved from the design stage to ensure new buildings meet their needs. Even smaller projects have an impact on communities. For example, in Lutselk'e, Ms. Florence Catholique commented that she was surprised to see the local school being painted when she thought there were more important priorities for that building. In Trout Lake, band manager Ms. Ruby Jumbo commented that \$50,000 recently spent on renovating showers at the health centre could have been used to fix the steep steps or rotting logs instead.

Alternatives North also suggested the development of information and communication infrastructure should be more of a priority for government.

General GNWT Practices

A common complaint among communities was that the population estimates the GNWT is currently using are far too low. In Fort Good Hope, we heard the number might be off by over 250 people, nearly 50 percent! This is a serious concern as these numbers are used to distribute funding.

Another concern that was raised more than once was the need for better coordination and communication among GNWT regional staff from different departments. For example, in Trout Lake, we heard sometimes two or three GNWT charters or vehicles come into the community in a single day.

A further suggestion made by Chief Dennis Deneron and other Trout Lake residents was that the GNWT could save money by hiring local people to do work instead of paying for charters and accommodation to bring staff in from Fort Simpson. Chief Deneron pointed to several projects around the community, including the hall where we were meeting, as proof of the skills available locally.

Other comments we heard were:

- Especially for core services, the GNWT should exercise caution with public private partnerships, due to lack of hard evidence they will save taxpayers money and the risk of compromising quality and accessibility. (Alternatives North)
- The GNWT should fund multi-year projects in a way that allows the local delivery agency to carry them out in a way that makes economic sense; for example, by borrowing funds to fast-track projects and reduce administration and mobilization/demobilization costs. (Mr. Jack Rowe, Hay River)
- The GNWT should support community businesses by using hotels and buying food locally. (Mr. Mike Canadian, Wrigley)

Revenue Raising Ideas

The committee is aware that the requests heard in our pre-budget consultations collectively represent a significant increase in spending, which we cannot afford within our current resources. Some people, such as Ms. Lorraine Menicoche-Moses in Fort Simpson, did think we should be able to raise more revenue from resource development. One group, Alternatives North, came forward with several specific ideas that could be implemented even in advance of devolution. In their words, "Northerners, to put it bluntly, are giving our resources away to corporations, many of which earn more profit in a year than the entire budget of our government. This we do against the backdrop of ever worsening social problems and statistical evidence that places us at the top for negative social indicators."

For the longer term, Alternatives North recommended the establishment of a heritage fund to mitigate the boom and bust cycle, help with the transition to renewable energy sources, and stabilize public revenues and spending. They also argued current royalty regimes are too low, and recommended the GNWT be prepared to raise royalties once it gains control of them.

Their shorter-term suggestions, all of which have precedents in other jurisdictions, are:

- government equity in resource development operations such as mines;
- high profit surtaxes;
- hydrocarbon production taxes;
- capital investment taxes, similar to those in most other Canadian jurisdictions;
- appropriate property tax mill rates for resource development; and
- fee-for-service regimes for programs undertaken for the benefit of or as a result of a specific industry-driven need.

Conclusion

In concluding our report, we would like to pass on some words of encouragement we heard from presenters.

As Mr. Alphonse Nitsiza of Whati said, "We cannot look at the negative all the time. There's a lot of achievements... There's a lot of good people who work so hard and are not being recognized."

His comment was echoed by Ms. Lydia Bardak, who said, "We're only 42,000 people. This is manageable, this is doable. ... And while some of the people come with multiple and complex issues, there's a lot of people who are fine, they're healthy, they're well. ... We can do this."

Recommendation

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends the government provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

Appendix 1

Accountability and Oversight committee pre-budget consultations, list of presenters:

Thursday, August 25, 2005

Yellowknife:

- Floyd Roland, Minister of Finance
- Alvin Armstrong, Jim Wylie, Terry Villeneuve and Barb Hood, NWT Seniors' Society
- Bill Enge, North Slave Metis Alliance
- Steve Meister, Lana Roeland and Marino Casebeer, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

Friday, August 26, 2005

Yellowknife:

- Cate Sills, Lisa Campbell and Helen Balanoff, NWT Literacy Council
- Ben McDonald and Suzette Montreuil, Alternatives North
- Bob Bromley and Doug Ritchie, Ecology North
- Byrne Richards, Lydia Bardak, Dave Harder and Dr. Ross Wheeler, Addictions/Housing Issues
- Cecily Hewitt, NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities
- Arlene Hache, Centre for Northern Families
- Robin Witherspoon, David Grindley, Danette Jaeb and Linda Unger, Northwest Territories Tourism
- Paul Smith, Canadian Bar Association - NWT Branch
- Lyda Fuller, YWCA of Yellowknife
- Steve Peterson, Federation of Labour
- Lena Pederson and Audrey Zoe, Native Women's Association
- Lydia Bardak, John Howard Society

Monday, August 29, 2005

Inuvik:

- Sharon Spinks, Resident
- Gerri Sharpe-Staples, Resident
- Suzanne Robinson, Inuvik Literacy Committee/NWT Literacy Council
- Peter Clarkson, Mayor
- Arlene Hansen, Resident
- Alana Mero, Family Counselling Services
- Sharon Katz, Tsiigehtchic Resident
- Karen English, Tsiigehtchic Resident
- Ty Katz, Tsiigehtchic Resident

Fort Simpson:

- Ray Michaud, Mayor
- Rita Cazon, Council for the Disabled, Deh Cho Region
- Lorraine Moses, Friendship Centre
- Wes Hardisty, Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance
- Bernice Swanson, Resident
- David Moses, Chief, Pehdezeh Ki
- Mike Canadian, Economic Development Officer, Wrigley
- Walter Blondin, Local Businessman

Tuesday, August 30, 2005

Paulatuk:

- Ray Ruben, Mayor
- Albert Ruben, Councillor
- Debbie Gordon-Ruben, Councillor
- Millie Thrasher, Resident
- Mary Ruben, Resident
- Tom Caines, Senior Administrative Officer
- Francis Wolki, Resident
- Andy Thrasher, Resident
- Marlene Wolki, Resident
- Phoebe Ruben, Income Support Worker

Trout Lake:

- Dennis Deneron, Chief, Sambaa K'e Dene Band
- Joe Punch, Elder, Former Chief
- Victor Jumbo, Band Councillor
- Dolphus Jumbo, Band Councillor
- Ruby Jumbo, Band Manager
- Norman Jumbo, Community Support Worker
- Edward Jumbo, Elder/Former Chief
- Maggie Jumbo, Resident

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

Fort Good Hope:

- Arthur Tobac, Yamoga Lands Corporation/Resident
- Fred Rabesca, Senior Administrative Officer
- Addy Tobac, Resident
- Jonas Kakfwi, Elder
- Paul Tseleie, Band Councillor
- Junior McNeely, Resident
- Edwin Erutse, Sahtu Secretariat
- Alfred Masuzumi, President, Elder's Council
- Robert Kelly, A/Sub-Chief, Councillor
- John Louison, Elder
- Rosie Grandjambe, Elder
- Thomas Manuel Sr., Elder
- Harold Cook, Councillor
- Tammy Proctor, Resident
- Jim Pierrot, Elder
- Edna Tobac, Resident
- Kenny Shae, Resident

Lutselk'e:

- Pierre Marlowe, Elder
- Florence Catholique, Resident
- Angie Lantz, Chair, District Education Authority
- JP Rabesca, Elder
- Albert Boucher, A/Chief
- James Marlowe, Resident
- Chris Clark, Program Manager, Childcare Centre
- George Marlowe, Elder
- Susan Catling, A/Band Manager
- Bernadette Lockhart, Business Person/Band Councillor
- Mary Rose Casaway, Resident
- Arthur Rabesca, Resident

Thursday, September 1, 2005

Hay River:

- Hayden Schofield and Bernie Black, Hay River Ministerial Association
- Rocky Simpson, Local Businessman
- Crystal Ball and Annette Rideout, Family Support Centre
- Dean McMeekin, Deputy Mayor
- Frederick Beaulieu, Métis Local, Secretary Treasurer
- Lillian Crook, Council for Persons with Disabilities
- Kevin Wallington, Community Youth Centre
- Anne Peters, Resident
- Alan Browning, Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre
- Ken Latour, Literacy Coordinator/Small Business Operator
- Evelyln Coleman, Territorial Farmers Association
- Alvin Armstrong, Hay River Seniors' Society

Friday, September 2, 2005

Whati:

- Charlie James Nitsiza, Chief
- Louis Wedawin, Elder
- Jimmy Rabesca, Elder
- Alex Nitsiza, Elder
- Mary-Ann Jeremick'ca, Resident
- Bill Hurley, School Principal
- Alphonse Nitsiza, Housing Coordinator, Tlicho Government
- Peter Beaverho, Elder
- Donna Moore, Economic Development Officer, Tlicho Government
- Freddy Simpson, Resident

Appendix 2

Accountability and Oversight Committee pre-budget consultations, written submissions:

- Barbara Beck, Yellowknife
- Jan Van Der Veen, Fort Simpson
- Jack Rowe, Hay River
- Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories
- Alternatives North
- Territorial Farmers' Association
- Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Motion To Receive Committee Report 3-15(4) And Move Into Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Committee Report 3-15(4) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 3-15(4) will be moved into Committee of the Whole. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 3-15(4) moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Committee Report 3-15(4) will be moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Members. The Chair will call a short break. Members will resume at the sound of the bell.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I'll call the House back to order. Orders of the day, item 12, reports of committee on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 28-15(4): Public Accounts, Northwest Territories 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the follow document entitled Public Accounts, Northwest Territories 2004-2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Tabled Document 29-15(4): Business Development Fund 2004-2005 Annual Report And Recipients Report

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several documents today that I'd like to table. First, I'd like to table the document entitled Business Development Fund 2004-2005 Annual Report and Recipients Report.

Tabled Document 30-15(4): Business Credit Corporation 2005 Annual Report

I'd also like to table the Business Credit Corporation 2005 Annual Report.

Tabled Document 31-15(4): NWT Legal Services Board 2004-2005 Annual Report

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to table the document entitled NWT Legal Services Board 2004-2005 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Tabled Document 32-15(4): Package Of Letters In Support Of Locked Out Ferry Workers

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the 200 letters that I received in support of helping get a resolution to the dispute of the striking Nahendeh riding.

Tabled Document 33-15(4): Equal Pay Commissioner Annual Report , 2004-2005

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 13, tabling of documents. Members, pursuant to section 40.23(2) of the Public Service Act, I wish to table the annual report of the Equal Pay Commissioner for the Northwest Territories for the period of July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005. Again, I draw your attention to Ms. Nitya Iyer in the gallery. Thanks for staying to watch the proceedings today and for your report.

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act; Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act; and, Committee Report 3-15(4), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on Pre-Budget Consultations, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have a number of items Mr. Speaker has just recited that are on our agenda. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Committee Report 3-15(4).

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We will proceed with considering the committee report, and each Member will have an opportunity to speak for at least 10 minutes under general comments about the report, and if you wish to speak again, we may come back to you. General comments, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are going to be spending a lot of time over the next few weeks and months looking at the text of this report. It is a good read. It is something that I commend to everybody to have a look at it. I think that the general public, non-government agencies, and certainly people who work in government at the territorial, federal and community level will find this a refreshing document because it is cleanly written and well organized. I think our staff -- the clerks, the people who came with us -- have done a great job of assessing what it is that we heard.

The full document here is about 37 pages long. Again, I would recommend people have a look at it, maybe not all in one sitting, but once they sit down and start going through it they will find that it is a good document. I found it so, Madam Chair, because it is very current, it is really candid, it incorporates many of the statements and quotes that committees heard in their travels around the communities and here in Yellowknife.

It attributes those comments, Madam Chair, so I think the people who participated will find that we certainly are paying attention to them. Their voices are not lost; they are not stripped of their identity; they are not anonymous; and so I think that the public and the organizations who came out to hear us will find that is going to be an easy document for them to take some ownership in because we have tried to reflect that.

Madam Chair, one of the expectations that I had in lobbying for this process to happen is that when we got out listening to what people had to say, there would be some common threads. There would be some things that were consistently stated across the board, whether the communities were north or south or bigger or smaller, and in this area, Madam Chair, I was not disappointed.

The committee report details right up front -- I think it was stated by our AOC chair, Mr. Menicoche -- that three areas did come through as ones that had universal concerns. They are housing, addiction, and the cost of living. No surprise here, Madam Chair.

Again what really makes this document so useful and so relevant is that it is current. The information was gathered at the community level and in an area, in an environment of trust and openness that we just don't get here in the Legislative Assembly. When we have our public hearings in our very well appointed surroundings here -- there is a difference when we go into the communities.

Madam Chair, I am just going to talk for a little bit more about the aspect of housing. I want to refer back to this report and pull out a couple of things that were brought to committee's attention and that are reflected in the report.

In the area of adequate and affordable housing, Madam Chair, the report says the affordability of private rental housing was discussed in both Yellowknife and Inuvik. Mrs. Barbara Beck, a constituent of Great Slave, in a written response to the call for input, said, "The average single parent or single person, store clerk or waitress cannot rent an apartment due to extremely high rental rates. People do want to work but cannot afford an apartment on their minimum wage job. If you do not have a place to live, how can you work?"

Madam Chair, other aspects of housing that were brought to our attention very vividly included some commentary here that the age and the poor condition of the public housing units that we do have was a serious concern in several communities. As one Inuvik resident pointed out, "Much of our housing stock is over 50 years old and probably not up to standard." Probably, Madam Chair. Local housing authorities find themselves in an impossible situation when the small amount of modernization and improvements funding available is not enough to cover even the most necessary repairs. Mayor Peter Clarkson of Inuvik is also quoted. The committee report states, Madam Chair, "We are not surprised that some people like Mayor Clarkson of Inuvik have come to the conclusion that what we have got in the public housing system is not sustainable." These are irrefutable positions and opinions. They come from people on the front lines, in the communities. We are obliged or compelled to listen to them, Madam Chair.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with a lot of people from other countries in the world, Madam Chair; small countries, small jurisdictions, that are not unlike the

Northwest Territories. That is a predictable reaction from across the hall there, Madam Chair. Small countries that, like us, are isolated and have extremes of climate. Some of them might not be cold; some may be very wet or very dry. They have populations that, like ours, have shortcomings in literacy and other aspects. In talking with them, I was starting to appreciate what they also go through and the lack of resources that they have from their own national or regional approaches. They are countries that are much, much poorer than Canada is or the Northwest Territories. They are countries that have not nearly the degree of modern, safe, reliable infrastructure that we have. We have clean water here; we have airports that stay open even in some of the roughest weather; we have roads that we can just about count on all the time. We can count on them, Mr. McLeod. Many, many countries don't have that.

When I look at the amount of money that we have in the Northwest Territories as our whole annual budget -- over \$1 billion per year, Madam Chair -- and then I look at statements such as the age and poor condition of public housing units...As one Inuvik resident pointed out, our public housing stock is over 50 years old and probably not up to standard. We would be the envy of many, many other much smaller and poorer countries if they had the amount of money that we do to put into our basic public infrastructure. I think we have, as a government, a lot of thinking and looking to do at what our priorities are and how we deliver it.

That is what this report is going to help me do. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. General comments on the report on pre-budget consultations. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to this report, pre-budget consultation, we've heard on various occasions from community members what they expect the government to do. There is a high expectation there in all communities, whether it be high fuel costs that have been an ongoing issue. We've heard it this week and last week. Cost of living was a huge one on the radar screen. In each community that we've gone to, that was a big issue. The public is asking what the GNWT's role and responsibility is in that area.

Another issue was housing. As we've heard in Fort Good Hope from Granny Grandjambe, there was an issue there that we were faced with. I guess it was dealt with in the committee meetings. Those kinds of issues are arising. In my region as well as other regions policing was a big issue, as well.

Overall, I see this as a working document. We'll be reflecting back on it every now and then, meeting on it with the committees, meeting here in the chamber, highlighting the key points. What's important to the North? What's important in those communities without roads? All those issues are addressed in this report. From the communities' perspective, there's room for improvement, and during the implementation stages they're expecting government to take this into consideration. We can't satisfy everything that's in the report, but as long as we make progress on the high fuel costs, that has an impact on all the communities and the cost of living, also.

I'm really happy to see a report come in front of us. This will certainly be addressed in the committees, as well. Each of us has our own riding, and we'll be reporting back on what the government is planning to do with this report. There are expectations from our constituencies for us to go back to the regions and say this is what we're doing. These were issues that were addressed, and these are still ongoing issues that were addressed.

I would be very satisfied that Cabinet take this into consideration seriously, because there are a lot of issues in here that pertain to what we've questioned this week and last week. There will be more down the road pertaining mostly to this report. So I look forward to meeting most of the obligations that are put forward in front of us and working with colleagues. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Any further general comments on the committee report? Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. When we first decided to go on this pre-budget consultation tour, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I figured we'd get into the communities, and people there would be just going on and on and complaining about everything under the sun. But we got there and I was quite surprised that they brought their issues to us. Each of them that came before us had specific issues that they wanted dealt with. It wasn't just one big complaint session. We appreciated that. They realized that we were just -- I keep saying "just" -- Regular MLAs and not there to promise them something that we weren't going to deliver, as we heard in a couple of cases about Ministers coming in and promising they were going to do something and then never seeing them again. That was a comment we heard, I believe it was up in Paulatuk. I found this tour very informative because a lot of times I concentrated on the issues that deal with Inuvik and had tunnel vision, that was about as far as I could see. Now if somebody in Paulatuk talks about, or if my colleague from Nunakput talks about an issue in Paulatuk, then I have a pretty good idea what he's talking about. The same as Mr. Lafferty bringing up something from Whati. We all had a chance to see some of the issues in the other ridings, which I found very informative. As I said before in my Member's statement, a lot of these issues throughout the Northwest Territories are pretty well the same in each community, and the one that really bothered us more than anything else was Rosie from Fort Good Hope and the state of her house, her elder's unit.

I found this a very informative tour and this is something that I look forward to doing every year. We have a lot of stuff that we have in the report. I'm sure Members on this side of the House will be relating back to this report and bringing them up steadily. With that, I just wanted to say that I found the tour, especially for myself as a newer Member, very informative and the chance to go out there and meet a lot of people. They appreciated having us there, they really did, and they said so, and they'd asked us to stay a little longer the next time.

With that, I just wanted to make a few comments on how I found the tour that was very informative and I think it will help all of us, especially myself, do my duty on this side of the House. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. General comments. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have a couple of quick comments. I'm glad that AOC went out and visited the people in the Territories. As Mr. McLeod said, it was a good eye opener for a lot of us and we didn't know what to expect, but we listened to the people. It's written down in the report now. The question was to ask the media question: Was the money well spent? I think, from my point anyway, in going out to the communities, the money that we spent to go visit the people was well spent to hear what they have to say.

Madam Chair, the only thing I'd like to finish off with is that it is our responsibility now to take this document and work with government across the floor to implement some of the recommendations, and I'm looking forward to the end of the session, when we can implement some of these recommendations to government. I'm going to support whatever is written in the report. As I say, Madam Chair, it was a good eye opener. It was nice meeting the people from the different communities and that's all, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. General comments on the committee report. I believe that every one of the Regular Members has made general comments on the pre-budget consultations, unless some of the Cabinet Ministers would like to offer their accolades on this piece of work that was done by the Regular Members. Does the committee agree, then, that that concludes the consideration of the committee report on pre-budget consultations?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed? Then that concludes the general comments and the consideration of this. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: I move we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order; it's not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 3-15(4) and would like to report that Committee Report 3-15(4) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 8: An Act To Amend The Revolving Funds Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving funds Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 8 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Board of Management in Committee Room A upon adjournment of the House today.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 18, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.:

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
17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement
- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
- Bill 7, Personal Directives Act
- Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 18, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:13.

