



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

4th Session

Day 16

15th Assembly

HANSARD

Monday, October 24, 2005

Pages 471 - 506

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Paul Delorey
(Hay River North)

Hon. Brendan Bell
(Yellowknife South)
Minister of Justice
Minister of Industry, Tourism
and Investment

Mr. Bill Braden
(Great Slave)

Hon. Charles Dent
(Frame Lake)
Government House Leader
Minister of Education, Culture and
Employment
Minister responsible for the
Status of Women
Minister responsible for the
Workers' Compensation Board

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
(Hay River South)

Hon. Joe Handley
(Weledeh)
Premier
Minister of the Executive
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Minister responsible for
Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister responsible for the
Intergovernmental Forum

Mr. Robert Hawkins
(Yellowknife Centre)

Hon. David Krutko
(Mackenzie-Delta)
Minister responsible for the
NWT Housing Corporation
Minister responsible for the
NWT Power Corporation

Mr. Jackson Lafferty
(Monfwi)

Ms. Sandy Lee
(Range Lake)

Hon. Michael McLeod
(Deh Cho)
Minister of Transportation
Minister of Municipal and Community
Affairs
Minister responsible for the
Public Utilities Board
Minister responsible for Youth

Mr. Robert McLeod
(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Mr. Kevin Menicoche
(Nahendeh)

Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger
(Thebacha)
Minister of Health and Social Services
Minister of Environment and
Natural Resources
Minister responsible for Persons
with Disabilities
Minister responsible for Seniors

Mr. Calvin Pokiak
(Nunakput)

Mr. David Ramsay
(Kam Lake)

Hon. Floyd Roland
(Inuvik Boot Lake)
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance
Minister responsible for the Financial
Management Board Secretariat
Minister of Public Works and Services

Mr. Robert Villeneuve
(Tu Nedhe)

Mr. Norman Yakeleya
(Sahtu)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Mr. Tim Mercer

Deputy Clerk
Mr. Doug Schauerte

Clerk of Committees
Mr. Dave Inch

Assistant Clerk
Mr. Darrin Ouellette

Law Clerks
Mr. Glen Boyd
Ms. Kelly Payne

Box 1320
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784
<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	471
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	471
52-15(4) - CONSTRUCTION TRADES ACCESS PROGRAM	471
53-15(4) - FOREST INDUSTRY WORKSHOP	472
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	472
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON HAY RIVER DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY.....	472
MR. ROBERT MCLEOD ON SNOWMOBILE THEFT	473
MR. RAMSAY ON PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE SPACE	473
MR. POKIAK ON KIVALLIK SENIORS HOME IN TUKTOYAKTUK	473
MR. YAKELEYA ON DAY CARE SERVICES	474
MR. VILLENEUVE ON AKAITCHO NEGOTIATION UPDATE	474
MR. MENICOCHÉ ON DISCONTINUATION OF LIARD RIVER FERRY SERVICES	475
MR. BRADEN ON MACKENZIE GAS PROJECT	475
MS. LEE ON DAY CARE SERVICES.....	476
MR. HAWKINS ON WCB OFFICE COMPLEX LOCATION	476
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	477
ORAL QUESTIONS	477, 489
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	500
NOTICES OF MOTION.....	501
8-15(4) - ENERGY COSTS AND OVERALL COST OF LIVING	501
MOTIONS.....	501
7-15(4) - APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER	501
6-15(4) - ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION	503
FIRST READING OF BILLS.....	504
BILL 16 - TOBACCO CONTROL ACT.....	504
BILL 13 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT.....	504
BILL 12 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERRITORIAL COURT ACT	504
BILL 14 - PUBLIC AIRPORTS ACT	504
BILL 15 - COURT SECURITY ACT	505
BILL 17 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC COLLEGES ACT	505
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	505
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.....	505

THIRD READING OF BILLS	505
BILL 4 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT	505
ORDERS OF THE DAY	505

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, October 24, 2005****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, 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, Members. Welcome back to the House. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Point Of Privilege

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I notified your office earlier, in accordance with Rule 20, I rise today on a point of privilege, to clarify an impression that might have been created from listening to or reading reports in the media, that I am somehow opposing the government initiative on Novel housing because they are trailers.

Mr. Speaker, that could not be further from the truth. The latest report is in today's News/North on page A21, in which I am quoted as saying, "She said many residents do not want to live in trailers." Last week, on CBC North, I was quoted as saying, "My nightmare is that when they come and go, we are going to have 1,400 trailers scattered all over the territory that nobody wants."

Mr. Speaker, if read in the context of all the statements and questions I raised in this House, I believe it's quite clear that my objections are not because these are trailers, but because of the fact the government is proposing to spend \$200 million plus in public housing for 1,400 trailer units without asking if anybody wants to live in them or knowing if anybody wants to live in them.

I can tell you that more than Range Lake constituents live in trailers, better known as mobile homes. They are beautiful and they are expensive to buy. The big difference is they have bought them, and rent them, with their own money, because they want them of their own choosing, not because the government made them do it without asking them first.

Mr. Speaker, I hope with this statement I can clarify the misinformation and misinterpretation that might be going on out there, and I wish to advise this House that I intend to release a press statement to further clarify my position on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 52-15(4): Construction Trades Access Program**

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an exciting initiative in place at the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. This initiative is designed to address the shortage of skilled tradespeople working in house construction, and to provide much-needed housing to individuals in need.

Mr. Speaker, Housing Corporation officials devised a pilot project in 2001 to construct modest housing units through a community partnership approach. The Construction Trades Access Program is designed to introduce high school students to construction trades, to provide a structured work experience, and to encourage students to consider trades as a career. The program also involves college students and provides an outlet to apply classroom instruction to fieldwork.

The pilot projects for this program are being offered at high schools in Hay River and Fort Providence, and at Aurora College in Fort Smith. Students in the Construction Trades Access Program build one-bedroom self-contained homes designed for a couple or a single person. The homes are permanent, and are built to maximize energy efficiency.

Students have the opportunity to develop the skills to build homes and to learn about apprenticeship opportunities. The program exposes students to various trades, including carpentry, plumbing, heating and electrical. In addition, students learn to read blueprints, do layout work, and calculate material quantities.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative has proven to be an overwhelming success on many fronts. A total of four houses have been completed under this initiative, and two more are being constructed, as we speak. Although the concept is still referred to as a pilot project, it provides the optimum opportunity for learning and an affordable attractive home for clients. Homes have been located for clients in Fort Providence, Fort Resolution and on the Hay River Reserve.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it provides an incentive for students to stay in school, and has even allowed students to find employment in skilled trades upon graduation. The corporation has recently committed to offering this program in the community of Fort Simpson, and, given the program's success, the corporation hopes to expand this program to other schools in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement 53-15(4): Forest Industry Workshop

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report on the recent forest industry workshop held in Fort Providence earlier this month. The workshop on community-based forest industry development in the Northwest Territories was hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Experts on small-scale forest industry met with community leaders, forest industry entrepreneurs and GNWT staff. Participants learned there are many small-scale opportunities that can work well within community development needs and can be sound economic initiatives.

The workshop focussed on community-based forest development and covered activities from planning and harvesting, to processing and product marketing.

The workshop was led by Environment and Natural Resources, and involved the participation of Industry, Tourism and Investment; the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada; Forintek Canada; and the First Nations Forestry Program. Mr. Speaker, more than 40 participants from 12 communities attended the workshop, one of the largest gatherings since the mid '90s, to discuss forest industry development in the Northwest Territories.

Response from workshop participants was positive and supportive of the approach being taken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Participation in discussions and working groups was enthusiastic, and there was definite interest in future workshops.

Topics of interest include both the details of long-term business plans and the broadening of the area to include gathering and marketing aspects of non-timber forest products such as birch bark and sap, country foods and florals. The department will work to develop a better understanding of the role of cottage industries for local use. We will continue to work with communities to develop sustainable local economies based on marketable forest use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Hay River District Education Authority

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today a delegation consisting of all the sitting members of the Hay River District Education Authority, their executive director, and two consultants that have been engaged to work with them, met with Minister Dent and his deputy minister.

By way of a little background, Hay River is currently a part of the South Slave Divisional Education Council. This council encompasses the communities of Fort Smith, Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution, Hay River Reserve and Hay River. The South Slave region is a bit of an anomaly, in terms of regional organization, as there are two communities of significant and similar size, Hay River and Fort Smith, and three much smaller in culturally diverse communities.

The purpose of the meeting today was to petition the Minister to again consider an alternative governance and administrative model for education in Hay River. The proposed model would see the Hay River DEA have an expanded role in addressing the education, goals, objectives and delivery on behalf of Hay River students.

There are many challenges for Hay River associated with the current system, which I won't go into a great deal of detail on, Mr. Speaker, but, just briefly, I will provide a couple of examples.

Recently, the South Slave DEC developed a literacy initiative with a price tag of over \$500,000. This money would fund a campaign and purchase promotional items like backpacks and fridge magnets. The Hay River DEA representative would much rather see those kinds of dollars spent to bring front line help into the classroom. That amount of money would pay for a full-time assistant in all five communities. But with only one vote on the council of five, Hay River's priorities were not reflected in the decision.

Another issue, Mr. Speaker, is the amount of time the school principals and teachers are required to be away from their primary responsibilities to participate in meetings and committees, which often result in little, if any, direct benefit to their students. The time away, the cost of backfilling the responsibility for their duties while they are gone, adds up to the expenditure of a lot of time and energy. Suffice it to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have a very dedicated and capable group of locally elected DEA members who have put careful consideration into a governance and administration model which they feel would enhance the education of Hay River students. This is in accordance with their mandate and what they are elected to oversee. They have sought and received local support. Now it will be up to the Minister, and his department, to determine if the proposal is something he can politically, and legislatively, support. The proposal is comprehensive and reasonable. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to provide a very short conclusion to my statement. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Hay River DEA on their dedication to the delivery of the best possible education opportunities for Hay River students, and I look forward to a very timely response from the Minister on their petition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Snowmobile Theft

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the onset of winter, I rise today to speak on the favourite winter activity of many young people in the NWT. That activity, Mr. Speaker, is stealing snowmobiles.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. MCLEOD: Many residents who work, trying to earn an honest living, continue to have their snowmobiles stolen from outside their residence, where they probably pay mortgages and taxes. There seems to be absolutely no consequence for anyone who steals snow machines, or anything else, for that matter.

Residents from across the NWT are getting frustrated and angry with the lack of punishment for the offenders. Many residents feel that they should dish out some frontier justice to prevent this from happening again. This is not the way we are told things should be handled, but it speaks to the fact that the system is not working. Too many young people today have absolutely no respect for the law and people's possessions.

Mr. Speaker, many calls made to the local RCMP are forwarded to Yellowknife, and, sometimes, are not answered. Many of my colleagues have spoken to this issue before. All calls should be answered locally and acted on right away.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

This, along with regular patrols around communities, would serve as a deterrent to potential crimes. The police have to be proactive instead of reacting to the crime, then having to do an investigation. We do not appreciate being interrogated while reporting a crime, and having the offenders long gone by the time the police arrive. The police do have a difficult job, but calls have to be taken in the community and responded to quickly. This has been a concern of Regular Members for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this government, and the Department of Justice, to come down hard on offenders, and let there be consequence for committing crimes like this. Until we quit slapping them on the wrist, they will continue to commit all these crimes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Procurement Of Government Office Space

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today about government procurement, and how it relates specifically to office space. With 4,400 employees, the GNWT is the largest customer for office space in the Territories.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to paint a picture. The total of all purchased goods and services by the Government of the Northwest Territories is in the neighbourhood of \$200 million per year. Of this, Mr. Speaker, 40 percent, or about \$75 million, is spent in what I would deem to be a non-competitive nature.

How could this be allowed to happen, when the Government of the Northwest Territories says that it is an open, honest and accountable government? Sole source contracts, negotiated contracts, and standing offer agreements continue to make up far too much of our spending as a government. When it comes to office space, the government's use of anti-competitive secret procurement practices discourages private investment in our communities, as well as reducing the confidence the business community has in open, transparent and honest government, at the regional and territorial levels, Mr. Speaker.

Secret procurement and deals done without a competitive process are usually the worst kind and often the most expensive, and, ultimately, lead to fewer funds being available for other needed services provided by government. The government has been vocal about rising energy costs and supporting the environment, but how are they putting this into action when it comes to procuring office space?

When an RFP is issued on an older, less energy-efficient building, as compared to a newer, energy-efficient building, it is like comparing apples to oranges. In looking at a recent RFP from Public Works and Services, the evaluation criteria consisted of cost, management, facility requirements and northern preference. There is no evaluation of how green or energy-efficient a building is.

In light of the current times, and increases to fuel and rising energy costs, it is time that the Government of the Northwest Territories starts to practice what it preaches in terms of evaluating office space with energy efficiency in mind, and to go to an open and competitive process whenever possible. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions regarding procurement practices for office space for the Minister of Public Works and Services, at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Kivallik Seniors Home In Tuktoyaktuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, there was much discussion on seniors' homes in the NWT. I would like to speak specifically about Kivallik House in Tuktoyaktuk.

The Kivallik seniors' facility can accommodate 10 seniors, and includes rooms that are suitable for husbands and wives. Presently, there are three seniors living in the facility. A husband and wife team is contracted by the Housing Corporation to provide security and some caregiving. The local housing authority in Tuktoyaktuk assists with the maintenance of the Kivallik House.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleagues, that the units are not running at full capacity. The number of clientele does not cover the operating costs. I know that the LHO is trying to encourage elders to move into this wonderful facility. However, as we know, you can't force an elder to do something that they don't want to do. I applaud these elders for their independence in the keeping of their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, as an example, and elderly person just turned 87 years young last week. She currently lives with one of her sons in the house and is very independent. She traveled to Yellowknife for a conference just last week. These are the types of seniors we are talking about here. Their homes and their independence are very important to them.

I understand that the NWT Housing Corporation is looking at alternatives for the Kivallik House, and I have seen recent ads in the paper for minor renovations. My understanding is that the NWT Housing Corporation plans to restructure the facility, so that five units can be used for low-cost housing.

Mr. Speaker, a senior's home should be used for their quiet time and enjoyment, and not have to worry about other clients disturbing them. I am concerned that there has been no consultation with the seniors or LHOs in Tuktoyaktuk. One very good alternative, Mr. Speaker, would be to upgrade the facility to a level II care home and repatriate the two elders from the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am firm believer in independence. I applaud many of my elders in Tuktoyaktuk, for their independence and desire to stay in their homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Day Care Services

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this month is Halloween month, and my statement maybe should be trick or treat on the day care programs in the Northwest Territories.

AN HON. MEMBER: Scary!

MR. YAKELEYA: I listened with interest, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment spoke about the problems that we are facing in getting Mr. Dryden, the honourable Minister, to recognize that per capita funding does not work in northern communities in the Northwest Territories. I looked into the day care situation in the Northwest Territories and, of course, the Sahtu, and found that the majority of day care spaces are in larger and more urban centres of the Northwest Territories.

In the Sahtu, there are only 59 licensed day care spots, and of those, only 10 are places for infants. Mr. Speaker, how does this government expect anyone to take advantage of the opportunities that are associated with oil and gas exploration, possibly the construction of the Mackenzie gas pipeline, and other resource developments in the North? If they are going to take advantage, they cannot find quality day care for their younger children.

Mr. Speaker, there are no suitable places available for day care programming in smaller communities. That is a fact, Mr. Speaker, and the federal Minister needs to come to terms with this, because our territorial Minister is only carrying the message for him.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that the current day care program is flawed. The realities of life in our communities don't always fit into a cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all, government program. The Minister, and the government, need to recognize this and move on. We need a two-tiered program that recognizes day care operators in smaller communities require financial assistance in acquiring their own facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Akaitcho Negotiation Update

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was recently updated on the Akaitcho territory as to the negotiation process and the meetings that were taking place in Ottawa last week with both federal and territorial governments and also the Akaitcho negotiating team.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform this House that there has actually been some headway made in negotiating teams, in the form of a protocol agreement being agreed and signed by all parties involved. This new development may not seem like much to the average Joe on the street, Mr. Speaker, but, to me, it represents an important step in the Akaitcho process. It is important because, firstly, it means that the ball is still rolling and the negotiation process is actually moving forward and a final agreement may become a reality sooner than what was initially anticipated.

It is important, secondly, because of the exploration and mining activity taking place, as we speak, in the Akaitcho territory. With no resource revenue benefits going directly to the residents of the Akaitcho territory, this agreement assures residents that they will be kept more informed, and consulted, on any new initiatives or developments that occur in the Akaitcho territory, by both the GNWT and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Industry, before any new land use permits and/or water licences are issued, because of the fact that a selection process has now been agreed to for the withdrawal of lands in the Akaitcho territory by the parties that were established and signed this agreement.

This is something that has, in the past, been reviewed by many Akaitcho leaders and residents alike, as a practice that has been often circumvented and/or completely missed on many occasions, and/or applications that are pertaining to the Akaitcho territory land use.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say, good job to the Akaitcho negotiating team. I encourage, and fully support, the direction that they are pursuing. I would also like to encourage this government's negotiating team to be more supportive of the Akaitcho process, and be more in accordance with the aboriginal values, traditions and customs when they are at the negotiating table in the future negotiations. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Before I go on to the next Member, I would like to draw the Members' attention to the fact that the second language in the

House today is Inuvialuktun. Thank you, Members. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Discontinuation Of Liard River Ferry Services

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today, I continue to speak about the closure of the ferry services in Nahendeh. During the weekend, I had the opportunity to hold a community meeting regarding the ferry shutdown in Fort Simpson, with regard to the labour dispute. There was a large turnout for this event. That is a clear indication that the community is very passionate about this issue, Mr. Speaker.

Basic necessities of life, like food, shelter and clothing, are being threatened, Mr. Speaker. The government can no longer ignore this. The ruling that the ferry across the Liard River was not an essential service is a slap in the face to all community members in Fort Simpson, Mr. Speaker.

The highways are considered essential, and the ferries are an extension of the highways, so it is just not logical why anybody, in his right mind, would declare the ferry as non-essential, at this point, especially when we have only one way in and one way out of Fort Simpson, Mr. Speaker. The interruption of the provision of essential goods and services is equally important.

What happened, Mr. Speaker, in this case, is that the ferry shut down and the people are not ready for freeze-up, Mr. Speaker. Hundreds of constituents of Nahendeh have all written letters to me, with regard to their concerns and frustrations with this ferry dispute.

A big frustration lies in the fact that the GNWT knew that the strike was coming for a long time, and, only now, they are doing their extensive review. Why couldn't they have been prepared, Mr. Speaker? Why was there no plan B in place?

AN HON. MEMBER: Why?

MR. MENICOCHÉ: This issue is polarizing, and impacting, the community in many ways, Mr. Speaker. Fort Simpson would like to know what is going to be done, because every day we waste, Mr. Speaker, is a day that the ferry is not operating. Gas, heating fuels, and other necessary living essentials are at dangerously low levels. Also, this dispute has increased the prices of already very high living and food costs in the community. It is the constituents and consumers that bear the brunt of the high costs. On behalf of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, we demand that our needs be met. This ferry must run, because we are not ready for freeze-up. Not enough supplies have crossed.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, even after all of this is resolved, we must continue to discuss with the Premier and this government and determine that the ferry link is an essential service. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement. In our small and remote communities, transportation links, such as the ferry, are essential for supplies and fuel services. We must consider them vital, as the government must consider it vital, too, Mr. Speaker, and act accordingly. We also have to decide, as a government, is this type of contract necessary any more? We have local, trained workers in this field, and we can use them if, and when, our government takes over this service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members, my apologies; I stand corrected. The second language in the House today is Innuinaqtun.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. There are seven trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves in the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Speaker, the object of a very high powered consortium to build a \$7 billion project in the Mackenzie Valley. I know I have seen numbers in the neighbourhood of, potentially, 40 trillion cubic feet more natural gas that could be found.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, the value of that product was said at about 1,150 giga jewels, three times the historic average, even in the last few months, I think, Mr. Speaker. So it is astonishing to hear that Imperial Oil, the main proponent behind this pipeline, says that it is still not an economic deal in the long term. It is astonishing that they have gone, in such a late date, to negotiate, to wrangle what, I have heard it is estimated, some \$2 billion worth of new concessions out of Ottawa through this program.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. BRADEN: Today, these are huge numbers for me to try to comprehend, and try to roll out into the next few decades of the NWT, because that is what this project means to us. Today, there is a report from the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association that says that, over 20 years, if the pipeline is not built, Alberta, especially the industrial sector, stands to lose some \$20 billion in spin-offs and benefits. They say that Ontario, especially the residential sector, stands to lose \$19 billion. Again, these are big numbers and huge time frames.

Well, let's get to something that really is realizable. That is the time frame that is coming up in about three weeks, where Imperial Oil has to signal, or has said it would signal, to the regulatory agencies, whether or not it is going to go.

Mr. Speaker, I am standing here, I think, like a lot of northerners, in frustration and bewilderment. Is this a real project or not? It is so big. It is so critical to our future. Is it too much to ask for some clarity, and some certainty, from the major players here, from industry, from the federal government, and from the regulatory agencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today, in protest against the lack of action, and the priority given, to address the inadequate funding and resources to our day care programs. Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of the fact that Rainbow Childcare Centre in Fort Smith is on the verge of closing this Friday. The sad fact is, Mr. Speaker, that this is only one of many, in recent years, that have shared the same fate. The centre in Inuvik closed not long ago. I know at least three centres closed in Yellowknife recently. Mr. Speaker, I could also tell you that most of the ones that are running in the city are in constant threat from lack of funding and resources. Mr. Speaker, we also saw, first hand, the struggles for resources in Lutselk'e day care centre, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, how long could this go on? It is about time that this government acts on what it says about the importance of children. Mr. Speaker, whenever asked, the Minister is quick to point the finger at the federal government. Already, I know that the Minister is armed with answers as to why we couldn't give \$20,000 bail-out for the day care in Fort Smith, or why he couldn't get money from the federal government. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to buy that anymore. The fact that the Minister couldn't get the funding, or change the funding formula, only speaks to his inaction and incompetence. The children should not be blamed for not getting any funding, Mr. Speaker.

This government always has money to bail out diamond companies, with multi-millions of dollars, in the name of creating jobs and keeping jobs. Well, good on you. I have to tell you that the day care centres in our communities create jobs in every community that are meaningful and relevant to the people who live there. It keeps the people who have jobs, and people that are going to school to keep in school so that they can get better jobs. Mr. Speaker, why is there no help for these centres?

AN HON. MEMBER: Why?

MS. LEE: This government, apparently, gives \$500,000 to someone without requiring any paperwork. Yet they have an army of people requiring mountains and mountains of paperwork on a daily basis for those running day care centres, just to tell them that they actually have to pay money back. Mr. Speaker, there is something really wrong with this picture. It is about time this Minister, the Premier, and the whole Cabinet, understands that children are as important as they say they are, and that they are as important as health care funding, resource revenue sharing and the pipeline. We need a champion for children in day care, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On WCB Office Complex Location

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to speak on the need to keep the Workers' Compensation Board in the central, downtown core of Yellowknife. I believe that if this government allows the Workers' Compensation Board to build outside this core, it will contribute to the continued diminishment of the viability of our downtown. Many downtown businesses have made a significant investment in Yellowknife. What message does this send to them? It appears to be nothing but a slap in the face. But what message does it send to industry? They can only wonder what is happening to our city. Many of these businesses have been part of the growing downtown for a number of years, but this shows no continued support and does not stand by them. Removal of 150 employees does nothing for the restaurants, the coffee shops, the clothing stores, et cetera, downtown, to keep our vibrant downtown hustling and bustling.

Mr. Speaker, these same businesses have made concentrated efforts to revitalize the downtown core. Take, for example, the City of Yellowknife. It has done much to clean up the landscape. The RCMP, in its recent drug bust, is, clearly, a testament to cleaning up the downtown. Where is this government's support?

Mr. Speaker, we only have to look at the effects that moving government offices out of the downtown core contributed to the cities of Edmonton, and even Winnipeg. I know that Edmonton had to really struggle to encourage investment back into their downtown core. Everybody knows that, in the '70s, after 6:00, it was, truly, a virtual ghost town.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, I do not want our capital city to suffer in this way. We have the ability and, indeed, we have the responsibility, as a government, to help the downtown core retain, and regain, its vibrancy as a central role in the life of our community, Mr. Speaker, before we start seeing the problems associated with an inner city.

I am not going to argue whether it makes business sense for the WCB to own and operate its own building. We all know that they presently own their own condo space, but I suspect it would be the same argument as the territorial courthouse. There is probably a business case there somewhere. However, Mr. Speaker, I will argue that the WCB does not need a prestigious address, looking over a lake or any other special area, to serve injured workers and their employers. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that, if the WCB builds any building, it should be a utilitarian office. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I would suggest that, if WCB needs to build a building, it had better be by a utilitarian type of office building, because they are doing nothing for themselves but building a simple monument for their representation and wasting the money paid to them by employers across the NWT. Employers already complain about the cost of premiums. This has only justified why they are so high.

Free parking is the rumour out there for employees, Mr. Speaker. That is all I seem to hear. MLAs don't get free parking, so why should their employees? We need to end those types of rumours.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to reiterate that the WCB, to relocate outside the downtown core, would be establishing a precedent for this government to end their departments and corporations that follow. I would go so far as to call it dangerous, and it must stop now in its tracks. I believe that adequate space exists in government buildings downtown, or other buildings or other lots downtown, that could be utilized immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Could you conclude your statement, Mr. Hawkins?

MR. HAWKINS: Finally, I would expect the Minister responsible for the WCB to show some leadership and commitment to the people of Yellowknife, and provide direction to the WCB to keep their operations in the downtown core. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have the pleasure of recognizing the chair of our district education authority, David MacDonald; the vice-chair, Kandis Jameson; the secretary-treasurer, Cindy Clarke; and DEA board members: Janine Kipling, Ken Latour, Melvin Larocque, and David Sanchez. Also, I want to take this opportunity to recognize my very helpful and competent and capable constituency assistant, Wendy Morgan.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two local businessmen in the audience today: Mr. Darren Guinan and Mr. Gord Humphries. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my formal, very capable, energetic and inspiring assistant. I understand she is sitting there. She is also a very successful businessperson: Vivian Squires. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we have missed anybody in the gallery today, welcome to the gallery. I would especially

like to welcome the contingent from the DEA in Hay River. It is always nice to have people in the gallery, so welcome to the gallery.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 219-15(4): Hay River District Education Authority Petition

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are in follow up to my Member's statement, for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. As I indicated in my Member's statement, this is not the first time that Hay River has attempted to come up with a model for governments, and administration, that more closely suits the needs and addresses the needs of education in Hay River. Today, I know it was only this morning, that Minister Dent had an opportunity to look at the material delivered by our DEA, but I would like to ask the Minister, just on his preliminary review of this material, does he think that this is a viable alternative for Hay River? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 219-15(4): Hay River District Education Authority Petition

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member said, it was just this morning, just before lunch. I had another function that I had to attend at lunch hour, so I didn't really have time to go through the document. I know that the DEA has hired a couple of well-respected consultants to work with them, and to prepare their business plan. That was what I had asked for, was a well-prepared business plan for us to examine to see whether or not this request could make sense. So I am looking forward to looking at it. We will commit to doing that very quickly.

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

Supplementary To Question 219-15(4): Hay River District Education Authority Petition

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be tabling the documents from the DEA. The ongoing issues that have made it difficult for the DEA in Hay River to operate have been in existence for quite some time now, dating back 14 and 15 years. This is something that has been brought to the attention of this Minister, and to previous Ministers. Could the Minister provide me with what would be a reasonable expectation, on our part, in terms of a response? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 219-15(4): Hay River District Education Authority Petition

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would expect that we should be able to have a response within 30 days.

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

Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I spoke about the need to keep the Workers' Compensation Board in the central core to help maintain community focus on our downtown in Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister if there is any contributing factor to the urgency of the Workers' Compensation Board in building their own building outside of the downtown core. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the cost of the land is cheaper than assembling the space downtown.

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

Supplementary To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister speak to the urgency that the Workers' Compensation Board needs to keep the fire on this issue? Is there a reason they need to get out of their existing space today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the Workers' Compensation Board does not have to give up the space they are currently in. The business case is what's driving this. The governance council believes that they can operate more efficiently, at less cost, by owning their own space. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I appreciate the Minister saying they do not have to give up their space, because I don't think they have to leave the downtown core. I do not believe that it's appropriate for a government agency to leave their main offices downtown to move to a suburb or strip mall area. Can the Minister inform this Assembly whether he has the ability to consult with his Nunavut counterpart to direct the Workers'

Compensation Board to stay in the central core of Yellowknife? Does he have the ability, as the Minister, to act as the Minister? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing I should clarify, the Member has said the WCB is a government agency. The Workers' Compensation Board is not a government agency. The government does not contribute operating funds, or capital funds, to the Workers' Compensation Board. They operate entirely by way of contributions from employers. Could I provide that direction to the Workers' Compensation Board? I'm not sure I could provide direction as to where they could build. I believe that the limitation is that, once they have come to Cabinet and asked for approval to build, it is up to them to determine where they would build that building.

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

Supplementary To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister, by saying he's not sure if he has that ability, does have that ability by being head of that corporation. Would the Minister take that point and go forward and ask the Nunavut Minister to work together to ensure that the Workers' Compensation Board stays in its present location, or continues to stay in the downtown of the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 220-15(4): WCB Office Complex Location

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of the role of the Ministers for the Workers' Compensation Board, both in the NWT and Nunavut, is that their role is limited to the appointment, or removal, of directors. We cannot provide direction to the Workers' Compensation Board about where they might operate their programs.

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

Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Public Works and Services, and I get back to my Member's statement from earlier today. I'm wondering how the Government of the Northwest Territories says they support environmentally friendly green buildings, but they don't have any way of evaluating that in the RFP process. I'd like to ask the Minister what his plans are to address this shortcoming in the RFP process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in respect to the building, and buildings, we lease, what we have done is, for buildings that we're involved with for being constructed in the Northwest Territories, is implement the better building practices into the design. A lot of the work would be done up front, and in the review process of the design, and trying to incorporate, at that stage, some more efficient methods of construction. As for seeking office space within the Northwest Territories, again, there is not one criterion that would give points to a potential contractor out there, as to the energy efficiency of his building. At this time, and we'd have to review that to see if we would incorporate that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that the government recently came out strong on the energy issues and conservation efforts, I'm wondering if the Minister can stand up today and give me some guarantee that, in the evaluation process, green buildings or energy-efficient buildings will be compared in the evaluation process and given some weight. Today, they're not, and I'd like some assurance from the Minister that they will be given that process. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's something we can't take into consideration. As we've mentioned here a number of times, the work that's ongoing around the energy initiatives that Cabinet has undertaken, is to look at our practices when it comes to securing office space, or any space, for that matter. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, when an RFP goes out, and there is obviously an older building putting in a submission on the RFP and a brand-new building, an energy-efficient building, does the Minister believe that it's a fair evaluation, when, today, it's like comparing apples and oranges? In my assumption, it isn't a fair process. I'd like to see it changed immediately. If it's not fair today, maybe it can be fair tomorrow. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the evaluation process we use to date, again, is something that we've had in place for some time, in the

initial building of infrastructure in the Northwest Territories as we try to put in our better building practices at the start of a construction project. Of course, that does go back to the sponsoring department, to see if, in fact, they would support the higher cost that's requested up front. As you go to the more energy-efficient facilities, there is going to be a higher cost. I've had a number of meetings now with proponents out there, who have shown their building is, in fact, greener than most, I guess is a term that we would use. We would have to look at that again and the overall initiatives that we are undertaking right now, as a government, around the energy initiatives. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the RFP, there's a section for northern preference. I know there were two RFPs recently awarded that went to companies that own real estate here in Yellowknife, but, certainly, aren't located in the Northwest Territories. Head offices aren't here in the Northwest Territories. I'm wondering if the Minister can explain to me what northern preference might mean in the RFP process, and why local businesspeople, who are building office space here in Yellowknife, are being turned down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 221-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in all of our contracts and practices, we do look at northern businesses as being able to provide a service to us. A number of things that come into the picture, though, is, because you're considered northern does not guarantee that you would get a contract with the government. There are a number of other weightings, as the Member had listed earlier, that also come into consideration. That would be price and availability, as well as we have to look at whether, if someone is offering up a service, it meets the requirements that are being asked by a specific department. So the fact that a company would qualify as northern would give them some points when a criteria is rated, but those points, also, are totalled up. They may receive more points under northern preference or criteria than they would under another proponent, but, ultimately, it's the total points that come into play here, and if they don't score as high, then they don't get the contract. Thank you.

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

Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and they're with regard to lack of funding for day care programs. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, in my statement, this is not new. There have been many, many closings of day care centres in all regions of the Territories, and the common theme coming out of that is lack of funding, and lack of subsidy, and really

unreasonable requirements as they exist under the program right now. The Minister has, so far, refused to take, really, any action on that to improve the program. I'd like to know, from the Minister, what he is planning on doing to help facilities like Fort Smith deal with their financial and resource problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard from many operators of day cares across the North, that they are struggling and would dearly love to see more money, and I know that that's an issue that is on the minds of a lot of people. We have a program in place, right now, and we don't have a big pot of money sitting around available to dip into to add to that. We had counted on the federal government to help us top up the program, and we were hoping to be able to spend some of that money this fall, but we have not been successful. In terms of new initiatives and where we work, we're willing to work with our partners. I work very closely with the Standing Committee on Social Programs, which the Member chairs, and I can note that there haven't been any of the reports that have come from that committee that have made this issue a higher priority than some of the other issues that we are spending money on.

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

Supplementary To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would take that as a very cheap shot, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is in charge of this program. He knows that there is not enough money. The centre in Fort Smith has been struggling, and they have been on the verge of closing ever since they started, in late 2004. They barely survive. I don't think we can excuse the Minister to say that because he's not getting any money from the federal government, that he can't do anything about that. Could the Minister not come up with a better answer for those children who are not going to have any place to go? For example, Mr. Speaker, last week there were promotional items coming out of the department on literacy, or gadgets to put on your car, that I would suggest cost more than \$20,000. That could easily keep the children in this day care, instead of getting a pamphlet in the mailbox about literacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I met with the NWT Literacy Council, and I'll certainly be happy to go back to them and discuss how we're spending our funding in literacy. If they feel that there are areas that we can redirect funding that is now being spent on literacy into childcare, I'd be the first one prepared to do that. Mr. Speaker, I agree that we should get more money into childcare, and I think that what we need to do is make sure that we, in the North,

have the same opportunities that they have in other jurisdictions in Canada right now, where they've already got that money from Minister Dryden and they're already spending it. It should be coming to us so that we can give it to people in the North, as well.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister is demonstrating the extent of his incompetence on his portfolio by not addressing any of the issues that I'm dealing with, and putting an excuse to the federal Minister, Mr. Speaker. I don't think children in our communities care that he didn't win his fight with Minister Dryden. In the meantime, what are the children supposed to do when they have no home to go to?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Thank you for your question. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, we have a business planning process. We have a budgeting process. I would be happy to move forward with a proposal that we add our own money into this program. But I can't do it right now. I don't have a pot of money to stick my hand into and bring it out. All the money we spend has to go through our budget process. I'd be quite happy to look at moving some of money that we proposed new initiatives for this next year into day care funding. But, Mr. Speaker, I can't do that in advance of the budget session.

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

Supplementary To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the Minister ever came to the Social Programs committee asking for more money for day care. The committee fought to keep that money in early childhood programs. The Minister is well aware that he gets \$260 million plus, or \$250 million plus. The department seems to have a lot of money to do a lot of things, and I don't see how he can say that he cannot find \$20,000 until Christmas, so that this centre can keep their doors open until they figure out where the parents are going to send their kids. Have some sympathy, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 222-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we're going to find money for the program, then I want to make sure that it's available equitably across the Northwest Territories. We can't pick and choose which program is better than another. What we have to do is find

ways to support all of our centres through the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today on the day care crisis in the small communities of the Northwest Territories, it seems that some of the programs are not working in the region that I represent. My question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is whether his department is currently or has any plans to examine the merits of the licensed day care programs and the appropriate level of funding to these community-licensed day care programs. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we had planned on taking a look at that. Last year, when the federal government announced that they were going to contribute \$5 million to early learning and childcare across Canada, we had thought that we would see that money being spent in the Northwest Territories by now. So we had thought that we were going to have that money in hand and be spending it already. That's what we had counted on.

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

Supplementary To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our pre-budget consultations, we heard a lot from our people in the small communities, and we, too, were hoping that the Minister would bring good news back from Ottawa, and hoping that we would be spending this money in our communities. I think the Minister needs to really talk to Mr. Dryden, along with the Premier, in terms of the principles that were set down by the federal Minister in terms of the Caucus agreeing to it. My question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is, does the Minister agree that we should look at a two-tier system for the communities? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of contributions, we actually have 10 tiers already, so that the communities where there are higher costs, their operating contributions are higher than in the regions where costs are not so high. For instance, Paulatuk and Colville Lake receive the largest per child contribution, whereas places like Hay River and Yellowknife get the lowest level of contribution to centres. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the first time I hear that Colville Lake is number one.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister in terms of his approaches to meeting with the Honourable Ken Dryden regarding the funding for the day care centres, the Minister has talked about his approach not being successful. Has the Minister looked at taking his approach to a different level, in terms of asking the federal government to fund facilities in the Northwest Territories? My understanding is he's asking for increased training and eligibility for parents to put their children, or having access to subsidies for these programs. My question to the Minister is in terms of funding the facilities in the North. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we're talking with the federal government about, in other jurisdictions it hasn't been totally specified how the money will be spent. It's been left up to the jurisdiction, as long as it's meeting certain principles. That's the same sort of deal that we're looking for here, too, one which would allow us to spend the money that we get from the federal government, according to the principles that are set in the program, but as they are needed in the Northwest Territories. At this point, we haven't looked at providing facilities, but it would be something that we could take a look at. However, the amount of money we're talking about, even if we get the base funding that we're hoping to see, would mean that it would be very limited in terms of what we could do for facility contributions.

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

Supplementary To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned earlier that they were planning to do a merit on the review of the programs. Is he still considering this, in light of the results from his meeting with Mr. Dryden? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 223-15(4): Day Care In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's part of the process to review programs on a regular basis, so we would normally review how programs are working, on a regular basis, to make sure that what's being done is still right. Having said that, the contributions on both the operating side and the parent subsidies side were increased in 2002, so it's certainly time for us to take a look at increasing those contributions. As I said earlier, we thought we would be able to do that this year because we

had thought that, like other jurisdictions, we would see the money flowing by now.

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

Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. What has happened in Fort Simpson recently is their ferry has shut down. The constituents would like to know when the ferry will be operating, Mr. Speaker. There were indications that it would be Tuesday morning, at the earliest, and I would like to get a commitment from the Minister that that's what he can do for the residents of Fort Simpson and Wrigley. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, the ferry was shut down on Thursday, and I had indicated then that we would make every effort to have the ferry up and running this week. We are working on that. We have filed notice to the employer -- or to the contractor -- rather, that we'd like to see some response as to when that ferry service will be running. We have given a deadline of 8:00 tomorrow morning to have a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I see that the ferry services up north are giving 72 hours' notice, which allows people to get their last-minute supplies. I notice that we have some legislation that banks are not allowed to be shut for more than three days. Yet we have a case here with the Fort Simpson ferry, Mr. Speaker, where it was shut down within eight hours of notice, and it has been shut down since last Thursday, like the Minister said. That's four days ago,...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: ...and the people are frustrated. I see in today's News/North, Mr. Speaker, that there's an editorial on ferry services, saying that the Yellowknife residents won't stand for it if that ferry shut down in Fort Providence, but the ferry is shut down in Fort Simpson and we don't stand for it, Mr. Speaker. We'd like to know when this ferry is going to be running, and we'd want to know now. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were not in a position to give 72 hours' notice

on the shutdown of this ferry. The ferry was running on reduced hours, and we had, I think, roughly eight hours' notice, and we did provide that to the communities that the ferry would be shut down. This interruption in service is not acceptable to us, also. We are looking at how we can accommodate the resupply in the communities, and we have given notice to the contractor that we expect them to resume ferry services by 8:00 tomorrow morning. Failing that, we will make every reasonable effort to have a resupply system in place, so that the communities can get fuel and groceries over this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, I am glad the Minister is really focused on Fort Simpson, because how we handle this situation today is going to determine how he's going to handle the Fort Providence-Liard situation that's going to develop later on. That's what the people want, is that our cost of living pressures are, even with the gas, just so high and now, because of the freight costs and air shuttle, things are costing that much more. One of the gas stations ran out of gas on the weekend while I was there, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I'd like to ask the Minister, that once the ferry is running, to guarantee the residents and transportation companies that there will be no interruption until the end of the season. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a difficult commitment to make. We'd like to be able to commit to the Member that we will make every effort to have the ferry running tomorrow, and we will abide by that. Whether or not we can guarantee that the ferry will not be interrupted is something that I don't know if I'm in control of. Low water, ice, all those things will come into play. We will certainly make every effort to run the ferry as long as we can, and for the duration of the season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to hold the Minister to his word, that he's going to exert every effort to get the ferry up and running at Fort Simpson by tomorrow morning, because that's what's acceptable to Fort Simpson, Mr. Speaker, is getting the ferry running by tomorrow morning. Any further delays than that, then I would like to ask the Minister, and perhaps the Premier, if they could come to Fort Simpson tomorrow, and tell the residents and our people why the ferry will not be operating by Tuesday. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 224-15(4): Liard River Ferry Operations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Member that resupply for fuel and for groceries and for other necessities Fort Simpson requires is a priority for us. Tomorrow is the deadline. We want to see that ferry running. If at all possible, we hope to have it in place tomorrow, by the contractor or by other means. Resupply has to be done. Of course, if we are not able to follow that, we will certainly commit to coming to Fort Simpson to have a meeting with the community. We've been talking to the leaders, on an ongoing basis, as to how the situation unfolds, and we will certainly commit to keeping that communication line open. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Question 225-15(4): Routing Of Telephone Calls To The RCMP

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke before about the calls having to go through Yellowknife for the RCMP. I have no problem with the work that the RCMP are doing; I think they're doing a heck of a job. But we have to assure the residents of the NWT that if they make a phone call, that it's answered locally and acted on quickly. I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice why all the calls have to go through Yellowknife. Are there any particular reasons, or statistics, to back this up? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 225-15(4): Routing Of Telephone Calls To The RCMP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that we have, effectively, a centralized dispatch set up at the RCMP, and I think Members can imagine that, in some of our smaller detachments, it won't be possible for somebody to answer the phone at all times. We want to make sure that when there is a call through to the RCMP, if there isn't a local answer, that it bounces to centralized dispatch, so that they can then turn around and radio the closest officer possible, and make sure there's a timely response. Now, if there are situations where there isn't an answer, that is very concerning for me, and certainly something that I will raise with the RCMP. I think we can all recognize that it won't be possible, at all times, to have a local answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 225-15(4): Routing Of Telephone Calls To The RCMP

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that some of the smaller communities will have to go through a centralized dispatch, but some of the larger communities, across the NWT, should not have to go through a central dispatch. If we see something happen, we want to report it and make sure it's acted on right away. Will the Minister commit to doing away with having calls go from some of the larger communities through

Yellowknife, and make sure that there is always someone in some of the larger communities to answer these phones and dispatch the calls quickly? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 225-15(4): Routing Of Telephone Calls To The RCMP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, I am very concerned about this, and we want to make sure that we have the most effective and efficient system in place, to make sure that there is a response when community members call, and to make sure that there is effective policing. I am concerned about the suggestion that we do away with centralized dispatch. My fear is that it would cost us front-line officers in order to have people available to take calls at all times in all of the detachments. I don't think that that is feasible, but I do want to make sure that there is an effective response mechanism set up so that no calls go unanswered. It is very quick for a call from dispatch in Yellowknife to be placed to a pager locally, for one of the RCMP officers. It won't take much more time than, in fact, a local call. We do have to make sure that there is somebody at the other end, and make sure that there is a response sent out when a constituent calls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 225-15(4): Routing Of Telephone Calls To The RCMP

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Government always speaks of prevention, and we have preventative programs for this, or we have preventative programs for that. One of the best preventions for crime, is having the RCMP be on patrol all the time. My question is, what can be done to enable the RCMP to do more night time patrols when most of the crimes seem to take place? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 225-15(4): Routing Of Telephone Calls To The RCMP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a good question, and I agree with the Member that an RCMP presence is very important in deterring crime. I think school visits, and talks at schools, are also very important in terms of making sure youth understand the severity of their actions. If we do have youth out in our communities stealing snowmobiles and damaging other people's property without much fear of recourse or the consequences, then that is a problem, and we have to do a better job of relating to kids to make sure that they understand that this isn't acceptable.

But a presence is important, and this is certainly something that I will raise with the RCMP. We have established a joint strategic planning group -- the Department of Justice and the RCMP -- to talk about improving services in all our communities. As I answered the Member from North Slave a few days ago, in the House, I would again commit that we will continue to have these meetings, and make improving police services in all, including our smaller communities, a priority for this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke specifically about Kivallik seniors' home in Tuktoyaktuk. I am going to ask the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation, prior to the RFPs going out for renovations on the seniors' home, did he consult with the Tuk Elders Committee, the Hamlet Council of Tuktoyaktuk, and also the Tuk Housing Association, for the renovations proposed? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been in discussion with the local authority; it has gone through our district office, in which they are looking at the renovations for the facility. I know there has been a lot of heat in the House in regard to having this facility not utilized as much as it should be. I think that we are trying to find other solutions on exactly how we can use this facility. I think that, as a government, we did a review of all buildings with less than 30 percent occupancy, and this was definitely one of them. We were told to go back and find alternative usage for these facilities, so that we can take advantage of those facilities.

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

Supplementary To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate to me, what exactly are they going to renovate in that building? That building is very new, there is one access way for the seniors. How much would it cost to separate the seniors from the proposed five units? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the scope of the renovations is to separate the facility. So that people do not have access to where the seniors presently are, there is going to be a wall removed, or put in place there. As well, we are looking at some of the buildings in which we do have a lot of items in the units, such as barrier-free and accessories for people with disabilities, because they will not be needed, because they will be used for people that do not have disabilities.

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

Supplementary To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rather than doing such renovations, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the

Minister can work with the Minister of Health and Social Services to consider putting that into a level II facility? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can definitely raise that with the Minister of Health and Social Services, because that facility was designed and constructed in such a way that it does have the ability to move patients from the care facility in Aklavik, and also the long-term care facility in Inuvik. I believe that was the intent of having this facility in Tuktoyaktuk. I will work with my colleague, Mr. Miltenberger, to see if there are any options that we can look at.

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

Supplementary To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How soon can this happen, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Could the Member rephrase his question?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Could you restate your question for the Minister, Mr. Pokiak?

Supplementary To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate how soon this could happen, to meet with the Minister of Health and Social Services to try to get this level II facility? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(4): Tuktoyaktuk Seniors' Facility

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will meet after session is over. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, in respect to the tendering policies that the Housing Corporation uses. I am not enquiring about the policies themselves, but the lack of adherence to the policies, Mr. Speaker. The policies clearly state that the use of local contractors to carry out some of the housing repairs or renovations or replacements, is always given first consideration when approval has been determined by

the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, the Minister also indicated that he is aware that a lot of these approved repairs, or renovations and such, are not actually done right away, because of the inability to get qualified tradespeople into these remote communities on a timely basis. It is always difficult, and people don't usually see the work being completed for several months, or years, or if at all, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister if local contractors are still a priority, and why am I still receiving calls from local contractors in my communities, saying that they have been overlooked in a tendering process for a lot of the housing projects that are in limbo, that we have to wait for outside contractors to come in and do the work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, wherever possible, we are working with the local contractors, and also working through our local housing authorities, by requesting them to take on a lot of this work, or a lot of the major or minor repairs that have to be done. Right now, most of that work is done through the local housing authorities, which do a lot of that work in-house. Most of that activity takes place over the summer months, but we do allow for people to bid on these contracts by way of the tendering process. In some cases, we do have bidders who come from outside the communities which are lower. That is why; we go with the lowest bids, wherever possible.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand where the Minister is coming from, but I also get enquiries from local contractors that have worked, in the past, for the Housing Corporation and the LHOs on various projects, but because they haven't done it either in accordance with what the Housing Corporation was looking for, or because they may be a little shy of what the basic housing standards would want to see in place, a lot of these contractors get blacklisted, Mr. Speaker, then they get turned down for future contracts by the LHOs or the Housing Corporation, for the very fact that they didn't agree on any of the projects in the past. I just want to see these people taken off these blacklists, and be put on as a priority for local consideration. Is the Minister going to direct his staff, or the regional staff, to take that into serious consideration, and reinstate these local contractors as prime bidders on any of the contracts? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have to ensure that we do meet the conditions that were put in our contracts, to ensure people fulfill the contracts they sign. We have had incidents

where people have lost contracts because of the terms and conditions in those contracts. One thing we heard, loud and clear, is that we have to do a better job of monitoring how these contracts are taking place, but, more importantly, we need to ensure the work is being done. So I am willing to meet with the Member, on the understanding that we need to get quality work and want the contracts fulfilled. I can commit to the Member that I am willing to talk to these individuals, and I will assure him that we will look at past history. In order for them to meet our requirements, they have to fulfill the conditions in our contracts.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to meet with the Minister to discuss some of these local contractors. I just want to make everyone aware that when the Housing Corporation is monitoring the completion of the work that's being done, that's done by the project officers in the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation at the regional level only has one, two or three, at most, project officers to oversee a few hundred different projects, Mr. Speaker. They can't be in all the communities at the same time, and they can't be there to oversee a project from start to finish. So there is a lot of sporadic visiting, unscheduled visits, to different contractors...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a question, Mr. Villeneuve?

MR. VILLENEUVE: Yes. Contractors can't just put down their hammer and wait for these project officers to come in, Mr. Speaker. How is the Minister going to make sure that these projects are done in a more timely, and more scheduled, format?

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

Further Return To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have project officers who go out on site and inspect each phase of the projects, to ensure projects are done in a manner that meets our requirements. The job of the project officers is to make sure they go in there and physically inspect these units as they are being constructed, and not wait until after the fact, to find out they have major problems. We have had some history with regard to these types of situations, and I think we are doing a better job on our on-site inspections. There may be delays in getting officers in there, but before it goes from one phase to the next, it has to be signed off by an officer. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that the officers have to sign off on different stages of construction for various projects. We have been dealing with this problem for a number of years, because of the

lack of project officers. They just don't have time to be everywhere at once, as I said. How is the Housing Corporation going to make this whole process of repairs and renovations more expedient for the clients?

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

Further Return To Question 227-15(4): Local Preference In The Tendering Process

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the ways we are hoping to devolve some of the authorities and responsibilities is through the local housing authorities, and allow them to take on more of these types of responsibilities. We want to build the capacity of the local housing authorities to have the staff, such as carpenters, plumbers and electricians, on site, so they can do the work in the communities. I think that's a goal we would like to meet, realizing we do have some challenges. We are working with the local housing authorities to do more of this work in house, rather than contracting it out. Thank you.

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

Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Premier. These are in respect to the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly is on record as being a proponent of this project. I am as big a proponent of it as anybody, but I have to put it in the context of the current discussions, Mr. Speaker, that are going along, and the volatility and uncertainty of this project. We've seen a lot of deadlines come and go with mega projects. Mr. Speaker, in fact, the first one concerning a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley was almost 30 years ago. So it's not something we are not used to. Now we are told that the middle of November is the next deadline, probably, or possibly, or likely, or sort of, or kind of a go/no-go date for Imperial. Just how seriously should we take this latest deadline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, I don't think the middle of November deadline is a go/no-go position. This is the target that industry has set for determining whether or not they are prepared to go into public hearings. That doesn't mean if they aren't quite ready then, and they want more time, that they wouldn't wait a little longer. But it's not a go/no-go date on the project. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to clarify that. That is industry's position. It's not the position of the federal government; it's not the position of our government; and I don't think it's the position of the aboriginal governments. That is what industry set as their target when they would tell us whether or not they would go to public hearings.

Mr. Speaker, these are negotiations, but I think every public position that's taken by any of the parties should be taken very seriously, to answer the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, from this Assembly's point of view, I think the average person in the Northwest Territories is on the outside looking in, or trying to look in, and get some comprehension of the process that's underway, and have some say in what happens here. We are feeling marginalized and left out. Mr. Speaker, some time ago, we greeted, with enthusiasm and confidence, the direction that Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan would be assigned this file. What is the latest this government has heard from the Deputy Prime Minister? Do we have somebody who is on this and looking after our interests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking quite often with the Deputy Prime Minister on this file. She has, as she represents the federal government, some responsibilities for negotiating some pieces of this very complicated process, but not all of it. We have some responsibility for some pieces, but, again, not all of it, and the aboriginal organizations, the land claim corporations, have some responsibility, but not all of it. So none of us has the whole picture, but industry, who are negotiating with a number of different parties, depending on their area of responsibility. The Deputy Prime Minister is focused on the financial ask by the corporation. She had a meeting with them about a week-and-a-half ago. From what I understand, from the limited information she can share with us, the meeting was a very positive one, and there was progress made; and she was optimistic about it. She recently confirmed that to me, in the last few days. I have to take her word for it that it's moving well. I don't have all the detail of exactly what the discussion was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the Alaska gas project, which is, in some order of magnitude, larger than the Canadian one, seems to be getting some momentum. This is a contract with the attitude, the confidence, that we've had that even if both projects were to go, the Canadian one would go first. Do we have reason to be looking over our shoulder now, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, on these kinds of big projects, we should always be looking over our shoulder and watching out for what the next alternative might be. The Alaska project has many hurdles to overcome yet. The governor of the State of Alaska is working feverishly on coming up with proposals,

alternatives and ideas of how he can give the guarantees to make their project a good economic project. We have to be doing the same in our discussions with the federal government, because it's going to be on economic terms that both of these pipelines will be decided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, if I was a businessperson, or a community looking at making an investment to prepare for a Mackenzie gas pipeline, would it be a good idea for me to continue today, knowing what we know? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 228-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I can give that kind of advice. That's kind of asking my personal opinion on it, but I will take the liberty of replying and say yes, carry on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Whoa!

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

Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose some questions to the Minister of Public Works and Services. It gets back to his responsibility in terms of sole sourcing office space contracts. Under the GNWT Executive policy for leasing of improved real property, it states, quite categorically, that all of these properties will initially be acquired through an invitation to tender or public proposal calls, except where the Executive Council has authorized negotiations. Does the Minister have the authority to sole source contracts for office space required in Yellowknife and in the communities, or is it a Cabinet decision to do so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the authority would be given by Cabinet. I would prepare a document, bring it forward to my colleagues, and seek their approval. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, in the community of Fort Simpson, there was a sole source procurement that took place with an office building in Fort Simpson. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services, was it a Cabinet decision to sole source that contract, or was it his own personal decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the size of the contract would affect to what level you would bring it. A lot of the authorities have been delegated to the deputy minister, at that level, for decisions to be made. The Fort Simpson situation, the office space there -- we looked at the space that was available in the community, and it was felt, at that time, that the space that was available was one proponent, and the department dealt with them. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't really answer my question. The fact of the matter is, the contract for office space in Fort Simpson was sole sourced. I think the Minister and the government owe some type of explanation to other proponents in Fort Simpson. This is just one case. It happens across the territory, Mr. Speaker. They owe people an explanation on how sole source contracts work with this government. Right now, Mr. Speaker, I think most people out there have no idea of how sole source contracts work when dealing with this government. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I need to correct my initial answer to the Member. What I bring forward to my Cabinet colleagues is an information item to tell them that the department is intending to do the work, and whether it's a sole source contract. As I stated earlier, a lot of the authorities can be delegated down from the Premier to the Ministers, and, in some cases, from Ministers to senior staff. We have done that on a number of occasions. A lot of it also depends on the amount of dollars, the total amount of the contract that would be issued. So there are steps involved in this. Yes, it can be fairly confusing because, within Public Works and Services, we have a sole source process, as well. We have one overall throughout government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it all sounds quite murky and discombobulated, if you ask me, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services if the delegation has been made to other employees. I know you mentioned the deputy minister and others inside the department. Where is the responsibility factor here, and is the government going against its own policy, as it states, quite clearly, in the GNWT Executive policy that the Executive Council has authorized negotiations? The Minister just stood up two seconds ago and said they didn't. People would like to know what the real policy is on sole source negotiations. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 229-15(4): Government Office Space Procurement

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to provide that information to the Members, and even table it in this House, so people across the North, who are interested, can get a copy of it. Thank you.

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

Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It is on the subject of day care. I am going to wade in on this one. Hay River lost our day care, some time ago, when there was a proponent there facing similar circumstances as what Fort Smith is facing now. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that after the Minister's trip to Ottawa to work on Mr. Dryden on the subject of per capita funding, he follows a well-beaten trail on that topic, so the fact that he didn't come back with a whole pile of money isn't all that amazing to me.

I know a little about day care. Twenty-six years ago, I built a beautiful new day care in Hay River. As a matter of fact, I take some pride in the fact that I was the one who came and lobbied this government, 26 years ago, to put legislation in place so that day cares would be regulated.

---Applause

The Minister of the day was from Fort Smith, Arnold McCallum. Anyway, I don't think we are going to get pots of money to address the day care situation. I think we need to become more resourceful. I think we are going about it in the wrong way. I think we need to identify underutilized facilities in the communities, such as schools that are not being completely utilized and have less student population and are absorbing the entire amount of space. We have to find a different way to fund day care. I think that for income support to fund the parents and expect that they are going to pay the day care, and keep it going, is an unrealistic expectation. Has the Minister ever

considered funding the day cares directly with the money for day care, as opposed to through the clients? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we actually do both right now. The centres are given a contribution, as are parents. As we are able to put more money into the program, we can certainly take a look at how that is distributed and, perhaps, increase one more than the other.

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

Supplementary To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So for clarification, right now on the cost of paying for the service...I know there are start-up costs available per space created. Right now, day cares can receive direct funding for income support clients who are receiving day care services. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an operational fund that is provided to day cares right now. That funding has been available for quite some time. That's not just through income support. That is for every registered space that a day care provides. We do provide them with a contribution.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Minister to continue her supplementary questioning. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Location and facilities are always a challenge, too, when operating a day care centre. Is it possible in communities where there is a school or space available in a school, that that space could be utilized for a pre-school program operated by a non-profit association? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that sort of approach is possible. I know that there has been at least one day care that operated out of a portable that was located at a school. So I know that that approach is utilized. One issue is that the funding is impacted when they use space provided like that, such as

public space, at little or no cost, and that is that their contributions are reduced by one-half if they are not paying for their space.

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

Supplementary To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister undertake to provide an assessment, or an inventory, of unused, GNWT paid-for space, be it with Education or any other department; space that's being paid for, heated, lit, that could be easily transformed to day care space across the Northwest Territories? Would he undertake to arrive at an inventory on that for us? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 230-15(4): Alternative Day Care Solutions

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly provide that information from our partners in the DEC's and the education-related facilities. I will have to ask my colleague, the Minister of Public Works, if the rest of that information is available for other space. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: 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. Before I go there, colleagues, at this time, I would like to draw your attention to the Speaker's Gallery and the presence of our Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Ethics Councillor for the public service in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Ted Hughes.

---Applause

Members, as you are aware, Mr. Hughes has tendered his resignation as our Conflict of Interest Commissioner, effective November 30, 2005. Mr. Hughes' term as Conflict of Interest Commissioner was scheduled to expire on February 28, 2006. It is my understanding, however, that his wife instructed him, in no uncertain terms, that he cannot continue to work a day past his 80th birthday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Whoa!

MR. SPEAKER: I know that Mr. Hughes' birthday is not on November 30th, so I am not sure if we should consider this an early retirement or what. Colleagues, I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mr. Hughes for his many years of dedicated service to the House and its Members. His efforts, and wise counsel, have certainly contributed to public confidence in the integrity of our institution. I know some of you will have more to say on this matter later today. Thank you for your candour, counsel and wit, and your unflinching sense of fairness and justice. On behalf of

the Legislative Assembly, I wish you and your wife every happiness in the years to come.

---Applause

Thank you, Members. Before we go into question period, the Chair is going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

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

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of ECE with regard to day care. In answering my last question, at the end, the Minister stated that if he had to help the Fort Smith day care facility, then he would have to help everybody else, as if that's a bad thing. In fact, by suggesting that, it's better to let them all fail. I just learned that there is one in Hay River that failed. I would think that a proactive mind would look at the program and ask what we are doing wrong that is making all these programs fail in every community and every region in the Northwest Territories. What is the Minister planning on doing to find out what the problem is, and to help the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, from talking to operators, that operators tell me they need to see better contributions. I know, from talking to parents, they tell me they need to see greater contributions. But what we have right now is that we have a situation where we have a program. Everybody knows when they come in what the levels of support are. I would dearly love to have the money to increase the support to them, and I am confident that we will see that. I am confident that our Premier will go above Minister Dryden's head, to the Prime Minister, and we will see this money come in on an equitable basis into the Northwest Territories, so we can add to the program.

The Member makes it sound like we are losing spaces, we are losing day care operators. There is always a turnover of operations and spaces. On March 31, 2002, there were 76 programs in the Northwest Territories, and at March 31, 2005, there were 99 programs in the Territories. So programs have increased in that period of time, and we have increased not just the programs, but the total number of registered spaces in the Northwest Territories, over the same period of time, by 150. So, Mr. Speaker, the program is not a total failure. Yes, it could use more money, but with that sort of growth over the four years, we can say that the people are finding a way to operate.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I don't think the program is a total failure, but it surely is on a life support system, at the moment. We witnessed the facility in Lutselk'e, we are seeing it in Smith and even in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker. It's not only me who is speaking to this. It's all over the place. Everybody can see that this government has to do more for the day care program. Whatever came up from the federal government, that's just another issue we have to deal with. The Minister had an opportunity to deal with recommendations by the Status of Women Council, who did a report, which I filed last week, which suggested there needs to be more support. Why can this government bail out millions of dollars for diamond companies? Maybe the government can start giving guarantees to tele-care facilities. Would the Minister look into increasing the funding that we give to day care centres, immediately? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take a look at what options we might have, within the existing budget, to see whether or not we can improve it. We have already started the process of examining how we could make some minor changes that might improve the cash flow to parents in the next little while here, but we are constrained by how much money we have in the budget. While the Member talks about bail-outs to diamond companies, that isn't something that Education, Culture and Employment was involved in. Yes, Education, Culture and Employment has \$250 million worth of contributions coming in, but we have an equal amount of expenditures going out, all in extremely important areas, whether it is for special needs for kids in schools, or the seniors' supplement. We have a tremendous number of important programs that we are supporting. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that we, in this House, do not approve every penny of the budget, line by line, cent by cent. We give power to the Minister to do the right things. Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that there is one thing that the department could change...Sorry, that has nothing to do with costing money. I have been getting a lot of correspondence from the Fort Smith day care, and previous to the correspondence, from the Minister. I tell you, they are not listening to each other. They are not talking to each other. Would the Minister instruct the staff to do a better job in listening to day cares that have problems, so that they can help them, and not burden them with extra work and harassment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department puts the exact same conditions for reporting on every single day care. We have gone to tremendous lengths, in the last year, to develop easy-to-understand forms and books, to outline how to start a day care, what the reporting requirements are, what the accountability structures are, and that is what we expect. We need to know that our children are safe. We need to have the reporting requirements in place, so that we know that children are being looked after properly, because the government puts its stamp on these places. If it is a regulated day care, we have to make sure that we have an adequate level of reporting. I can tell the Member, and all Members here, that people in our regional offices work, on a regular basis, with people who operate day homes and day cares, to help them to look for ways in which they can improve their operations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just need to be very clear that I am not, in any way, speaking about regional staff. I am not, in any way, suggesting that the Minister does not require these organizations to meet standards. But, Mr. Speaker, as a lay person, listening to and reading communication between the department and the centre, I am telling you, they are not on the same page whatsoever. I am suggesting that, if an organization is about to close this week, the kinds of questions the department is asking, and the letter that came out of ...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a question, Ms. Lee?

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, the letter that came out of the deputy minister's office, and the letter that Aurora College sent telling them that the place will be shut down, is just not nice for a facility that is trying to survive. I would like to ask the Minister if he could review that correspondence, and could the government be better, and more accommodating, and more sympathetic, to a centre that is in a dire situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 231-15(4): Day Care Services

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will review that correspondence. Thank you.

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

Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of ITI, the Honourable Brendan Bell. Mr. Speaker, in my region, there is a high number of harvesters/trappers. There is some confusion, since the region split, of RWED and the programs that I have looked at under the 2005-2006 Main Estimates. A lot of the programs are funded by ITI; however, to support the traditional economy of our harvesters and trappers, the

renewable resource officers in the communities deal with the harvesters and trappers. The renewable resource officers are employees of ENR. When the department handled funding, the other department had the responsibility of working with the other trappers. Has the Minister given any thought to one-stop-shop shipping for the trappers? It is confusing for the trappers in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the perception of a problem here. I am very interested in hearing from Members as to whether or not their constituents are experiencing problems on the ground in communities.

In order to make sure the transition was as smooth as possible, in the split of the two departments, we agreed, between departments, that the renewable resource officers, who have been delivering the programming, would continue to do so. The money and the accountability for the programs would be in ITI. That is where there is a difference. Money and accountability in ITI, and the protocol established so that the delivery is happening at the community level with the renewable resource officers. If that is causing some confusion, or some problems, then I certainly hope the Members will bring that to my attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is confusing in my region, in the Sahtu, in terms of how the traditional economy is being looked at. It is being looked at as a business. Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, traditional economy in communities is a lifestyle. It is a way of life. To put that in terms of business, it is pretty hard sometimes. Having the ENR already being responsible for tags for hunters and outfitters, would it be more effective to have a department say okay, let's move them into one once and for all. Let's move it over there for the harvesters' programs that ITI is administering now. It makes more sense; a simple process, I hope the Minister would give this some consideration to. When will the Minister report back, in terms of having some discussion as to a possible move? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will give that some consideration. I propose that it would make some sense for me to come to committee and talk about these issues around roles and responsibilities. I can certainly see a difference between some of the programs that we deliver in the traditional economy. The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, where we set up grubstakes, and provide prime fur

bonuses, is about harvesting for sale and markets, and the return is money. That is a much different program than some of our other traditional economy programs, which really are about subsistence hunting or harvesting, funding community hunts. There is a difference. I guess, for simplicity and ease, initially, we set them all up under one roof. Admittedly, the delivery is between two different departments. I think that is something that we need to discuss. I am prepared to come to committee and do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's comments and willingness to look at something like this. Would it be more effective to move certain things for the GNWT, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the fur pricing programs, the Western Harvester Support Program, and the other programs that the Minister is responsible for? I would like to know if the Minister would make a commitment to sit down with the people in the Sahtu region, their harvesters and trappers, and talk about what is the best, and most effective, method for this government to assist them in their lifestyle and their business. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will certainly have all regional staff engaged with those who are doing subsistence harvesting and hunting, those who are marketing the furs in the South. I think we do need to have this discussion at the committee level. I assure Members that the easiest and most simplistic way for us to handle this, at my level, or at the political level, or at the bureaucratic level, is not the most important thing to me. The most important thing to me is that this makes sense on the ground in the communities for those trying to access our services. That is who we need to keep in mind. We need to make sure that our program and service delivery best meets their needs. Whatever I can do to make that happen, I will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister work closely with the Minister of ENR in terms of a type of an effective program that would work best, and bring back to Cabinet and say, this is the best way? We have overlooked a simple process of how do we best get the program into the trappers who are not privy to the information of how to operate. It is a one stop shop for trappers. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 232-15(4): Harvesters' Assistance Programs

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the best approach would be for both I and the Minister of ENR to come and have this discussion around roles and responsibilities in terms of the traditional economy and our programming with committee. Armed with that information, and that feedback, we can have a discussion with Cabinet and deal with the issue. I first propose that the two of us come and engage the committee in this discussion. I hope that is acceptable to Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 233-15(4): GNWT Hiring Statistics

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, with respect to our hiring policies and procedures. I know that we are expending great effort to hire aboriginal people. I think that we are doing the best job we can. We are doing exceptionally well. However, I think we are failing in hiring our people who are classified as northerners. I believe it is the P2 category that we use. I am wondering if the Minister has any statistics that show that there has been a decline in hiring northerners over the past two years, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 233-15(4): GNWT Hiring Statistics

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work that we have been undertaking within the Human Resource Service Centre has taken a fair bit of time to organize and restructure, and that has caused some problems, as does any occasion when you start to amalgamate different programs into one.

We are back to running a service centre the way we planned it. We are trying to catch up with a backlog. The area of P2, as the Member has raised, is a northern hire, or someone who has lived half their life in the Northwest Territories. It is something that we have had to look at. It is a concern that has been raised in the past, as well as the affirmative action policy itself. What we have undertaken to do in the area of human resources, is to look at what we would call "employment equity," which would take in affirmative action and a number of other initiatives we are doing to try and ensure that we are doing the best we can for those that are working for our government, as well as northern residents and aboriginal people within the North.

We are working on a paper to bring forward. We will share that with Members, once we have a bit more work done on it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 233-15(4): GNWT Hiring Statistics

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The enquiries I have been getting back in my riding is that I am a northerner. Why aren't I being hired? What is happening is that a lot of southerners are being hired, as opposed to northerners. They are not clear on what the distinction is there, why that has happened. This report, or this examination, that the Minister is speaking of, Mr. Speaker, when will that be concluded?

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(4): GNWT Hiring Statistics

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope to have something ready for Members as early as November, the middle to late November. Thank you.

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

Question 234-15(4): Extra-Territorial Medical Services

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for Mr. Miltenberger, the Minister of Health and Social Services. It regards the services that northerners can expect when they have to go outside the Northwest Territories for medical or clinical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, most of our outside requirement is handled at the Capital Health region, or the network of hospitals and clinics in the Edmonton area, and, from my information, Mr. Speaker, very capably so over the years. But when a patient has a procedure that is not available through that Capital Health region contract, there may be, or have been, some issues drawn to my attention about whether or not NWT patients are on some kind of priority, or lack of priority, with other patients. When a northerner requires care in a facility outside the Capital Health region, what are the protocols, or the priorities, that a northern patient can expect in relation to other patients from the outside province? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 234-15(4): Extra-Territorial Medical Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, outside of the Capital Health authority, if we are going to talk specifically about the Province of Alberta, if we want to access services in facilities or communities like Ponoka, then they have an Albertan first -- looking after their own citizens first -- and then they have another category for out-of-province applications, which is where we end up having to get in line. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 234-15(4): Extra-Territorial Medical Services

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there anything that our government can do to go to bat for a

northerner if they have to get help from some other institution? Do we always have to take that second place, or perhaps, even worse, that line of thinking, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 234-15(4): Extra-Territorial Medical Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have made efforts to advocate on behalf of our citizens, but it is much more difficult outside of the Capital Health authority area, where we have a very good level of care. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 234-15(4): Extra-Territorial Medical Services

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, in the Capital Health region contract, then, could the Minister advise, or explain, sort of what is the protocol or the priority? If I need help from an Edmonton hospital, how am I considered in relation to, say, Alberta or Edmonton-based patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 234-15(4): Extra-Territorial Medical Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would tend to characterize it, that we are on a level playing field with Albertans, in most cases, that we can often get access to services very quickly, and much to the benefit of the people in need. Thank you.

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

Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to the questions I asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about day care, I want to pursue the issue of income support clients who receive payment for a day care and then are expected to pass that money on to the day care. Has the Minister known of, or heard of, any issues where day care centres are having difficulty operating because of outstanding receivables, or people who receive support but don't pay their bill, and thus make it difficult for the day care to operate? Is he aware of those scenarios? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have heard about that issue from a number of operators.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the Minister appreciates you cannot run a day care centre, pay staff and pay overhead, if people who bring their children to your service are not paying their bill. I would suggest that, by paying the income support, paying the day cares directly, would avoid that problem. Would the Minister not agree? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the goals of the Income Support Program is to help foster independence. It is certainly just as with rent. The approach is that the support that a family needs is provided to that family so that they can use those resources to support themselves. So that is the goal. Having said that, if the client finds that that is not the best way, if they are finding that there are problems, we are certainly open to, for instance, providing landlords directly with the funding that's necessary. But we expect it to be a joint process, and we expect the client to take the lead of negotiating that.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that in the issue of the day care, which we are trying to salvage the services that we have now, I think this is a simple program change that would really assist in maintaining the existing facilities that we do have. Would the Minister consider an alteration to the income support, and support the day care operators that would see direct payment? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in the process, right now, of restructuring our entire Income Security Program, which will include the Income Support Program, and looking at models. That is certainly an issue that I'll put on the table for discussion as we do this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(4): Income Support Clients' Day Care Expenses

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: That's everything, thank you.

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

Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of MACA, I believe -- MACA or Transportation, I'm not too sure -- the Honourable Michael McLeod, in regard to the roads in Sahtu communities. In the last couple of years, I've spoke in this House many times about dust control in our communities, and I have also talked about the need for a chipsealing project in our communities. That got bumped this year; however, traffic has increased in our small communities, and more and more trucks are leaving big ruts in our roads and stirring up more and more dust. So before the winter season begins, I would like to ask Mr. McLeod what is the status of the chipsealing programs in the Sahtu, and can the Minister provide work yet to begin, to date? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have been working on the Main Street Chipseal Program, and we've been able to chipseal a number of communities. This coming year, we are looking at doing some chipsealing in Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson, and Fort Good Hope. A lot of the work has already been done, in terms of drainage and some of the design work that needs to be done. Fort Good Hope has been allocated a budget amount this year, and that amount is \$375,000. The total project is \$1.2 million for Fort Good Hope main street.

Along with that, we are looking at providing some type of dust control that may be required in the communities. We're looking at a number of pilot projects, and this is as a result of a study that we've commissioned over the last year or so. So we have a process that requires us to do analysis of the soil types, and be able to apply the dust suppressant accordingly. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House when the roads in Fort Good Hope would actually be chipsealed? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the schedule for the chipsealing program

indicates that we will do the final design, and final upgrading, of the roads in Good Hope. We need a solid base before we can chipseal, and the chipseal will take place the year after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know the dates. What year are the dates in terms of the final design? The year after, it will be chipsealed. I mean, this has taken so long in Fort Good Hope, and every year it is getting delayed. I want to ask the Minister what the dates are for the final design and then the chipsealing. Right now, we can guess; however, I want the Minister to tell the House what the dates are. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it takes, roughly, three years, and in some cases, four years, to get to the stage where we actually chipseal the first year. We do the stockpiling of the material; we do the assessment; we do some of the design work; and in the case of Fort Good Hope, there was a year, last year, where we did not do any work. As part of the budget reductions, we were not able to incorporate this portion into our budget. So we are planning to pick it up this year, with a target to have the actual chipsealing done in 2007-2008. Along with that, Mr. Speaker, we are doing a pilot project in the community of Good Hope, for the other streets, to see what kind of dust suppressant we can put on those roads. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, in the small communities that I represent, it seems like Good Hope and other communities seem to fall back in terms of projects like this. I guess part of the frustration that the people have in regard to not being closer to the larger urban centres are that they don't get these paved roads. It doesn't make much sense. However, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister about the chipsealing programs. Are there any types of training programs that the communities can be involved in, in regard to what is chipsealing, in the communities? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 236-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if there are any training programs in those communities. It takes two days to put the chipseal on. So it would be a very short training period. However, in the case of stockpiling the material, we've had a number of communities that are contracting out to do that type of work. But I'd be happy to look to see what training

programs are available, if any, for actual chipsealing. Thank you.

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

Question 237-15(4): Community Library For Tuktoyaktuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Last week, on October 18th, the Minister indicated that there were six libraries being opened, in Aklavik, Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Fort Resolution, Deline and Holman. Last week, Mr. Speaker, when I was back home in Tuk listening to CBC radio regional news when the announcement came on that these communities would need a library immediately, my 17-year-old son, who is in Grade 12, who is here, Mr. Speaker, asked what about Mangilaluk School in Tuk. Mr. Speaker, my son, as well as other students, will be graduating in December. Without a community library in place at the school, my question to the Minister of ECE is, when will Mangilaluk School get the required, and so much needed, library? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 237-15(4): Community Library For Tuktoyaktuk

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, we've recently completed a review of the facility and are planning to examine that and make some plans for where we go to resolve issues with Mangilaluk School. Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping that, within the next two to three weeks, we will be able to come out and say, "Here's what we plan to do." Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 237-15(4): Community Library For Tuktoyaktuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm well aware of the document that came out for Mangilaluk School. When will the RFP come out for the potential of a library at Mangilaluk School? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 237-15(4): Community Library For Tuktoyaktuk

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't answer a question about an RFP for a library. At this point, we have to review the facility plan and try and see what we can do to follow up on that plan. So I can't make a commitment today, other than to say that we are going to try to work with the community, and the Member, to follow up on that review. At this point, we have to review the facility plan and try to see what we can do to follow up on that plan. So I can't make a commitment today, other than to say that we are going to try and work with the community, and the Member, to follow up on that review.

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

Supplementary To Question 237-15(4): Community Library For Tuktoyaktuk

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one last follow-up. Take a look at the libraries in some of the schools here. If Yellowknife didn't have a library, would they like that? I don't think so. I think that libraries are a vital part of education in all the schools. So right now, the students at Mangilaluk School are having a hard time getting resource material, because they just don't have the library. We need that library built, Mr. Speaker, so when can we get it done? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 237-15(4): Community Library For Tuktoyaktuk

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree, that libraries are an essential part of a good school. So we'll have to work with the DEC, and the DEA, and the community, to see how we might make sure that there is a library in the school. Thank you.

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

Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Honourable Floyd Roland, the Minister responsible for FMBS and the Public Service. Recently, I've had some inquiries from constituents wanting to know what the GNWT policy is on full-time government employees operating businesses or working for other enterprises outside of their government employment, sometimes referred to as moonlighting. What is the policy on that of this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when an employee of our government would like to seek employment outside of their normal work hours, they would have to seek permission from the head of their department. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister could qualify what he would call the head of the department. Would they need deputy minister level approval? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, normally, it would go up through the deputy minister level. There are different ports where, if they're in a region, it may go to the superintendent of that region. I'll have to get the specifics on that, but I know, for sure, authority is given, ultimately, from the deputy minister.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, what kind of criteria would be applied to that decision? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of criteria come into play. One, if it is, in fact, in direct association with the work they're doing on behalf of government, that would be one of the areas of consideration. As well, if the employee is working in the community where there would be deemed to be competition or competition by government employees, that may be one of the areas, as well, that's taken into consideration, if a decision would be made. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this kind of communication, between a deputy minister or a supervisor, is something, I'm sure, would be protected by privacy. If people in the community have a concern as to whether or not official and formal approval was sought and received, what would be their recourse, in terms of inquiring about that? Is that something that the Minister would handle? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 238-15(4): Outside Employment Policies For GNWT Staff

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if there's a situation, or when inquiries are made, if people cannot find they are getting the answers, or feel that they are not getting a response from within the regions, then they would come to headquarters and, ultimately, I would respond to inquiries that are made by either Members, or individuals, who would contact my office on that. Thank you.

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

Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are, again, for the Minister of Public Works and Services. I go back to the questions I had earlier, where I didn't really get a clear answer. I want to know, quite simply, who made the decision to sole source the office space requirements in Fort Simpson, recently? Thank you, and if that's not plain enough, I don't know what is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within Public Works and Services, the way it has been delegated down to contract authorities, as we would call them, it could be the superintendent of the region. That power to issue those types of contracts goes right down to the contract authorities. Again, it is within a certain dollar amount stipulation. I don't have that information available with me. Regarding the situation in Fort Simpson, I'll have to get the response, or who the individual was, and look at that information. But I know that from within Public Works and Services, the delegation has been down to the contract authority level. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I heard the Minister correctly, then the government is contravening their own policy when acquiring office space, because it states, quite clearly, that it has to be acquired through invitation to tender of public proposals, and if it is not, then it requires Executive Council authorization. In this case, they didn't have it. So I would like the Minister to stand up and explain that to me. How can this happen, and how can an authority like that be delegated, when it states, quite clearly, that it shouldn't be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good to see Yellowknife Members taking on issues from outside of the capital. It's a good thing in this forum we have. The fact is, in this situation, a department requested a certain amount of space, and our space is rated, and criteria are for certain levels if it's an office space. I'm not sure if it's a category 1, 2, 3 or A type levels, but with the research we had with our own forces, we were aware of what was available in the community. We went with that information, and what was available in the community and the timelines we had to look at; there was only one proponent that we could work with, and we went with that proponent. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that excludes everyone that might want to bid on this, or might want to build a building in a community. Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking about this issue because it draws, or casts, a shadow over sole sourced contracts, and how negotiations that this government enters into are conducted. It happens in Fort Simpson, it can happen in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to again ask the Minister, whose decision was it to go this way, to lease the space and sole source the space in Fort Simpson? Because, quite clearly, their own policy was not followed, and the Minister has just stood up in the House and said that it wasn't. So why have a policy, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let's set the record straight. I did not say we contravened the policy, and I said I would commit to getting the information as to what level this decision was made at. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the government did not follow its policy, then it has contravened the policy, Mr. Speaker. If they haven't followed through with the policy that they have in place, something is amiss here, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, if the Executive Council didn't make the decision, as they are supposed to, as stated in the policy, then who did, and why did they make that decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 239-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier in a response to a similar question, as a government, from time to time, we delegate the authority back to, or down to, other levels within our departments. This is one of the cases where we've delegated the authority down to the contract authority's level within Public Works and Services, again, trading within the amount of dollars that they have the authority to approve. Thank you.

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

Question 240-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up my questions with the Minister of MACA, on the chipsealing program. The Minister indicated earlier, that it only takes two days to lay down the chipseal. How many years have we been asking to have the chipsealing program in the Sahtu, with the community of Fort Good Hope being targeted as one of the communities? Why does it take so long to stretch out that two days of work in chipsealing our roads in the Sahtu? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 240-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, we have to have a design of the roads. We have to ensure that we have a good, solid base. In some communities, we've had to reconstruct a good portion of the roads, the main streets. We also have to ensure that there's proper drainage, and in a lot of cases, that has required us to do surveys, and provide new culverts, and provide the new access roads. So it takes a lot of time to do some of the design. It takes a lot of time to do some of the reconstruction of the actual road base and the main street. It also takes a good period of time to provide the materials. We have to bring the materials on site; we have to have the equipment in the vicinity to do the actual crushing. So all those things are factored in, and it takes a couple of years. In a lot of cases, especially in the Sahtu, the communities are not serviced by year-round roads, so we have to plan around the winter road system and winter road season. So it really takes a lot longer. In some cases, where there's direct access, such as in Fort Providence and other communities, it's relatively easy, and we can do it over a couple of seasons. But in the case of the Sahtu, it takes longer. Along with that, there was one year when we didn't do any work because the money was not in the budget, as per the budget reductions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, the region I represent is hindered because we don't have the access for the direct services, as the Minister indicated. I guess I wanted to ask the Minister to ask his officials about the pilot project on alternatives to chipsealing, and when that can be done in the Sahtu. He's listed a lot of things that need to get done, and I think that's why I see it taking so long to get the chipseal in our community. Is his department considering alternatives in the pilot project for some of the main street roads in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 240-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, we are looking at other alternatives to the chipseal program that we've been focusing on for the last while. While the chipseal program would deal with the dust issue on the main street, we still have all the other roads in the communities that have a problem with dust. So we have done a study for dust control. We hired a contractor. We have that report now. We are working with a number of communities to put this in place. It requires an analysis of the materials that are being used in the area to construct the roads. Once you determine that, and we are able to use different modes of applying dust suppression...we have embarked on this as a pilot project already; and we are looking at four communities, those of Fort Good Hope, Tulita, Lutselk'e and Fort McPherson. We've done the sampling, and we expect those reports back, and we plan to apply the appropriate dust suppressant by this coming summer. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister, would he look within his department, and other departments, such as the Department of Education, Culture and Employment or Aurora College, for training programs? The Minister has indicated a number of things that need to happen, such as design, and reconstruction, and proper drainage, and surveying, and equipment needs. Would the Minister consider one of these pilot projects to look at the other departments, and ask if they have some initiatives, or support, in terms of having a small training program for the communities that they could look at doing this work under an initiative, such as a training program? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 240-15(4): Chipsealing Program In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, of course we can discuss that. A lot of the work is done by municipal contractors. The actual chipsealing is done by, usually, a regional or territorial firm. We will have discussions with municipal governments, and amongst ourselves, as government departments. Thank you.

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

Question 241-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to, again, question the Minister of Public Works and Services, on the policy for acquiring property, or office space, here in the Northwest Territories. From what I heard, they like to delegate the authority for sole sourcing office space, by the sounds of it. I'd like to ask him if he's going to be looking at changing the policy to state that the Executive Council reserves the right to delegate the

authority to negotiate sole sourced contracts, as he just mentioned, or do we have this policy or not, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 241-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the Executive, or within FMBS, as an example, we have a lot of policies in place that refer to us as a Cabinet and Cabinet Ministers. As well, at the end of every policy, it states that it is the prerogative of the Executive to use that policy. Ultimately, as has been done in the past, and as we continue to follow it, a number of these authorities have been delegated down to either the deputy minister level or within Public Works and Services. In this particular case that the Member has raised here about office space and so on, anything that we pick up has been delegated down to contract authorities, again, to within their amount of authority they have, to have budgets on. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 241-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I think, quite clearly, that the Cabinet has to look at changing the policy. I shudder to think what the business community out there in the Northwest Territories is thinking, and how they're supposed to interpret these policies that are out there, when our Minister doesn't even really seem to know how to interpret this policy. How are businesses out there supposed to compete and have that fair advantage across the board, Mr. Speaker? I'd like to also ask the Minister, while I have the opportunity, one of the things I do know...There are two things. One thing I don't know is what we're getting this office space in Fort Simpson for. Nobody seems to know the rate that's being charged. All I could find out, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that we're going to spend about \$65,000 to house five ITI employees in a building for 12 months. That's \$5,000 a month, Mr. Speaker, just in leasehold improvements alone. I'd like to ask the Minister how this can be allowed to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 241-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member obviously doesn't want to understand what I'm trying to tell him about our contract practices, the delegation of those authorities, and then coming back to the one project or office space example. Mr. Speaker, the issue of office space required in Fort Simpson was one that was looked at by the department. The department looked for adequate space. It was felt that the only place that had available space, that met the requirements that were established, was the proponent that we are dealing with now. In fact, if we were to go out and put out an RFP, then we would be looking for

somebody to build a new office space, which wouldn't fit our timelines. Thank you.

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

Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

MR. YAKELEYA: I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I got a call the other day from a resident of Colville Lake, and some other people, and they want to know about the government's education curriculum's aboriginal content, as it's been taught as a core subject in our schools, with respect to treaty or land claim topics being taught to our high schools in the Sahtu region. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what grade level, but I know that it is included in the social studies curriculum. So yes, there should be some examination of treaties in the school. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I believe the Minister is correct. I'm not sure of the grade levels. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister about the grade levels and the social studies program. It is probably a few hours, in that sense. I want to ask the Minister if he would consider, along with the boards, to have the treaties and land claims documents as one of the core subjects in the schools, starting from Grade 1 to 12, to teach them to understand those two important treaties. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We share a curriculum with all four western provinces, Nunavut and the Yukon, because it's so expensive to develop a curriculum. So no jurisdiction develops their own curriculum anymore. We know, for instance, it's involved in the social studies program. It likely also comes back in the northern studies program in grades 10 through 12. But there's no reason that this sort of topic couldn't come up, when the teachers are working on aboriginal language and culture, as one of the topics for discussion. So by using the curriculum guide Dene Kede, this sort of thing can be worked in, in all of the regions to talk about the treaties of interest to the people of that region.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sharing of these important documents, the treaties and the land claims, through the aboriginal language and culture, I'm not too sure how much focus or emphasis is given to our communities to share this. Under the four western provinces, the land claims and the treaties should be a core subject, no matter what, and I'm not too sure how that is going to be implemented in our schools, or even given consideration. As far as I'm concerned, that is not important enough, and this government hasn't given the support to make it a core subject. Every person in our region should be understanding the treaties and the land claims, because it's a living document. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that the subject of treaties should be something that is extremely well studied in the Northwest Territories, in particular. I know that in our Teacher Education Program that issue is one that was highlighted. So the teachers are expected to be conversant and able to teach subjects around treaty. I think that it wouldn't stand as a subject alone. It is a key part of the social studies curriculum. It's up to the local community to make sure that the school recognizes that that's what they want. If they don't feel that there's enough emphasis being put on it right now, the local control that is offered through the district education authority would allow the local residents to ensure that more emphasis is provided on time for teaching that in the classroom. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I agree with the Minister that it's up to local control; however, sometimes this control falls under the Education Act, which is also the responsibility of the Minister and shared by the divisional education board. My question is that the land claims and the treaties should be a core subject in the schools, regardless. It should be, without question, supported by this government in terms of being a core subject. Right now, it's an option. We run into many barriers that do not put this type of issue into our schools. Our children should be learning it. My question, again, when or how could his department give us something that would say the land claims and the treaties are a core subject like math, reading and arithmetic, that our children will start to understand? Because that's something they're going to live by in the future. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 242-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Issues In School Curricula

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, there's no intention to say that the studies of treaties have to be a core subject. I would agree with the Member, that the study of treaties has to be a core piece of the

social studies curriculum. I believe that it is now, and if there is evidence that it's not being taught well in some regions, then that's something we can look into. We can make sure there is an understanding that there is an expectation in the curriculum that those subjects will be covered. Thank you.

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

Question 243-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've got a few more questions, before we reach the end of question period, for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Having listened to the answers that I have been provided with today, it seems like the responsibility bounces back and forth between the delegated authority and the Executive Council. Mr. Speaker, I don't see, exactly, where that responsibility lies, and it's not spelled out clearly in this policy that I see here before me. I think it's incumbent upon the government, so that everybody knows, and everybody is singing off the same song sheet, that we have a policy that everybody can see, and that this government appears to be transparent, open, and accountable, which, right now, as the policy states, they're not being quite that way. Mr. Speaker, my first question, I guess, would be, was the contract that was sole sourced in Fort Simpson negotiated at the government's insistence, or was it at the proponent's insistence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 243-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the office space in Fort Simpson was one that we were requested, by the Department of ITI, for office space. We looked at what was available in the community, with the knowledge of our staff, and went out with the process we had in place. So all I can take from what I've been provided for information, is that once we looked at what was available, we proceeded on the track that was used, that being sole sourced. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The time for question period has expired. I will allow the Member to have his supplementary questioning. Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 243-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Minister for his response, and I'd also like to ask the Minister whether or not the government was lobbied by the proponents. I'll ask that, Mr. Speaker, as one question, and then I'll ask one more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 243-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we are lobbied on a number of fronts to try and secure office space, whether it be here in the capital, or in communities. In this case, the situation of office space was required, a timeline was given, and we looked, with our staff, to what was available, and went down the path of sole source for that space requirement that we deemed was available, and appropriate, for the community. Were there calls from the successful proponent in this case? I'm not aware of any direct calls. I know I wasn't contacted directly, or had letters written to me, or meetings set up, for space requirement in this area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 243-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one more question. I'd like to ask the Minister if he knows who the proponents were, in this case, and whether or not they have any extraordinary influence over this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 243-15(4): Government Office Space Contracting Authority

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm aware of who the successful proponents were, and, no, they don't have any extraordinary influence over this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 54-15(4): Letter From Fort Simpson Chamber Of Commerce Regarding Sole Sourcing Of GNWT Office Space

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a letter here from the Fort Simpson Chamber of Commerce to the Honourable Floyd Roland, Minister of Public Works and Services, regarding sole sourcing of GNWT office space requirements.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Tabled Document 55-15(4): Status Report – Protection Against Family Violence Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Status Report - Protection Against Family Violence Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Tabled Document 56-15(4): Proposed Energy Conservation Action Plan And Background

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Proposed Energy Conservation Action Plan and Rising Energy Cost Background. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Tabled Document 57-15(4): Hay River District Education Authority Expanded Financial Responsibilities

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents: Hay River District Education Authority Expanded Financial Responsibilities.

Tabled Document 58-15(4): Petition To Alter The Governance Structure Of The Hay River Education District

I would also like to table a petition to alter the governance structure of the Hay River education district. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 8-15(4): Energy Costs And Overall Cost Of Living

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the government present a viable comprehensive strategy to address energy costs to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at a public meeting in November 2005; And further that this strategy present both long and short-term mitigating measures, possibly including: subsidies for low income households, harvesters, and other renewable resource workers, and subsistence hunters; energy conservation measures; efficiency initiatives such as promoting the use of wood-generated heat; lobby efforts for federal assistance for NWT residents, such as reduction or elimination of the federal goods and services tax; and opportunities to work with our sister territories; And further that the government present a viable comprehensive strategy to address the overall cost of living in the NWT to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at a public meeting in January 2006; And further that this strategy include both long and short-term mitigating measures to address the high costs of essentials such as food, utilities, housing and transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 7-15(4): Appointment Of Conflict Of Interest Commissioner, Carried

MR. MENICOCHÉ: WHEREAS the resignation of Edward N. Hughes, QC, as the Northwest Territories Conflict of Interest Commissioner, effective November 30, 2005, will create a vacancy in that office on December 1, 2005;

AND WHEREAS section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, appoint a Conflict of Interest Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner essential to exercise the powers and perform the duties under the act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner, effective December 1, 2005, should now be made;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that pursuant to section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that Gerald Gerrand be appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner, effective December 1, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just say a few words to our Conflict Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to thank Mr. Hughes for his service as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the time does not provide for a full listing of Mr. Hughes' accomplishments in his long and distinguished career. Mr. Hughes is an officer of the Order of Canada. In addition to his work as Conflict Commissioner with the Legislative Assembly and Ethics Councillor for the public service of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Hughes has been a distinguished lawyer and jurist, a deputy attorney general in British Columbia, and Conflict Commissioner for both British Columbia and Yukon. He has also chaired commissions on contentious issues in Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon, including the APEC inquiry in British Columbia.

Mr. Hughes has been a chief federal negotiator on land claims negotiations, and, in British Columbia, he was chair of the Taskforce on Legal Aid Services, and chair of a committee involved in justice reform, gender bias in the justice legal system, and a member of the Canadian Bar Association's Standing Committee on Equality.

In 2002, he served as chair of the BC Tri-annual Judicial Justices' Compensation Committee. I will not list them all today, but suffice it to say the list of volunteer organizations that Mr. Hughes has given his time to is as impressive as the accomplishments of his professional career.

Mr. Speaker, while Mr. Hughes is a renowned expert on issues of conflict in Canada, it is his professional and practical approach to the job that is most impressive. You always felt comfortable going to Mr. Hughes, to ask his advice on how to arrange your personal affairs to ensure they did not conflict with your professional duties.

Mr. Speaker, we were very lucky that Mr. Hughes chose to take on the position of Conflict of Interest Commissioner in this Legislative Assembly, and I would like to thank him, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and, personally, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, for the work he has done for us over the years.

With that, I say to Mr. Hughes, thank you, mahsi cho, merci, thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my voice of support for the motion. In so doing, I will pass along my appreciation to Mr. Hughes for the service he has provided me. The Premier said it very well, when he described the sense of confidence that we must have in our senior officers and advisors to the Legislative Assembly, and perhaps no one more so than the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. That is the office that we need to go to when we feel we may be out of step, or we know we are out of step, and we receive information on how we can bring ourselves back, not only to save our own reputations, but for the good of this institution.

It is a very essential service, one that we must have absolute confidence in, and the recommendation to see Mr. Gerrand from Saskatchewan take over is one that I support, and I look forward to the continuation of the level of confidence and service that Mr. Hughes has brought to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say "Happy retirement," to Mr. Hughes. I have known Mr. Hughes for some time, prior to my coming into the House. I was very happy when I heard that he was fulfilling the role of Conflict of Interest Commissioner, because of the high regard I have for Mr. Hughes' integrity. He pushed me along when I was considering a position in the House here. We talked about it. I want to thank Mr. Hughes. The next commissioner has some huge shoes to fill when Mr. Hughes leaves.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Huge shoes!

MR. YAKELEYA: Huge shoes to fill, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mr. Hughes for bringing the level of confidence and credibility to this House that he has, as Mr. Braden has pointed out. That is a big credit to Members. I want to thank him for his role in our lives as MLAs. I want to thank Ted, personally, for helping me, in terms of my direction in life. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to speak to the motion, and offer my thanks to Mr. Hughes for his tenure as our Conflict of Interest Commissioner. I know I was probably one of his more complicated, and annoying, clients, when it came to disclosure time, because of my previous life. But he was very patient with me, as I tried to gather all the information on an annual basis for him, and I thank him for that. He certainly is a person that we hold in a great deal of regard and high respect. The fact that he recommended the person to follow him, makes me feel very confident that we will survive without him. Thank you, Mr. Hughes.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to speak in favour of the motion, and make a few comments about Mr. Hughes. Like the Member for Sahtu, I have known Mr. Hughes for quite some time. Actually, I think I met Mr. Hughes about 50 years ago.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Whoa!

HON. CHARLES DENT: That's right, I said 50 years ago.

---Laughter

There was a period of 30 or 40 years that our paths didn't cross, but I was certainly aware of his work, particularly in the commissions of inquiry, because I knew his brother very well, Mr. Bill Hughes, who is also my uncle. He spoke to me often about what Mr. Hughes was doing. He was very proud of him.

I thought, Mr. Speaker, it would be appropriate for me to say some words, because I have been a Member of this House since we had our first Conflict of Interest Commissioner. In fact, our first Conflict of Interest Commissioner was a group of commissioners. It was like a committee. It was quite challenging, at times, to work with them. Over the years, I have worked with a number of different Conflict Commissioners, and I have to say that Mr. Hughes, in my opinion, has been the most professional.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

HON. CHARLES DENT: He was always thoughtful, and very careful to ask those probing questions that need to be asked in order to make sure that we have our affairs properly in order, so we can assure the public that we aren't in a situation of conflict. So as has been noted already, Mr. Hughes is leaving huge shoes to be filled, and I am given some comfort that he has recommended Mr. Gerrand to replace him. Therefore, I will be supporting this motion wholeheartedly, and I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Hughes.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to speak in favour of the motion, and to express my fond farewell to Commissioner Hughes.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that I own so few things. I own no companies, and my conversations with Mr. Hughes, with any conflict of interest issues, lasted no more than five seconds. I always stayed around to talk to Mr. Hughes about some other things, and he's always been so kind.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I think we were very fortunate to have Mr. Hughes take this appointment to come this far north. That gave us all an opportunity to have a close working relationship with someone with such a distinguished background and accomplishments.

Mr. Hughes, for me, personifies the distinguished, learned gentlemen that we all get a chance to meet once in awhile. He is very kind, and very humble and unpretentious. He just has a way of making you feel very special, even when you know what he has done, that he knows so much more than you. He's just unbelievably accomplished.

I just want to say thank you to Mr. Hughes, and I wish him a lot of success and happiness in his retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. Mr. Hughes has been an important icon to this Assembly. It almost seems funny that we have to vote in favour, and that we are all in favour of voting in favour of letting him go. I think we should just vote against the motion and we can keep him forever.

---Laughter

How does that sound? Mr. Hughes' wife may not be too happy with that. She'll be calling us later, I guess.

As we all know, Mr. Hughes has shepherded us in many ways. I want to thank him for being there for myself, and other Members, with gentle kindness on the issues, as Ms. Lee just pointed out. I just want to say thank you. We are a better Assembly with his advice, and we have all walked with greatness and shared a moment with him. Thank you, sir.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. I will allow the Member for Nahendeh to make final comments on the motion. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion, I will be supporting it. It's an opportunity to, once again, say thanks to Mr. Hughes. As a new Member coming in, he helped explain the big mystery of the Legislative Assembly to me and paved the way as to how I conduct myself and do my business as a Member of our Legislature. I would like to thank Mr. Hughes for that.

I currently sit as a Member of the Board of Management, and we have lots of dealings, almost on a daily basis, with

Mr. Hughes. On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to thank you for helping us there and working with us. It's because of his wise counsel, and his good advice, that we are where we are today as the Board of Management, and myself as a Member.

So, once again, thank you, Mr. Hughes, on behalf of all of us. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. 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

---Applause

Thank you, Members. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Motion 6-15(4): Establishment Of Electoral Boundaries Commission, Carried

MR. RAMSAY: WHEREAS section 3(1) of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act prescribes that an Electoral Boundaries Commission be established within two years after the day fixed for the return of the writs for the 2003 general election;

AND WHEREAS section 2(2) of the act requires that the commission shall be composed of a chairperson and two other members appointed by the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make such a recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner that the Honourable Justice John Z. Vertes be appointed chairperson, and Mr. Eddie Erasmus and Mr. Rod O'Brien be appointed members, of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to briefly speak to this motion in the hopes that when the commission starts its business, I will read the record of their appointment, and I want to make a suggestion as a Regular MLA, for the record. As they go about doing their good but complicated work, that they consider not increasing the size of government. We should hopefully be maintaining the 19 seats, and no more. We are a very small jurisdiction, with some of the smallest constituencies in the country, next to Nunavut. The cost of our government is very expensive. As we listen to the debate in this House, and the request for day care money, and the request for chipsealing, and the request for housing, and the multitude of requests that we get on a regular basis, I

don't think anyone in the Northwest Territories outside of this Assembly would say what we need most, above all those other things, is more politicians. It's a very expensive proposition. We are 19 Members for 42,000 people. That is, in my opinion, more than adequate.

If we have trouble making a quorum in our committee meetings, it's not because of function, or because we don't have enough MLAs or Cabinet Ministers. It's a function of everybody showing up on time to do the work that's required of them as Members of this Assembly.

I am very glad that we have such an august panel that's being struck, but I want to have on record that I have always been a proponent of the fact that 19 is enough to do good government in the Northwest Territories. If we did a poll, I would bet my paycheque that it would be overwhelmingly against any more seats in this Assembly by the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the motion. I believe that this commission's work is completely independent, and we're just giving them the power and authority to do the work that they're required to do, under the legislation that we passed. I don't know if we even have the authority to set limits on that. I have a little bit of difficulty speaking about committee attendance, and such. I don't think that has anything to do with the mandate of this commission. I think this commission is now being given power by this Legislature to do what they have to do, and hear from the people, and if any Members of this House have anything to say about the makeup, or the number, or how many representatives, I believe they are free to appear before the commission and speak as such. So I don't want there to be any notion that this motion is, in any way, speaking for or against the number of seats. I just want to make sure that there's no misunderstanding out there, because that's the impression that I got, from listening to the previous speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. I'll just remind Members to keep their comments to the motion. 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

Thank you, Members. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of Bills. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Tobacco Control Act

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order.

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

---Carried

Bill 16 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of Bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 13: An Act To Amend The Financial Administration Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

---Carried

Bill 13 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Territorial Court Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

---Carried

Bill 12 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Bill 14: Public Airports Act

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 14, Public Airports Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 15: Court Security Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 15, Court Security Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Public Colleges Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 17 has had first reading. 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, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Madam Chair, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order; it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Education Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Motion is on the floor. 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 4 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 Accountability and Oversight committee at adjournment today.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 25, 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
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
 - Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
 - Bill 14, Public Airports Act
 - Bill 15, Court Security Act
 - Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act
 - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement
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 25, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:09 p.m.

