



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**15<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, October 27, 2005**

Pages 611 - 652

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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### Speaker

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(Yellowknife South)  
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*Minister of Industry, Tourism*  
*and Investment*

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(Great Slave)

**Hon. Charles Dent**  
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*Minister of Education, Culture and*  
*Employment*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Status of Women*  
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*Intergovernmental Affairs*  
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(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**  
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*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*  
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(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)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, October 27, 2005****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the House after a long, hard, productive day yesterday. I would like to remind Members that the second language in the House today is French. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 60-15(4): NWT Council Of Sport And Recreation Partners**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, last October, we tabled an implementation plan for the proposed Northwest Territories Council of Sport and Recreation Partners in this Assembly.

Members will recall that this new umbrella structure was proposed to achieve a number of goals:

- We wanted to create a forum where all communities and stakeholders will have input into the development of the sport and recreation system in the Northwest Territories, and to ensure that every region and community has the chance to benefit from programs and resources;
- We wanted to find ways to improve the coordination of program delivery for sport and recreation; and,
- Most important of all, we wanted to streamline the system to reduce duplication of administration so that we can put as much funding as possible into delivering programs.

I am pleased to report that implementation is proceeding as planned. Last spring, a Nomination Review Committee, made up of representatives from the major sport and recreation partners, invited nominations from the public, community governments, aboriginal governments, and other stakeholders. Based on their recommendations, we appointed members to the council, and they held their first meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

As outlined in the implementation plan, this first year is a transition year for the council. Members have tackled the business of developing a corporate structure and business planning process. At their second meeting, which was held last month, they began the important work of developing a strategic plan for the organization. They have also begun meeting with key partners, including government departments, to discuss areas of common

interest and how we can work together. In short, excellent progress is being made to achieve the vision we set out, over a year ago, for the council.

Another initiative underway will bring all the partner organizations together in one administrative building. Municipal and Community Affairs has been working with Sport North, as the lead organization, to complete the technical analysis to determine if this is a financially attractive venture. We have given Sport North approval to proceed with this project and hope, in the near future, to be able to announce that all sport and recreation partners will be housed in one building. This will allow them to consolidate administrative and other functions, leading to savings which can be put back into program delivery.

Mr. Speaker, after many years of review and discussion, we are very pleased that the council has been established, and that we are moving forward with plans to enhance program delivery and to create a more integrated sport and recreation system.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge all the partner organizations who have committed much time and energy to this process:

- the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic;
- the Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association;
- the Mackenzie Recreation Association;
- the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association; and,
- the Sport North Federation.

Their active involvement has made this vision a reality. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing further updates to the Members as the council's work evolves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement On Fall Greetings To Constituents**

**MR. BRADEN:** Merci beaucoup, Mr. Speaker. It's been a busy session, a very productive one in many areas, and, in other areas perhaps not quite as productive as some Members might have liked, but our business goes on.

My message today is for my constituents as we close a summer season in the North and go into the winter. We are reminded of so many things that we do enjoy that are

unique to living in the North and in Yellowknife, so many of the winter recreational pursuits, in our business and in our volunteer organizations, and I wanted to wish my constituents all the best with those. I want to remind my constituents that with Remembrance Day coming up in a few weeks, Mr. Speaker, and in this, the Year of the Veteran, as we should every year, make a special effort to commemorate the fallen and those who have sacrificed for our country and our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am also reminded of one of the great northern events that will be coming up next year, the Arctic Winter Games, to be hosted in Alaska. I want to wish all those athletes, volunteers, and coaches, all the very best in their endeavours. I understand the regional competitions are going to be starting up in the very near future, so we are already underway to another exciting season of Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to leave my constituents with the very firm and clear message, that one of the messages at the very top of my agenda and other MLAs' has been the future of the residential treatment program for young children here in Yellowknife. That is a project that is still at the top of my agenda for those staff and those families, who have pursued that, and certainly for the 700 people who signed the petition for that great endeavour. Their project remains very much alive on my agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. I want to remind Members that Members' statements are to be on one topic only. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Member's Statement On Collection Of Unpaid Fines For Traffic Violations**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have made a commitment to speak during this session about an issue that has affected a number of citizens recently here in the city of Yellowknife who, for various reasons, haven't paid traffic fines. Handcuffing homeless mothers and throwing them into jail for three days is just not a good way to collect fines, Mr. Speaker. As a recent Supreme Court ruling has shown, this practice is actually illegal.

This was unbeknownst to the City of Yellowknife municipal enforcement division, as they have been arresting people for the past nine years for unpaid fines. As we understand it, the City of Yellowknife has instructed its municipal enforcement officers not to act on any further warrants for committal arising from municipal bylaw or territorial legislation. This is the right thing for the city to do, Mr. Speaker.

In light of the recent decision, the Territorial Court will not issue a warrant for committal until a judicial hearing takes place. A summons will also have to be issued and served on the person affected before the hearing can take place. Issuing and serving a summons is a time-consuming exercise, Mr. Speaker. On average, it's estimated to take one-half hour to three-quarters of an hour, and each hearing will take an equivalent amount of time. For fines in the range of \$20 to \$200, it's just not a prudent or a cost-effective means of collection.

I also feel that the Department of Transportation has an obligation to the people of the Northwest Territories to advise them, in writing, prior to the expiration of their driver's licenses, or the expiration of their registration, especially given the fact that licences, Mr. Speaker, expire every five years and people can often forget about renewals.

The Department of Transportation has to make the necessary legislative or policy changes required to facilitate outstanding municipal and territorial traffic violation fines being registered with the motor vehicles registry. To me, this is just a commonsense approach of letting people know they owe fines, and it is an effective means of collection. When an individual would go to renew a licence or registration, they would be notified that they have outstanding violations. Without paying the fine, they could not renew registrations or licences. Mr. Speaker, given the recent court decision, this is something the Department of Transportation has to get to work on immediately. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Issues Raised On Behalf Of Tu Nedhe Constituents**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislative Assembly will be adjourning for a few months after today, and I would just like to briefly summarize some of the important issues that have been raised on behalf of my constituents, and to remind some of the Ministers of their commitments.

I am going to start with the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services and Environmental and Natural Resources. I will be looking forward to receiving a comprehensive review of the delivery of health services in Lutsel'k'e and Deninu Kue before the next session. I look forward to a favourable response from the federal government on the continuation of the Hook Lake Bison Recovery Program possibly being funded through the National Wildlife Disease Strategy framework agreements.

The Honourable David Krutko, Minister Responsible for the Housing Corporation and the Power Corporation. There are just too many housing issues to mention, and I think the Minister knows what many of those concerns are. The Taltson hydro project is also part of his portfolio, and I encourage the Minister to continue with open dialogue, and regularly communicating to the Tu Nedhe residents the Taltson hydro expansion progress, the updates, and the opportunities.

The honourable Minister McLeod. I would like to see the property assessment and taxation issues resolved by the end of this 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, in cooperation with the Department of Finance. Transportation concerns are being addressed, but it seems like expediency is achieved only if the essential transportation links are cut off; something to keep in mind.

Youth issues, recognizably, one of the most important concerns in the small communities, but never seem to be

on Cabinet's radar screen; something the Members on this side of the House will continue to raise awareness on.

The honourable Minister Roland. The Finance department definitely has its work cut out for it, to address our quickly fading fiscal forecast in the wake of the recent announcements from Treasury Canada on corporate tax dollars the GNWT thought they had been entitled to receive, but have over-calculated on, resulting in significant surplus reductions in our budget.

The honourable Minister Dent. Nice to see that the Student Financial Assistance Program is making changes to better accommodate students' needs, but a lot more has to be done, especially for post-secondary funding arrangements based on per capita for small communities. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker and mahsi, colleagues. Back to the Honourable Mr. Dent. Income support and day care have to be reprioritized, refined, and refinanced. I am confident that income support will survive the department's recent fiscal woes, and will continue to deliver these essential services, along with the new responsibilities, quite effectively.

The honourable Minister Bell. Community justice funding is still inefficient, and on-the-land justice programs should be...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Could you conclude your statement, please.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Building community justice to capacity requires more dollars, and the benefits surely outweigh the additional costs to this government.

Industry, Tourism and Investment. What can I say, other than that there are some accountability issues and a low level of tourism dollars being allocated by this department, but things are moving along and seem to be in good hands.

Lastly, the Honourable Joe Handley. Devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations are big ticket items, but we have to continue to support land claims groups and develop comprehensive strategies to work towards self-government implementation measures which will be a valuable tool as more claims are being settled. I applaud Intergovernmental Affairs' initiatives with regard to the Northern Leaders Conference, which the Northwest Territories residents are embracing as a good forum to express collective concerns and build better working relationships with this government.

In summary, Mr. Speaker...

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

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** In summary, I look forward to working on these and many other issues with our Cabinet colleagues, and Regular Members, to ensure the residents of the Northwest Territories and my constituents...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve, for your statement. Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Thank you.

---Applause

Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

### **Member's Statement On Library Services In The Tlicho Region**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker...(English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, libraries, as centres of lifelong learning, do make a difference in the lives of children. Libraries have a special mission to young children and the parents, to encourage the love of reading and learning, and also greatly improve the education of our children and the quality of life for our citizens, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the students of the Tlicho communities of Behchoko, Gameti, Whati, and Wekweeti provide limited library services to the children and ad hoc services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Tlicho Community Services Agency sees school libraries as an important part of school programs. They developed partnerships with southern universities to bring co-op programs to the library students to properly organize and catalogue the collection. But that is not enough, Mr. Speaker. These libraries typically close after school hours and during holidays. Students don't even have the opportunity to go to the community library to read, or even sign out books, Mr. Speaker, or spend time after school in a learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, Behchoko is the largest Dene community in the NWT, yet we do not have a community library. A library in Behchoko could play a vital role in the community, and in the region. The library should be a place where students go to do their research projects outside of class time, Mr. Speaker. Students should also have access to community learning resources for research on things that personally interest them, Mr. Speaker.

The entire community is feeling the effects of not having a community library. The library was extensively used by the community in general, and would provide a healthy and productive environment for our youth, Mr. Speaker. Having a library in Behchoko would serve as an important resource for the entire Tlicho region. A community library would also help maintain a history and a culture of the Tlicho Nation.

Mr. Speaker, people in Behchoko want to work with the Department of Education to identify partnerships. Currently, there are proposals to locate a new library in Behchoko in the sportsplex, which is currently empty. I will have questions later, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

### **Member's Statement On New Chief Elected In Jean Marie River**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to congratulate Mr. Stanley Sangris, who has been elected as the new chief for the Jean Marie River First Nations.

---Applause

Mr. Sangris is no stranger to politics and has served previously in his home community. I wish him the very best in his new endeavours in serving his people, his community, and a special blessing to his family.

I took the time, Mr. Speaker, to phone Chief Sangris last night. Immediately he began by asking what this government is going to do about stockpiling the avian flu antiviral medicines, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

So I immediately conveyed to Mr. Sangris, "Since you went straight to work, I look forward to working with you on this and many other issues." As well, Mr. Speaker, he spoke about health, and that is very important to small communities like Jean Marie, and it has always been an issue for them, like the access to health and the delivery of health services. I look forward to working with Jean Marie on this and the many concerns that Chief Sangris has in his new mandate. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

### **Member's Statement On Creation Of A Seniors' Secretariat**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to speak about the need for a seniors' secretariat, which we are going to need in due time. Some earlier and some way, way, way later.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, what the seniors need is to have an access to government programs so that when they go to the government, they can get this type of service.

However, Mr. Speaker, right now, these programs are scattered across departments like MACA; Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; and the Housing Corporation. We know how, at times, we seem to get into the mode of playing ping pong, back and forth with departments. It is important for seniors to express their concerns and interest to government at a single point.

In other jurisdictions in Canada, Mr. Speaker, they have senior secretariats to provide a single entry point to government, so that they can respond to the elders' and the seniors' needs and issues. The secretariat can aid in finding solutions to either big or small problems that are presented by the seniors they serve. The most critical issue, I think, Mr. Speaker, is accessibility. Providing better access to government programs is an important rationale to hang the sale of point of entry to the secretariat.

The coordination of programs and services for seniors can help focus government policies on priority issues. Mr. Speaker, important priority areas include offsetting an increase of expenses that seniors is faced with as they get older. The rising costs for seniors are a great concern here in the Northwest Territories, especially because there are so many cases where seniors are living alone and depend on income support for daily living.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, addressing the need of our seniors and elders in the Northwest Territories requires this government to coordinate plans and programs for, and in partnership with, all the responsible departments. I believe that having a seniors' secretariat to turn to for support and direction could be a positive government initiative. They have to listen to, and be more responsive to, the concerns of the seniors. Mr. Speaker, I quote from the late Louie Taniton, from Deline: "We put you up there as an MLA. Don't forget us. Take us with you." Mahsi.

---Applause

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

### **Member's Statement On Allocating Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to speak about allocating Liquor Commission revenues to treatment programs.

---Applause

Each year, the GNWT earns a net profit of approximately \$20 million through the NWT Liquor Commission. Each year, this profit is used and drafted into the general revenue funds.

Mr. Speaker, it is a reality that many social problems in the NWT are a result of alcohol abuse. The GNWT profits from the sales of this substance. I am not suggesting that the GNWT not see a profit of the sale, or the control, of alcohol. If the GNWT did not, then someone else would be receiving a profit. But God forbid, if we ever subsidized it in a failing program.

What I object to, Mr. Speaker, are that profits from the sale of alcohol are not directly funding any programs to the solutions of these social problems that it creates. That is the issue I have.

Currently, our economy is booming, as we all know, and it stands to continue with this trend. As we all know, this leads to more money in people's pockets, and for residents sometimes translates this into increased social problems. That is a difficult and an undesirable problem in a strong economy.

The NWT, in particular, is in a difficult situation. As we all know, our financial arrangement with Ottawa is such that, even while our economy is booming, this doesn't mean we have easy access to funding for programs to help mitigate the social impacts.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a creative solution. What I propose is that at least a portion of the net profits from the Liquor Commission revenues be earmarked specifically for treatment programs. Out of the \$20 million of profit, I am sure we can find a reasonable percentage to help,

over and above annual money going to treatment programs. That is not an unreasonable suggestion, nor an unreasonable mandate, to taking care of our people. The impact of such a move may be unclear at this time because no one really knows how this would spin out, but it certainly would show that we are doing something. We would actually finally be linking the cause of this problem to solving some of the effects it draws out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Finance Minister will have my lucky questions of the day. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Addiction And Treatment Programs For Youth**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in every community that we visited while doing our pre-budget consultations, we heard from people that believe that this government needed to do more to address alcohol and drug addictions and their underlying root causes. Everyone had solutions or suggestions. We heard that we need to build more treatment centres. We heard that we don't need to build anything, that we just need to use the resources that we have in a better way. We heard that communities could do a better job than government in addressing the addiction problems of their residents. The one thing that everyone agreed on was the need to work together to come up with a made-in-the-NWT solution to addictions problems.

---Applause

The one thing that I would like to see the government concentrate on is ensuring that young children do not develop addictions, and, if they do, treatment programs are available to get them ready to lead a full and productive life.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is usually a period in a young person's life, usually in their teen years, during which, if we can protect them, basically, from themselves, and guide them through those years, at some point they come out on the other end with a much different outlook on life.

There are many adults in our society who have addictions. Some of them are pretty committed to their life of addictions. Mr. Speaker, I guess I am starting to be of the opinion that we need to stem the tide where it is entering into that group of people. I think that we can keep dealing with the group of addicted persons, but, in fact, if we don't stop and intervene at a young age, the problem is going to continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, part of popular culture today idolizes a wild lifestyle, and young impressionable minds think that, in order to be cool, they should do drugs and live outside the envelope of normal society. Mr. Speaker, we know it is not cool to do drugs, and it is stupid. We ask ourselves, what would possess a person to try something like crack cocaine; something that can ruin your life, destroy your family and even kill you?

We need to encourage a positive lifestyle. We need to encourage role models to come forward and talk to young

people and children about the benefits of education, sports and volunteering. We need to make it clear that a young person's dreams and visions for the future can be shattered if they allow themselves to become addicted to drugs and alcohol. Some of this damage, Mr. Speaker, is irreparable. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my statement with that. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On A Year In The Future**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is about what I might read about, opening a newspaper one year from now.

---Laughter

Premier Joe Handley has returned from another long devolution negotiation with Ottawa. When asked if we are now a province, the Premier replied, "The Government of Canada will not budge, so we are now a country."

---Laughter

"I will be known as President Handley. Everything here now belongs to its rightful owners."

Mr. McLeod and Mr. Roland issued the following statement from Mr. Krutko's trailer, "We are happy to hear President Handley saying the pipeline will now be built because, if not, we, in the Beaufort-Delta, were prepared to pass our gas somewhere else."

---Laughter

Mr. Pokiak was absent and was last seen with a wheelbarrow and chainsaw leaving Tuktoyaktuk, and heading for Inuvik, and saying, "If you want something done, you have to do it yourself."

---Applause

Mrs. Groenewegen, after unsuccessfully trying to have her new country named "Hay River," was appointed secretary of state. She has just completed her first international visit. The United States is now a colony of the NWT, and ANWR is off limits.

---Laughter

Mr. Hawkins, in his attempt to become the first person to drive a Winnebago from North America to Japan had to abandon his trip after sinking the motor home 30 feet from shore.

Mr. Dent, seeking an easier line of work, has decided to take up ultimate fighting, with his first match scheduled for next week.

Meanwhile, Ms. Sandy Lee, looking for another place to release her energy, is hoping to become the first woman to come back as a man in the ultimate fighting octagon.

---Laughter

It is rumoured that her first opponent is known as C.D.

Mr. Menicoche, frustrated with the lack of ferry services, spent this summer, along with Minister McLeod, rowing vehicles across the Liard River. Once a winter road opens, he plans to move to Nahanni Butte to teach aerobics classes with granny in the new gym.

---Applause

Mr. Bell and Mr. Ramsay, after doing the math and splitting their \$2 million lottery win, were vacationing in Fiji, where they met Mr. Braden, who is now a member of that assembly.

---Applause

He tells them that they have no snow removal equipment, and he plans to make that his mandate.

---Laughter

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. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Yakeleya, upset because he was unable to get his ice roads paved, is now trying to start his own country, with himself as president.

---Laughter

He had hoped to have Mr. Villeneuve join him, but Mr. Villeneuve was too busy in his new position as chief of Lutselk'e.

---Laughter

Mr. Delorey, along with teammates, Mr. Lafferty and Mr. Miltenberger, curling in the Briar, called Alberta on a point of order, and was successful in having sixteen points removed from Alberta's score. As of press time, it is now 0/0 in the third end.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, although I have taken the opportunity to poke some good-natured fun at myself and colleagues, after being here for almost a year, I can assure residents that we all take what we do very seriously. We are able to do this, Mr. Speaker, because we live in a country, because of our veterans' Remembrance Day is...November 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day, and the House will not be sitting, so I would like to recognize the contributions of our veterans today. I would encourage everyone to remember and show their support to our veterans, not just on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Speaker, but every day. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Tuktoyaktuk To Inuvik All-Weather Highway**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise, once again, to raise an issue that is important to the

Beaufort-Delta region. Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members in this House know what I am speaking about. I am talking about the proposed Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik highway, but, more specifically, to source 177; the big, exciting song called A Long and Winding Road, Mr. Speaker. I just need a 22 kilometre access road to a much needed gravel source.

Mr. Speaker, this road is in alignment with the proposed Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik highway. The Inuvialuit Final Agreement has a clause, where government and the Inuvialuit must identify gravel sources nearby to the Inuvialuit communities. Mr. Speaker, gravel source 177 is the closest gravel source to Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, I understand ConocoPhillips intends to construct an airport like Parsons Lake. Why? Public Works Canada identified a new airport location for Tuktoyaktuk which is approximate to source 177, and along the proposed Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik highway. This government should sit down with ConocoPhillips and plan the shared airport.

Mr. Speaker, the Beaufort-Delta residents need some economic opportunities. If this government can provide \$5 million for each of the next three years for the project, it will bring economic opportunities to the Beaufort-Delta. Mr. Speaker, this project will create employment, training, and business opportunities. People in the Beaufort-Delta rarely depend on income support, Mr. Speaker. If this access road to source 177 does not proceed, many residents in the Beaufort-Delta will be forced to rely on income support; therefore, Mr. Speaker, costing the government more money.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge this government to find and allocate the funds to start the 22 kilometre access road to gravel source 177, but, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the start of the Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik highway. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Apprenticeship Programs**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about another file being actioned and being reported by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. That has to do with the problems with the Apprenticeship Program, Mr. Speaker. We are well aware of how important this program is in terms of training our young people to become part of the skilled workforce that we desperately need. But when you see the difficulties the apprentices and the sponsoring employers have to go through, you wonder if the Minister gets this point, Mr. Speaker.

A constituent of mine enrolled in the plumbing/gasfitter apprenticeship program at the Thebacha Campus for January 2005. Two weeks before the start date, he was informed that the course was cancelled. His employer managed to get him into the same program at the Fairview Campus. He finished that and assumed that he would continue on with the second year this fall, and made his personal plans accordingly until, of course, ECE interrupts and says they will not approve such funding for him to go to Alberta because the Aurora College and Thebacha Campus will offer it, but not until next January and he will have to wait for that. Given his previous

experience, Mr. Speaker, this apprentice was not sure if he could rely on going to this program in January. In responding to my inquiries, the Minister tells me that he is doing everything he can to guarantee that second year is available, but he cannot guarantee that we can have these programs available for the first year.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder how the Minister could expect that the students, who are forced to start their Apprenticeship Program outside the NWT, should be easily made to come back to the North, Mr. Speaker. Deciding who takes a post-secondary education is a very important decision. It takes lots of pre-planning and organizing personal affairs. I believe it is a competitive field, and if we are going to succeed in this Apprenticeship Program, we have to make sure that the first year program is available in the NWT, so that students start at the NWT campus and finish at the NWT campus. If they can't offer the first year, then the Minister and his department should not interfere when they make their own personal plans accordingly. They should be assisted to finish the program where they started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

#### ITEM 5: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on October 17, 2005, regarding student financial assistance.

1. How many people in the category of northern residents not schooled in the Northwest Territories have applied for student financial assistance from the government in each of the last three years?

Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am reading the wrong question.

---Laughter

It may be a good answer, but it was the wrong question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Go ahead with your return to oral question, Mr. Dent.

#### Further Return Question 217-15(4): Employment Insurance As Income

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Braden on October 21, 2005, regarding employment insurance as income. Mr. Braden asked why the Workers' Compensation Board has not accepted multiple rulings from the Appeals Tribunal regarding employment insurance in pensionable earning calculations.

Mr. Speaker, currently, the Workers' Compensation Act allows for the Governance Council to disagree with the rulings of the Appeals Tribunal and to ask the tribunal to reconsider its decision. Under the WCB Act, the Appeals Tribunal is required to consider policy when making decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

#### ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Norma Ann Jeremick'ca originally from Whati, who is here as part of my constituency. Beside her is Jonathan Simpson from Wekweeti. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 6, 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 one of our Pages that have been here, a constituent of mine, a young lady by the name of Courtney Northrup. I know she is not in the House right now, but she is a taller girl with curly hair, so if you see her, say hello to her. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, in my Member's statement, I spoke about the percentage of net profits that should be linked to treatment of alcohol or substance abuse. I pointed out the \$20 million that we receive as a net profit. Would the Minister of Finance please inform me if any suggestion of this nature has ever been made, or has ever come forward, to be considered that we start considering a piece of the percentages of the profit and use that to help solve the substance abuse problems we have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

##### Return To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of using the funds through the sale of liquor products for targeted spending in the area of drug and alcohol rehabilitation is something that has been discussed in many forums, and many times in this House. The response I will give is going to be very similar to what has been given before, which is the fact that we, as a government, already spend more than what we put back into general revenue from the sale of alcohol products into dealing with the problems we face as a government with drug and alcohol abuse. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give the Minister credit for that. He is quite right. We already spend more than we probably do make in profit, but the fact is, in other places across Canada, they use the gaming revenues for their treatments of gambling problems. So, Mr. Speaker, it is about demonstrating that the problems -- and we are receiving profits from this -- should be dedicated to some of the solutions of the problem. Would the Minister consider going back and looking at this possibility? I know all the monies are going to be used to solve the whole problem, but would he consider going back and revisiting this policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the funds, as the Member pointed out, are transferred into general revenues. When we build our budgets, and the Department of Health and Social Services seeks funding for their programming, it comes out of general revenue so, in fact, we can say that that money does, in fact, go towards treatment of drug and alcohol problems. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no way I couldn't say that the Minister wasn't correct on that, but the fact is a few years ago this Assembly looked at putting a hotel tax dedicated to just tourism dollars. That never floated, unfortunately, but we could redirect this revenue to show how important this issue is, and the fact is, we may not be able to control the percentage in the sense of the actual dollars every year, but we can further demonstrate that we care about this problem, because good working programs don't have enough money. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister consider that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member is suggesting we put a new tax in place on liquor products and target that towards dealing with that, it's something we can consider, but, the fact is, because we already have funding from the sale of liquor products into general revenue, which then flows to the departments to run their programs and services, we are providing the funds we have available to us. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Well, I'll officially make it clear that I did not suggest a new tax, so I don't know where the Minister

got that. That's the Minister's suggestion, for the official record, not mine. Mr. Speaker, I'll just leave a quick question to the Minister which, quite simply will be, would the Minister put it to a public question during this consultation process that's going on to let the public decide if they think the liquor revenues are important enough to go to part of the solution of the problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 283-15(4): Allocation Of Alcohol Revenues To Treatment Programs**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times I can try to answer the question with the same response. The fact is, what we do have in place now is working. We do put funds towards the issues of drug and alcohol abuse in the Northwest Territories on a number of fronts. The Department of Health and Social Services, when you look at their budget, has more expenditures in that area than we would get out of the Liquor Commission. Thank you.

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

**Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. We had quite a lengthy discussion in the House yesterday about depots and the availability of places to which people can return their beverage containers that are used after November 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to ask Mr. Miltenberger, in how many communities today are there approved depots in place that are scheduled to commence on November 1<sup>st</sup>? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we currently have nine community depots in: Yellowknife, Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Behchoko, Fort Resolution, Nahanni Butte, and Gameti. I also understand Lutselk'e has now agreed, as has Trout Lake. Then we have discussions going on with Tuktoyaktuk, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Paulatuk. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just for clarity then, every regional centre in the Northwest Territories has a depot at least, and also many of the small communities as well. In the communities that are regional centres, particularly those on the road system, is it anticipated and understood, to your knowledge, by the residents of those communities in that

region that they can bring their recyclable beverage containers back to those regional centre depots to receive their deposits back? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been working to make sure we communicate all the particulars of the program. We've given the Members the information, and we've been making the case that there are three processing centres that receive bottles or beverages, and then anywhere that there is a depot, anybody in the Northwest Territories, if they're travelling by road, or winter road, or by boat, whatever mode of transportation, can drop their beverage containers off at any community that has a depot. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make that point clear for the public, because the way the discussion sounded yesterday, it sounded like if you were in a community where there was not already a predetermined depot, that you had no way of getting your containers back. In fact, many people who are...A lot of people travel a great deal in the Northwest Territories. They come into regional centres for everything from medical appointments, to bingo's, to whatever. If they have a means of transporting them, they can bring them back there. That is the understanding of the depot operators, is that they will receive them from anybody in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

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

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

**Supplementary To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So in fact, right now, are there any communities that do not have road access, winter road or all-weather road access, to a community that has a recycling depot? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 284-15(4): Approved Beverage Container Recovery Depots**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the communities that immediately come to mind would be Holman, Sachs and Paulatuk. I

raised discussions with Sachs and Paulatuk, but there's been no final arrangement. Thank you.

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

**Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for Mr. Bell, the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. It relates to another fascinating bit of news out of the national scene today, Mr. Speaker, that the federal government is now looking at taking up a 20 percent stake in the Mackenzie Valley pipeline project. Potentially seen as a way of appeasing the proponent's demands for a different financial arrangement in this project, those fiscal problems are seen as a major barrier, right now, to whether or not this project goes through. My question, Mr. Speaker, is, does the Government of the Northwest Territories have a position on this amazing new development out of Ottawa relating to the pipeline? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also read, with interest, the story in the national media, and I'd have to say that, obviously, we're very happy that the federal government is sitting down with Imperial to have these types of discussions, and clearly looking at a number of creative options to mitigate risk for the project in general. That means all the project proponents, the producers, and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. That's certainly welcome news. Of course, we're not officially at the table in these discussions between the federal government and Imperial. We probably should be. I would suggest if there are issues being discussed of this nature, we may very well be supportive, and I think we are, but we need to know what it will mean for residents of the NWT if schemes are being envisioned that might see royalties forgone and equity interest accumulated. We would say that's an asset, or a revenue stream, that should rightly flow to northerners, that should rightly flow to residents of the NWT, and will, post-devolution. But clearly, we need to be involved in those discussions, and are happy that the discussions are underway. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**MR. BRADEN:** Yes, the Minister has certainly read my script on this one. If the problem that the proponents are having is that they want Ottawa to cut them a deal so that they get away with paying less royalties and taxes, just what does that mean for our stake in this? Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas belongs to northerners. We've been working very hard at getting a fair deal here. Now Ottawa is coming into this picture, let's connect the dots here. Does this mean that the Northwest Territories should be downscaling, or revising, our expectations of what we will see in the long term from oil and gas revenue? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** No, Mr. Speaker, I think when we look at these types of options, it would be our expectation that, for instance, if the federal government were to, in lieu of royalties, take an equity position in the pipeline, that that would become the equity position of all residents of the NWT upon devolution. So whether it's a royalty paid in gas, or a royalty paid in cash money, we would suggest that that's a royalty that needs to accrue to the residents of the Northwest Territories. So we may, in fact, be indifferent, but these are all possibilities, at this point. We're really not sure what's going on in terms of the discussions. We don't have anything official. We read the same news that Members are reading, and I think we would just suggest that we need to be at the table for these discussions. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to make sure that we have the fullest possible review of this. But we should be cautious, and I think I'm hearing that from the Minister. We should be cautious about welcoming this without a really good inspection of it. One of the parallels that we should be considering is that the federal government already has a major stake in the Norman Wells oil field. They have had that since the 1920s. This has been a major sticking point in terms of getting a share of that resource for the North. I'm wondering if there's a parallel that the Minister should be looking at in terms of that infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it may be the option that the federal government is proposing. We're not entirely sure, but the Member is right in that this has been a sore point for northerners for quite some time. In Norman Wells, I believe the royalties were foregone and there was an equity interest built up in the project. The federal government characterizes that as federal investment. We say that's revenue that belongs to residents of the NWT. I think the difference this time would be if that scheme is proposed, we would know the rules of engagement going in, and we would very clearly establish that that's our interest. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mrs. McLellan, has direct responsibility for this file. Will the government be approaching Mrs. McLellan to see that we can get a place at the table to follow this new development as closely as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 285-15(4): Federal Interest In The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first say that we've been very happy with the work that the Deputy Prime Minister has been doing on this file. I think media accounts, only short weeks ago, about a doomed pipeline, I think we can all see that that's not at all accurate. There's a lot of work going on behind the scenes. The federal government is doing a lot of work, as are the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, communities up and down this valley, and our government, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that our Premier will be in discussions very shortly with the Deputy Prime Minister, both to urge her to continue the good work that she's doing, and to indicate that we need to be involved in these discussions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**Question 286-15(4): Warrants For Committal For Unpaid Traffic Fines**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Transportation, going back to my Member's statement, from earlier today, where I was speaking about warrants of committal and how a recent court ruling by Justice Schuler says that a warrant for committal cannot now be executed without a judicial hearing happening first. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation if his department would be willing to give any consideration to linking the motor vehicles registry database with that of the fines registry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 286-15(4): Warrants For Committal For Unpaid Traffic Fines**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I guess the short answer to that is yes. This is something we've been working on, as a department, for a number of years now. I think we initially started working on how this could be made possible, in the year 2004. There was some concern over security of information, and who had access to that, and we were also concerned about having compatible systems between Justice and Department of Transportation. I think we've resolved those issues, and we are looking to implementing something early in the new fiscal year. I'm hoping that will be sometime in April. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 286-15(4): Warrants For Committal For Unpaid Traffic Fines**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the Minister and his department have done any work on what the cost would be associated with the court costs, versus what the cost would be to implement such a system at the Department of Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 286-15(4): Warrants For Committal For Unpaid Traffic Fines**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have been working on is a system that would allow us to have the Department of Justice electronically notify the Department of Transportation road licensing division that a person has an infraction on his record, and it would be red flagged so that when somebody comes in to renew their driver's licence, the staff person would be able to indicate to that person that he or she cannot renew her licence until they clear up the infractions. They would then have to go to the Department of Justice to clear up that account, or that fine, that had to be paid. We have not done any evaluation of what it would cost going through the court system versus what we have. That's not something that we'd be interested in. We are trying to set up a mechanism that would have people clear up their accounts, and this is one of the tools we would use to do that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 286-15(4): Warrants For Committal For Unpaid Traffic Fines**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear the answers from the Minister. I think this is an important issue that the department has to be paying attention to. Last year alone, there were over 400 warrants of committal, and it's expected, probably this year, it will be the same amount. I want to ask the Minister, why doesn't the Department of Transportation, today, issue renewal notices for licence renewals and registration renewal? I think that's an important function of the department: to let people know when their licences are expiring, and their registrations are expiring. I'd like to know why they don't currently do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 286-15(4): Warrants For Committal For Unpaid Traffic Fines**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say, with any definite certainty, when and why this service was discontinued. That's something we've been discussing internally. We looked at the merits of doing this, and it's also something we plan to incorporate back into our system where a person that has a driver's licence that will be expiring will be notified. So we're hoping that also to be part of something we bring on stream in the new fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland. I understand we no longer have a balanced budget. We're \$30...

---Laughter

...I wish it was \$30. Mr. Speaker, we're \$30 million short, despite the strength of our economy in Canada. Mr. Speaker, would the federal government have been able to claw back that \$30 million if we were not a province? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we were a province or territory, the fact is, the federal government does collect taxes on our behalf, and remits them to us. The situation we're in is as a result of the fact that there were less corporate taxes being paid in the year 2004. Whether we were a province or a territory, we'd be in the same situation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, we have a strong economy, and yet we are so poor, Mr. Speaker, that we lost another \$30 million. Surely if we were a province, we could control our own budget better than dancing to the tune of the federal government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I didn't hear a question there. Mr. Yakeleya, if you want to rephrase your question.

**Supplementary To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I said, if we were a province we would control our own budget. I want to ask the Minister what our fiscal reality would be today as a provincial government.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. That's a hypothetical question. If we were a province. I will allow the Minister to answer, if he wishes to give some comments on it. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the situation that we find ourselves in is more a result of our formula financing situation with the federal government. Provinces have equalization agreements with their jurisdictions and, as well, they have full control of development of resources and the royalty payments that they would be able to collect. In our situation, we are unable to do that. Our ability to mitigate some of the changes in our fiscal situation is limited because of our situation as a territory. There are other issues. If we were to go towards provincehood, on the financial side, there would be other issues we'd have to deal with, and right now, our arrangement, for the most part, depending on what the expert panel has, and if they're fairly close to what our formula financing situation used to be, is that we would find ourselves in a better situation in the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, what type of constitutional protection could we get in terms of becoming a province, versus a territory, for fiscal protection?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we'd face other problems beyond what we face right now with formula financing. The federal government does recognize, to a large degree, the difference we face here in the Territories. As a result, we get a higher per capita amount transferred to the North. Our argument is still that that doesn't adequately address the cost of living, the cost of doing business in the North, and that's something we have to continue to do, is build a business case to show the examples that we have concerns with. If we were a province and were into the equalization program, we'd probably find ourselves mirroring some of the smaller provinces in Canada right now, where their per capita is much lower. In fact, their debt situation is much higher than ours right now. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in terms of the protection and how we're being treated by Ottawa with this \$30 million, I want to ask the Finance Minister what type of support he's been getting, compared to the rest of the Finance Ministers across Canada, to get the Government of Canada to see that we are in a different situation in the Northwest Territories, and that we certainly need special consideration of our fiscal arrangements? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 287-15(4): Corporate Income Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the other jurisdictions we work with in the area of finance, as well as with other Ministers and their counterparts, have been favourable. When we bring our issues to the table, we show our business case, and in a lot of initiatives we do get their support, and they help us through the situations we're in, or the negotiation process. They include us in many of those discussions and recognize the differences. We do get their support on a lot of our initiatives. The big difference, Mr. Speaker, would be if we did get and when we do get -- I should say that -- when we do get a proper revenue sharing deal, we will then be able to deal with the situations we find ourselves in today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few days...(inaudible)...and complaining about the gas prices. The increase in gas prices is creating hardship to individuals and, more importantly, to hunters and trappers that rely on traditional food, Mr. Speaker.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** The gas price is going down.

**MR. POKIAK:** Some of these hunters and trappers have to travel 60 to 100 miles to search for wildlife. As I indicated yesterday, during Committee of the Whole, a five-gallon jerry can of gas is \$33 in Tuktoyaktuk, and I found out it's slightly higher in Holman, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for petroleum products. Will the government consider any rebate for the hunters and trappers? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the petroleum products division, we supply fuel to all communities that do not have a private sector. We do supply their fuel. Our involvement in those communities that we do supply fuel in, is to work within the fund that we do have. I gave an example of what we've tried to do with offsetting the cost of home heating oil by 10 cents a litre and using our stabilization fund to offset that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, Mr. Minister. I think the question I have is, how will the department assist hunters and trappers to make sure that they have reasonable prices so they can travel to get their traditional food? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the Department of Public Works and Services and our petroleum products division, we have no programs, or any plans in place, that would offset particular parts of constituents or people out there who still practice traditional harvesting. What I have done is talked with the Minister of ITI in that area, and he's agreed to look into that situation to see what may be done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate exactly when, having discussed it with the Minister of ITI, something will become available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the increased costs of fuel products across the North, and the increased costs of energy, we, as a Cabinet, have begun to do the work around that whole scenario. What the Minister of ITI has stated is, as we continue to do that work around that area, some of the scenarios that we're planning to bring forward can include looking at those areas where harvesters are particularly hit hard. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When can something come out from this discussion with ITI? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 288-15(4): Impact Of Fuel Price Increases On Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following the motion that was passed in this House, we hope to have something that we can present to the committee sometime in late November. Thank you.

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

**Question 289-15(4): Fort Providence Ferry Operations**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Transportation. I'd like to, first of all, congratulate the Minister for resolving the issues around the Simpson ferry. I realize it was slow in getting going, but once he got started on it, he was able to resolve that, and I think that's the kind of action that we like to see in this House. Mr. Speaker, my questions are with respect to Fort Providence ferry because we have been hearing about...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Ferry.

**MS. LEE:** ...some possibilities that there may be some labour disputes that might put this very important connection from Yellowknife to the rest of the world, or the rest of the world to come to Yellowknife, out of commission. I don't think we want to entertain any such scenarios. I'd like to know if the Minister can provide any information that could give assurances as to what the government is doing to prepare for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 289-15(4): Fort Providence Ferry Operations**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept that, the compliments from the Member. Mr. Speaker, the ferry at Fort Providence is running fine right now. The Member is correct, that the employees have been certified and have formed a bargaining unit. At this point, we have to let that process take its course, and we have our fingers crossed that we're going to have some positive conclusion to this. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 289-15(4): Fort Providence Ferry Operations**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that this is a situation where a lot of information is unknown, and the process has to take its place, but could I just get the Minister to make a commitment to Members in this House, especially Yellowknife Members and the Behchoko Member, that the Minister will be in touch with us to let us know the government's plan as the situations arise or the need arises, because we will be out of the House for the next couple of months. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 289-15(4): Fort Providence Ferry Operations**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of course, communicating with the Regular Members is one of my top priorities. I'll keep everybody informed on how things unfold. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Question 290-15(4): Housing Projects In Lutselk'e**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi. My questions today are to the Honourable David Krutko, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, just in reference to the eight single housing units that were a pilot project under the NWT Housing Corporation in 2000 that were supposed to be built, and constructed, and moved to appropriate lots in Lutselk'e. Just to remind the Minister that this project started in 2000 and, to date, we have four units that have been constructed and moved onto lots, but not one of them is yet ready for occupancy. We are almost five years into this project. I just want to ask the Minister, what does the Minister have to offer for this slow progress? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 290-15(4): Housing Projects In Lutselk'e**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have looked into this matter, and my understanding is that the community was only supposed to get four units, and they

ended up getting an additional four. The four units were part of the original proposal, and the four units that are presently being worked on using the local housing authority to conclude that work, so it is done locally, done in the community, and the dollars remain in the community. It is presently being handled by the local housing authority.

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

**Supplementary To Question 290-15(4): Housing Projects In Lutselk'e**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there are currently four that are being worked on today, but, again, it has been five years that they have been working on these projects. Why is there a sudden surge in letting the LHO take on this project? Who had it before the LHO? Who was sitting on it prior to the LHO? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 290-15(4): Housing Projects In Lutselk'e**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we have concluded four units which were part of the original allocation to the community Lutselk'e. There were an additional four units given after the original allocations were given. Because of that, the decision was made that the local housing authority would do this within their own forces and keep the work in the community. The decision was between the local housing authority and the regional office.

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

**Supplementary To Question 290-15(4): Housing Projects In Lutselk'e**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you. There are four units, right now, without any of them being completed, plus another four that are probably going to be coming down the road. I just want to ask the Minister, when can the residents expect these four units to be completed? I know the LHO or the Housing Corporation have project officers overseeing the construction and the move of these houses onto properties. When can the residents expect them to be ready for occupancy, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 290-15(4): Housing Projects In Lutselk'e**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping to have the units concluded by next summer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Indeed, Mr. Sangris, the new chief of Jean Marie First Nations, has

asked a very important question that we, as the government and Legislature, have not yet addressed; that is the avian or bird flu virus. I find it very ironic, Mr. Speaker, that the smallest community in my riding has asked the biggest question; a question that has global implications. What is our government going to do to wrap up preparations for a possible flu pandemic of this deadly bird flu strain H5N1? Mahsi.

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

**Return To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to encourage everybody to take advantage of getting their flu shot this fall and winter, which is recommended by practitioners and by public health people as a good step, in any event.

Doctor Corriveau, our medical director for the Northwest Territories, sits on the national board, and they have been working on what would happen nationally, should there be an event of this nature. He has indicated to me that in the Northwest Territories we are seen as a very low risk area, given our small population, the fact that we are off the beaten track, and we don't have a lot of contact with live poultry and other types of birds that are seen to be the potential carriers of this flu. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The fear that is out there in the public is still very real, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Minister can detail what, exactly, our government is planning right now. What kind of planning do we have? What are we going to do to inform the public about the possible avian flu outbreak or, in general, just to get the information out there to our public? Mahsi.

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

**Further Return To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The big point initially is to tell people that they need not fear, at this point. Yes, take precautions, get your flu shot, do all the things that you are supposed to do -- wash your hands -- do all the things that they learned with SARS, and all the things that they are recommending with the outbreak of the flu.

We have stockpiled some flu shots, we have had discussions with the authorities and the medical people in authorities overseen by Doctor Corriveau, that, should the need arise, we will have a plan that we will be able to move into place. We do offer all the current flu shots for the current flu season, as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess what is happening is that the people aren't getting this information. I think we are going to need to step up the campaign of getting information out, because this is very serious stuff. The greatest, biggest outbreak was, of course, the Spanish influenza of 1918, and that affected everybody in the whole world. That is the fear here, Mr. Speaker. Are any of our staff being trained in this particular issue, Mr. Speaker? They are saying in the media that the bird flu virus is very, very hard to diagnose as that particular strain of H5N1. What guarantees do we have that our people would not be misdiagnosed? Mahsi.

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

**Further Return To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The medical professionals have identified the Northwest Territories as a very low risk. We have some flu vaccine that we have stored. We are encouraging everybody to get their flu shots this year, take all the other common precautions that you would take. If somebody is feeling unwell, they go to their nearest health centre there -- the nurses and the doctors there -- to get a service. This is not an issue where we want to have people stampeding to health centres because they think, because they have been listening to the press, that this is an imminent danger for us up here in Canada. It has been diagnosed as low risk. We know that it is moving around. We know that it hasn't mutated to be able to go from human to human yet, as far as we know, and that the Northwest Territories is considered a very low risk area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That just begs the next logical question in regard to crisis management. What kind of crisis management teams do we have set up in our regions and communities to handle, particularly, medical emergency outbreaks that will affect all our people? Mahsi.

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

**Further Return To Question 291-15(4): Avian Flu Pandemic**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the SARS outbreak, there was a lot of attention paid to the state of the public health system in the country, including the Northwest Territories. A public health agency has been set up, and some protocols have been worked on. There were some very important reports done as a result of the SARS outbreak, with how best to proceed to deal with that type of incidence or occurrence.

As I have indicated, Doctor Corriveau sits at the table with all the public health people from across the country. He is

in contact with all the authorities. They have all been looking at their protocols, both within their facilities and how do we connect up as a system, and how do we tie into the broader Canadian system. So there is work being done. It is current, and it has been pushed along a lot by the SARS epidemic a few years ago, where we learned some very hard, but valuable, lessons. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 292-15(4): Tlcho Communities Excluded From Library Funding**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Last week, during the launch of National Libraries Week, the Minister announced funding for six new libraries in the Northwest Territories. However, this initiative dismisses my region entirely. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of ECE tell this Assembly how the decision to fund six new libraries in the NWT excluded all the Tlcho communities? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 292-15(4): Tlcho Communities Excluded From Library Funding**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important to note that the government was quite pleased to be able to find some funds to expand the libraries in the Northwest Territories. We were able to find funds to help improve community access in six locations. What we were doing was providing a small sum of money to help those libraries which are located in schools stay open in the evenings, by providing some assistance for salaries. It also requires the local community to take on some ownership and provide some assistance to make sure that happens.

There was a request for proposals, an application process that was undertaken earlier this year. All communities were invited to apply, to participate. We had the funding to work with six communities, so the six best applications that came in, Mr. Speaker, were the ones that received funding this year.

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

**Supplementary To Question 292-15(4): Tlcho Communities Excluded From Library Funding**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me what factors are involved in the department's decision-making process to establish a new library in each new community? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 292-15(4): Tlicho Communities Excluded From Library Funding**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this year's program, what we were looking for is a library that was already in existence in a school that wouldn't take any significant capital cost to make any changes to, so they could be operated as a community library. We were looking for a sponsoring organization to take on the operation of the library after school hours, to make sure the security was looked after. Then we offered \$16,500 to the community to assist with part-time salaries, so the library could stay open for awhile in the evening. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 292-15(4): Tlicho Communities Excluded From Library Funding**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, since Behchoko is the largest aboriginal community in the Northwest Territories, can the Minister commit to working with me, and the Tlicho leadership, over the next year to improve library services in the region, and develop a community library in Behchoko? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 292-15(4): Tlicho Communities Excluded From Library Funding**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to discuss this with the Member and the Tlicho leadership. Our libraries, in the Northwest Territories, are very much a partnership. The Government of the Northwest Territories assists communities with libraries, and I will look for partners wherever we can find them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The downtown of Yellowknife is my constituency, and I am extremely proud of that. It's where I live, my wife lives, and my family lives. Protecting the integrity of the downtown should be a priority of this government, and you can definitely see it's a priority of this city. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of WCB if he, or his Cabinet colleagues, had any role in the approval process, such as signing any specific documents, so that the WCB can purchase land for a potential new building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Cabinet had to approve the purchase of real property for the WCB to proceed with the land purchase.

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

**Supplementary To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard rumours out there that the new WCB building needs a lot of parking, in the range of possibly 80 to 100 stalls. Parking stalls shouldn't be provided by government, NGOs, or arm's length government businesses such as the WCB. Where does this come from? Can the Minister answer why we are providing parking for WCB employees on the public purse? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether WCB employees have to pay for their parking in the proposed building or not. That would be something I would have to ask the Governance Council to advise me on. I do know that the City of Yellowknife would have zoning requirements that would stipulate a certain number of parking stalls that would have to be built with any building that is built for office space in Yellowknife. I can't tell the Member whether or not the number that is proposed is above that number that is required. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't believe the viability of the downtown is being challenged in such a way. If Cabinet had to sign off an approval of them moving out of the downtown, I think that's just disrespectful to business that has invested in this community. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of lots that have been for sale for over 15 years, such as the Gold Range property. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear the Minister tell me today why the WCB couldn't have considered building a two or three-storey building downtown, and let their employees find parking just like every other employee downtown who parks either on the street or in private parking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Cabinet's role is to purchase land for the purpose of building a new building. It's not one to determine where that is built. The decision as to whether or not a building can be built in Yellowknife, as it properly should be, is determined by the City of Yellowknife, and their council, with the view to zoning requirements and good city planning.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confused more, then, why we have a Cabinet Minister in control of the WCB. If it's just a rubberstamp that they can go buy land, I don't know why we even bother. Mr. Speaker, I have heard the WCB wants to build a building right next to the Stanton Territorial Hospital because of access for disabled and injured workers, so they can get treatment. I have taken my own son to Stanton hospital while it's busy, and they say go to the downtown clinics because that's what they are there for. So we have just invested tons of money into Great Slave Medical Clinic...

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Yes, sir. Why are we building a building out near Stanton hospital when the downtown Great Slave Clinic would work just fine, and that we have already spent tons of money on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 293-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, it was to be close to rehabilitation services that are provided only at Stanton. A good number of the clients of WCB are involved in taking rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, the Member asks, why do we have a Minister responsible for the WCB? My actions are, as Minister responsible, for administering the act, not for administering the WCB. My role is one that I can make, or recommend, changes for the act, and I can make recommendations, along with the Minister from Nunavut, for changes to the board membership. The WCB is an independent entity, which is a non-profit insurance company basically, that provides insurance for our workers whose fees are paid for by the companies in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Question 294-15(4): Monitoring The Impacts Of The Closure Of The Hay River Remand Centre**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last May, I got a commitment in this House from the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Brendan Bell, to revisit the decision to close the remand centre in the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, in the community of Hay River, to see if the projected savings would be realized. The Minister also stated that he had instructed the RCMP, and the department, to keep tabs on the additional costs that transporting remand prisoners to Yellowknife would result in. We are now five months past that commitment, and I am wondering if the Minister could provide the House with the status of how that monitoring is going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 294-15(4): Monitoring The Impacts Of The Closure Of The Hay River Remand Centre**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I made the commitment. We have asked the RCMP to track the workload related to remand closure and having to send the highest risk remand inmates to Yellowknife. They have been doing that. We are tracking and monitoring that. We will certainly be able, at year's end, to provide the data to the Members of the House. The one obvious difficulty we are going to have is -- I can give you the information for this year -- it will be difficult to go back into years past because we weren't doing the tracking specifically of this issue. I am not sure we will have much of a baseline, but we will have one year of data. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 294-15(4): Monitoring The Impacts Of The Closure Of The Hay River Remand Centre**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole crux of my argument, and time, was that projected cost savings of \$267,000 wasn't a savings at all, because it was just costs that were going to be incurred by somebody else, for example, the RCMP and guards at RCMP detachments. I don't know how we are going to quantify, then, if the department actually saved \$267,000. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, the Minister could tell me that in the February sitting; we will then be more than three-quarters of the way into this one-year exercise. Would the Minister be prepared, at that time, to table some kind of analysis on how we are doing on our target of savings of \$267,000? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 294-15(4): Monitoring The Impacts Of The Closure Of The Hay River Remand Centre**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can provide that information, and we can have that discussion and make an assessment at that point. I think the February session provides a fair amount of time to do that analysis, and I am prepared to do that.

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

**Supplementary To Question 294-15(4): Monitoring The Impacts Of The Closure Of The Hay River Remand Centre**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if my assertions that there is no \$267,000 of savings turn out to be correct, Mr. Speaker, it would follow, then, that we would revisit the issue of the remand capacity in the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 294-15(4): Monitoring The Impacts Of The Closure Of The Hay River Remand Centre**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The premise, clearly, was that we would save money. We would have saved more money if we had laid people off. The plan was to realize savings through attrition, but my latest briefing note does indicate that the savings the department has calculated to August 31<sup>st</sup> is over \$100,000. I will have more complete data at that point in February, and we can have a discussion. Again, it was a projection. I think we need to be in the range, and in the ballpark, but I think we will be able to look at that information and have an informed discussion, and I look forward to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Can the Minister inform my people in the Sahtu the average cost of building a house versus the proposed Novel trailers? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now, roughly the cost of construction from the bids that we have sent out lately is somewhere in the \$260 range with regard to construction, and Novel is about \$100 a square metre.

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

**Supplementary To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said \$260 versus \$100, a house versus a trailer. Can you give us a total cost of a stick-built unit in the Tulita area, or Colville, versus what it's going to cost us to have these proposed Novel trailers in our communities? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cost has gone up in the Sahtu region with regard to the tenders that have been let. Last year, we were looking at somewhere in the range of \$220,000 for stick built, which is almost \$280,000 right now, based on the last tenders that were let.

With regard to Novel, we are hoping to have the selling cost at \$100,000 per unit.

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

**Supplementary To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the people in the Sahtu, based on the reports and the studies of the rates of getting homes that are at a satisfactory level...(inaudible)...In terms of having the houses meeting the people's needs, how many houses do you have to have in the Sahtu region to fill the people's needs? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now, we are doing rough estimates on some of the core needs. Right now, we are looking at the possibility of allocations. We are looking at demands of Colville Lake, 11 units; Deline, 7 units; Norman Wells, 90 units; Tulita, possibly 40 units. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I talked to some people in Colville Lake. I talked to some people in Tulita and Norman Wells. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Minister that the people I talked to support the Novel trailers that the Minister has proposed. Because of the cost of building units in this region, these trailers make sense. What can the Sahtu people, in our region and down the Mackenzie Valley, do to have some direct involvement regarding these trailers in terms of construction or any kind of development with the trailers? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 295-14(5): ATCO/Novel Project Benefits In The Sahtu Region**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole idea of this concept is to ensure we get maximum benefit in communities where the site development work will have to take place. We are also looking at ensuring land development will be done and the conversion of these units, which will be done in the community. They won't be done outside the communities, so those dollars will remain in the communities. Also, that way, we will be able to provide training to individuals after the pipeline is over. So we are looking at three or four years of employment after the pipeline is concluded. Out of that, \$180 million of this project will stay in the North, go into our communities, and benefit the people of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Time for oral questions has expired. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Then Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I hear a nay. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

#### ITEM 9: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on October 17, 2005, regarding student financial assistance.

1. How many people in the category of northern residents not schooled in the Northwest Territories have applied for student financial assistance from the government in each of the last three years?

The number of northern residents not schooled in the NWT who have applied for student financial assistance from the government was as follows in the last three academic years: 291 in 2002-03, 361 in 2003-04, and 291 in 2004-05.

2. How many of those have received student financial assistance?

The number of these students who received student financial assistance in the same years was: 156 in 2002-03, 180 in 2003-04, and 149 in 2004-05.

3. How many of those are enrolled in educational degree programs?

Of students not schooled in the NWT and receiving SFA, as per question two above, those who were attending a university degree program in the field of education numbered four in 2002-03, seven in 2003-04, and five in 2004-05. The number of students not schooled in the NWT and receiving SFA who were enrolled in any type of degree granting university program was 66 in 2002-03, 83 in 2003-04, and 69 in 2004-05. The numbers provided do not include those students studying at the diploma or certificate level.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### ITEM 10: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

##### Mr. Ramsay's Reply

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this has been a really short session, two-and-a-half weeks long. To be quite honest with you, I haven't had quite enough opportunities to get a few more issues in that I wanted to raise. I will bring them up under this item on the agenda today.

The first thing I want to start with is the Housing Corporation, and, Mr. Speaker, I want to let the Minister

responsible for the Housing Corporation know that we have to continue to push him and the Housing Corporation to seek every avenue to explore ways that we can foster northern manufacturers and local businesses here in the Northwest Territories when it comes to fulfilling the mandate, when they figure out their mandate, of the Housing Corporation. We have to look at the overall plan for housing in the Northwest Territories in the years ahead. I know the Novel project, I've seen that project myself, and I'm a believer in it; I think it will work, but, wherever possible, we have to include northern manufacturers. Yesterday, I tabled two letters from a constituent of mine, Energy Wall and Building Products Limited, here in Yellowknife. They were addressed to the honourable Premier, Mr. Handley. We have companies out there, Mr. Speaker, that are looking for opportunities, and I think it's incumbent upon the government to go out and consult with local businesses, northern manufacturers, and see where they fit into the housing picture, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to see the Housing Corporation Minister take that upon himself, and his department, to carry that through. It's very important.

The other thing I wanted mention -- there are a couple more -- has to do with Education, Culture and Employment. I'd like to really applaud the Minister. I think the changes he's bringing forward for SFA should be applauded. I think these are long overdue, and...

---Applause

Certainly, I know the Minister has gone to bat on those proposed changes. So I'd really like to commend him on that. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of things that ECE has done in the past year, and when the bureaucracy makes a mistake and my constituents have to pay for it, I don't take too kindly to those types of scenarios. There are a couple of them that have happened with ECE where, in one instance, the student filled out the forms according to the letter of the law, and then she went to school and came back and was challenged because SFA approved the forms as they were filled out, but she didn't take a full course load in the last semester and, subsequently, had to pay back a substantial amount of money to SFA. SFA just approved her paperwork. So it was a mistake, on the department's behalf, that they failed to recognize. She went through the appeal process, but still she's left to have to pay the money. Luckily that's one of the changes that is proposed on the SFA side of things. So I'm happy to see that, but, again, mistakes made by the bureaucracy, people should be held accountable for those mistakes, and constituents of ours shouldn't have to pay for those mistakes.

Another one that I'd like to bring up is, a particular constituent has had a real nightmare in dealing with ECE because they messed up on her tax slips early last year, and she didn't get the credit she was entitled to. Now she's going to school and because the department messed up on her tax slips, she got the benefit recently, and now she's not entitled to her day care benefit, Mr. Speaker. It's no fault of her own. It's the fault of the department for messing up her tax slips in the first place. Yet, they don't want to take responsibility for the fact that they messed up. To me, it's not the constituent's fault; it's the department's fault. Ultimately, she ends up paying the price because she doesn't get her day care subsidy. So it's things like that that really bother me, Mr. Speaker.

I know I've spoken at length about the situation at corporate human resource services, and the fact that people are messing up employees that have been with the government for 30 plus years, Mr. Speaker, and they're messing up their retirement. It should be the best time of their life, but it's not. They have to go back to FMBS, time and time again, to try and get some answers out of them. Luckily, in two of the instances that I've raised in the House earlier in this session, there has been some resolution, and I would like to thank the Minister for that. I know there are a lot of headaches, let's say, in corporate human resource services, where I know the Minister is working on some kind of resolution, but there are some things there that, before we move on with whatever CHRS becomes, I think some of those kinks certainly have to be worked out, Mr. Speaker.

I want to again say it's been a good time coming back into the House and speaking to the issues that are before the people and the government here in the Northwest Territories. I really do appreciate the two-and-a-half weeks. I think it's really a short session, and we don't get enough time to come back and debate the issues, and talk about policies that affect people. That's why I always look forward to session, and it's going to be here again before we know it, by February 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Speaker, and the government should be ready for some more action then. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 10, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to item 7 on the Order Paper, oral questions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays? I heard a nay? Item 11, petitions. Did I hear a point of order? Point of order, Mr. Hawkins.

#### Point Of Order

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a point of order. The person who nayed this was not in their seat, so it shouldn't apply. You have to be in your seat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### Speaker's Ruling

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To your point of order, the Chair heard a nay. The Chair does not have to identify where the point of order came from. I heard a nay when it was called for. So we still go on with the orders of the day. Item 11, petitions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to item 7 on the agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 7, oral questions.

---Applause

Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### REVERT TO ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to be the only one who was nayed on oral questions the first time. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and they are in regard to the Member's statement I made earlier today. Mr. Speaker, this issue was raised by the Member for Kam Lake before, where the government repeatedly speaks about the importance of the Apprenticeship Program and the role that it plays in training our youth to become skilled labour. There are a lot of obstacles that are not necessary, and that make this program much more difficult than it needs to be. One of the things that I pointed out in my Member's statement is the fact that the Apprenticeship Program, in conjunction with Aurora College wherever it is being offered in the NWT, is not always offered the first year that they should be, and often the notice is given out very late in the process. Then when the students find alternative programs and they have to go down south, often they are told that they can't get SFA if they go down south. I would like to know from the Minister what guarantees he can provide to make sure that there are first-year apprenticeship programs for these people that want to take them in the Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### Return To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, early this year, in January, as the Member pointed out, Mr. Ramsay and the Member had both brought this issue to me, where the college had cancelled the program at the last minute. I undertook to have the department work with the college to make sure that that sort of thing didn't happen and was able to assure both of them that the second year would not be cancelled again by the college. I also told them that I would continue to work with the college to make sure that first year would not be cancelled, as well. In fact, we have assured the Apprenticeship Board, and employers, that there will be no cancellation of either first or second year courses in this 2005-06 year.

---Applause.

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

##### Supplementary To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is well aware, because I've communicated with him by letter in this regard and the Minister wrote back. Why is it that he didn't communicate that to the Members on this side that had major problems with that? I would like to know from the Minister exactly in what way, and can we have a copy of anything that communicates to Aurora College that they will guarantee that the first and second-year programs will go on? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be happy to provide the Member with a copy of the communications, yes.

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

**Supplementary To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the apprenticeship students were very upset about was the fact that when the Aurora College Apprenticeship Program cancelled the program at the last minute, a student made his own arrangements with the employer to go take the program elsewhere, in Alberta. He was refused SFA and was told there were no exceptions. I would like to know from the Minister if he would direct his staff that, in these circumstances, they have to be considered for SFA programs? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that the college is guaranteeing not to cancel the courses, we need to make sure that we are supporting the college, because we are providing the funding for that course in Fort Smith as part of their base funding. If we also support the student to travel down south, then we're paying for it twice. So we have to, as a government, decide whether it's one way or the other. Either we support the programs being delivered in the South, or in the North. So at this point, with the guarantee from the college that the courses are going to go on, we're going to insist that students take the courses that are available at Fort Smith. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is important for the Minister, and the staff, to be prepared for contingencies, and there could be cases where the Aurora College, for one reason or another, is not able to provide that program. I mean, all colleges face that. If that happens, that student has to be able to be considered for SFA. Would the Minister consider that please, and have that flexibility? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, M. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 296-15(4): Access To Apprenticeship Programs**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to be clear, it's not student financial assistance that our apprenticeship candidates qualify for, but there is apprenticeship support for technical training. If the college can't offer a course within six months, then we will support the students to take the course in the South and the

typical supports will be offered to them. So, yes, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to look at those circumstances, where the college can't offer the training.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. With respect to the appeal process that we have in our system, or the lack thereof, Mr. Speaker, I continue to get inquiries that people have had their programming changed, or else they have been denied programming. Actually, what has happened is that they are getting approved for programming, and then, later on, the corporation changes their mind based on I don't know what criteria, and the people don't know where to appeal those decisions, Mr. Speaker. I have brought it up before in this House, that if a regional manager is denying people, or giving them a no answer, it's not right to be appealing to that same person, because that person already said no. So chances are, and history has shown, that the answer remains no. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, based on allocations for our programs, it is based on the dollars we do have at the time of these programs being the issue. In a lot of cases, people have applied for different programs and they have been accepted. Again, a lot of the decisions we make are based on information that's being held by the individuals, or information that we need from the banks. At that point, there is a period that has to take place for a review that will be done internally. Because of a lack of information, or because of a lack of resources, the decision is to delay those projects, and for the individual to reapply the following year. I think that's probably the frustration that a lot of people are feeling. They apply for these programs time and time again, and then, basically, think they have the programs, and then get a letter later saying that the programs have either run out of resources or that they cannot issue. So I think through this process there is an appeal process, but, again, it's appealed to the regional office, through the regional director's office in each region. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think that, fundamentally, the issue is that people do not have an appeal process, and we don't offer them any. I think with our Income Support Program, if we deny something or we change something in the programming, we actually include, as part of the letter, an appeal process. Okay, you've got so many days to do this, this is

who you contact, and it is typically an independent body. For example, the SFA Appeal Board is like an independent body. In the Housing Corporation, Mr. Speaker, I've been asking the corporation to set up something like that so that people know we have a fair and just system. That's all people are asking for, is fairness, Mr. Speaker. Will the Housing Corporation set up such a system?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we are changing the mandate of the corporation, and we are looking at the delivery mechanism that we use. We are looking at trying to streamline that process so that it is more sensitive to issues in regard to our clients. I think that, through that process, we can seriously look at that being something we can consider through the process of consultation that will take place in the next couple of months to redefine the mandate of the corporation. Also, we'll be looking at exactly how that will function. So I'm hoping to bring it back to the attention of the Member myself, and also through the process of public consultation on the mandate of the corporation, which will be coming forward in the next couple of months. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. It has been brought to attention that there is not a quorum in the House. Mr. Clerk, please ring the bells.

---Ring of the Bells

The Chair recognizes a quorum. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm so pleased to see that the government has a quorum. Just with respect to the appeal process and the NWT Housing Corporation, once again, how are people, today, going to get their questions answered in terms of appealing any decisions? Once again, I state for the record, that when they're appealing to the person that said no, we have to establish some kind of outside process, because people are just not being treated fairly. Those are the inquiries that I've been getting, Mr. Speaker. So how are we going to temporarily fix that system today? Give the people an appeal process, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, we are redefining the mandate of the corporation. We will be looking, and discussing with the Members, and also going out for public input in regard to the mandate of the corporation on exactly how we're going to function going forward. As a corporation, we depend on our programs, which are application-based. A lot of people just do not like the answer of being told no, but I think they have to realize the reason that you have application-based programs is to ensure that you are fair

to the individuals, but also ensure that the information that is being provided is accurate, and also that you are able to sustain those programs. So again, I offer to the Member that we will be reviewing the mandate of the corporation. We will be going out for public input from the communities, and also from the general public. At that point, that's when I believe the issue can be brought up, by looking at how the application programs are going to be administered, but also allowing for an appeal process.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to tell the Minister that a lot of issues in the regions, and the communities, don't have to be brought to the political level if we have an adequate and smooth administration system. The Yukon has it. They've got an appeal process built into their Housing Corporation guidelines, and that's what I'm asking the Minister to consider, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister look at establishing an appeal system? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 297-15(4): Appeal Of Housing Corporation Program Decisions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll take a look at what they have in the Yukon, and see if we can adopt something like that here. Thank you.

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

**Question 298-15(4): Criteria For Foster Parents**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in my Member's statement, I made the comment about the issue of the public health concern I have for children who are exposed to second-hand smoke. Subsequent to that, the Minister provided me with a position paper from the Ontario Medical Association, which talks about the very cutting-edge legislation and rules that are being put in place in other jurisdictions with respect to subjecting children to second-hand smoke. Mr. Speaker, for some time now, there are some parents in Hay River who have been asking me to raise this issue. I would like to ask the Minister, when assessing prospective adoptive homes, is whether the adoptive parents are smokers considered in the home evaluation and the suitability of the parents. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 298-15(4): Criteria For Foster Parents**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not as far as I am aware. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 298-15(4): Criteria For Foster Parents**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conjunction with that, when families apply to foster children in the care and custody of the Department of Health and Social Services, does the suitability of the home and parents take into account whether or not there are smokers in the home? There are a lot of precedent-setting cases now, which indicate that visitation rights, even of parents, have been denied on the grounds of smoking in front of the children. I would like to know if his department screens that aspect of foster parents. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 298-15(4): Criteria For Foster Parents**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Once again, Mr. Speaker, not as far as I am aware, but I will follow up with the department on both the issue of parents adopting and those applying to be foster parents, and I'll provide that information to the Member. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 298-15(4): Criteria For Foster Parents**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people in the Northwest Territories smoke, statistically, and we do have difficulty finding adoptive and fostering homes. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could foresee such a criteria being implemented, or included, in the selection criteria. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 298-15(4): Criteria For Foster Parents**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I will follow up with the department, and then I'll raise the issue with the department, and then we'll see. I know it is an issue. I've read the position paper that the Member referred to. I know that, especially with children in vehicles, the smoke is deemed to be 23 times more harmful than it would be just in a house, and it is an issue, and other jurisdictions are passing specific legislation. So I will consider that. Thank you.

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

**Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we're well aware that we're leaving this House today and will probably not come back until February, and the day care centre in Fort Smith is still due to close tomorrow. The Minister promised, in his answers, that Aurora College is doing everything they can to find services for those students. I believe this debate has always been

about the children and the parents that go especially to the Aurora College there. The information that I have, so far, is that only two parents, one of which is a student, has a place to place their child. So I would like to know what the Minister's latest information is, and what he's planning on doing for those who have not found alternative care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had my staff get in touch with the college this morning to confirm the situation. The college advised us that they believe that half of the children have found placements. The situation is, apparently, somewhat complicated by some of the students not being certain that the day care centre is going to shut down tomorrow, and I am advised that it would be helpful if that was clearly communicated to the students, if that is, in fact, the case. The college has, in the past, worked with the students, not just that campus, but all campuses, to help students find care for children. They are well aware of licensed and unlicensed care providers in all communities where we have campuses, and part of their regular function is to work with students to make sure that childcare is available. They will continue to do that. They are ready to be of assistance as quickly as possible, and they have even asked the instructors to talk to the students today, to make sure that they are aware that this kind of support is available.

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

**Supplementary To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if anything was revealed and made clear in this day care debate, it is the fact that the day care program that we have in this government is not sufficient. It is not adequate. The policy is very weak, and the Minister has made a commitment over and over again, in this House, that he is looking to revamp that. So I would like to know what his plans are in terms of improving this program so that we are not faced with another situation like this in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm hoping that we will be able to make changes to this program in this current fiscal year. The only way we can do that is if we can come to a satisfactory agreement with the federal government. Failing that, it would be my intention to move on improvements within our next budget. So we are aware that it's been three years since the program has seen any increases. The subsidies were increased by about 60 percent in the year 2002. It is time that we took a look at the program. There have been some minor changes made. I have, for instance, directed that the so-called cap be removed from our contracts, so that there won't be any limits now. Day cares will be

funded according to attendance, and they won't have to worry about exceeding a cap. That's one change that has been made, and we will look at others that we can make, to make sure that we're properly supporting parents and children across the North. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't respond to the information he gave about the situation being complicated and the Aurora College not really knowing exactly where these students are going to go, because I didn't want to argue on that point. I would just like to point out the fact that this is a very complicated situation, and I don't think the Minister is in a position to promise things, because the facts are just simply not known. So with respect to his policy change, could I get a guarantee from the Minister that, regardless of what happens with the federal funding, I believe there's still a responsibility on the part of this Minister to do something. So I'd like to know if he would be bringing to the Social Programs committee, an improvement to this policy within the next three months, prior to the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just told the Member one change that I think is an improvement to our day care operations. I have committed that if we're going to put extra money in, I will look for a way to do that in the next budget. But if there are other changes we are considering, I would be happy to share that with the Standing Committee on Social Programs, at their convenience.

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

**Supplementary To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister has indicated, the situation there is still fluctuating in terms of alternate care for children and parents, which I think should still be the most important thing. Could the Minister commit to leaving that day care open and have the operator have access to that facility, so they can wind down the facility if it closes tomorrow? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 299-15(4): Alternative Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the operator has said they are going to close that operation. We have taken that statement at face value. As I understand it, the college's lawyer and the operator's lawyer are discussing the facility or the space and how the lease will be terminated at the end of the operation. At this point, it's become an issue between those two, and their lawyers, in order to solve. I can't say

that I can intervene. As I understand it, the operator has said there needs to be a cash infusion in order to carry on. At this point, we are not prepared to provide that cash infusion for them to carry on, if that is what is required. If the operator submits all of the reports required, the department will expedite the consideration of any fees that are owing to the operator, and make sure any contributions are paid very quickly.

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

**Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions, this afternoon, are for the Premier in relation to his responsibility in intergovernmental affairs and a couple of balls that we have in the air with our friends in Ottawa regarding the community infrastructure fund, Mr. Speaker, about a \$500 million commitment that Ottawa has said will be forthcoming over the next 10 years if the pipeline goes ahead. Mr. Speaker, we also know this requires a piece of legislation. We haven't heard that this is in play. I wonder if the Premier could tell us what the status of this enabling legislation is for the \$500 million fund. Is it still in play in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member is referring to the socio-economic mitigation fund, not the community infrastructure fund. That's the \$500 million fund. Mr. Speaker, the legislation that is required is federal legislation. The federal House is sitting. The last word I had with the Minister responsible was that they were aiming to do it during this sitting. I don't have an update today on where that is at. That's a federal piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, this is a major piece of our expectation of how we can go ahead with this project. Do we have anybody or an organization on site in Ottawa working this file? I look to the example of the Tliche people who were very aggressive and on site in Ottawa playing this one. Are we going to be putting those kinds of resources behind this bill? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we have representation on the coordinating committee that is working out the terms and guidelines of how this fund would be managed. In terms of having a lobby group, or someone in Ottawa who is going to be putting the pressure on the federal government to move this along

quickly, we don't have any lobby effort there. The bill is more of a procedural bill in order to have the money released. So it's not something that we would get involved in lobbying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, another piece of critical work with Ottawa is the Northern Strategy. If memory serves me correctly on that one, we are looking at delivery of that document somewhere around the end of this year. Could the Minister advise on the status of the Northern Strategy? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, our staff have been working with people from the other two territories and the federal government on some of the deliverables that can be included in the Northern Strategy. Mr. Speaker, the one primary deliverable that we insist be in the Northern Strategy is an agreement-in-principle on devolution and resource revenue sharing. Mr. Speaker, I am in discussions with the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs on this issue. Hopefully we will have that resolved in the next week or two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, when should we anticipate, then, the unveiling of the Northern Strategy? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 300-15(4): Updates On Federal Funding Initiatives**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that we are able to have a signing of it, release of it, before the First Ministers' meeting the third week of November. However, Mr. Speaker, I must emphasize that I am only one player. There are two other Premiers and the Prime Minister who also have a say in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Before we go on, the Chair is going to ask for the clock to be stopped and call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:** We will resume with item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the WCB, and it

has to do with the proposal by the WCB that they are considering buying property outside of downtown Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how disturbing it is to hear from the Minister responsible for the corporation, that he is completely powerless and he doesn't really have that much influence over that. The Minister should be well aware, in the last Assembly, we passed many pieces of legislation regarding the WCB, one of which was making it possible for them to consider real estate ventures and such. Why does the Minister keep insisting that he is completely powerless to do anything, and, if that's the case, then why is he the Minister of WCB? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is absolutely right that the WCB is allowed to make this kind of purchase. They have to seek Cabinet approval for the expenditures in that magnitude, but once they have that kind of approval, then they may proceed. The WCB Act sets out the limitations of the Minister's power and his responsibilities. If Members of this House agree with the Members of the House in Nunavut to change that, then we can change the responsibilities. As things stand now, the Minister is responsible for overseeing the administration of the act, and the WCB and Governance Council are responsible for the operations of the board itself. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated exactly what the problem is in this situation. The Minister just stated that if the Members want to change the law about this, then they can. Is the Minister not aware that he is the Minister responsible for the WCB; that he has to bring the legislation forward, the Cabinet has to bring the legislation forward? We are not the Minister of WCB. When will he know what his job is as Minister on Cabinet?

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

**Further Return To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Member would like to read the WCB Act that sets out what my role is, and that is the role that I am fulfilling. I haven't heard a hue and cry from Members that they want to change the act. If a number of Members contact me and suggest that we should change the act beyond what is being proposed and, Mr. Speaker, we are proposing some changes -- the standing committee is considering a legislative proposal right now -- if there is some request for change, we would be prepared to consider that. Not that long ago, Mr. Speaker, we had a committee that travelled both territories to seek stakeholder comments on what the WCB Act should look like. The Act Now report is being acted on; half of it was

done by the previous government, and we are moving to enact the second part of the recommendations. Changes in terms of the authority of the Minister were not proposed.

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

**Supplementary To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are well aware of the fact that there is nothing on the table to change anything about WCB, and I don't know why he keeps saying that he is waiting for everybody else to do it. He says he's waiting for a hue and cry. I really don't want to go through what we went through with day care. Do I have to fight every issue like that? When the Minister knows it's this Legislature and this Minister that passes a law that allows the WCB to make those kinds of suggestions, why does he not talk to the WCB and discuss the impact of their real estate decisions on the city and the government's coffers, and public society as a whole. Does he not think he has any role to play in that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, in fact, I met yesterday morning with the chair of the Governance Council and outlined for him some of the concerns I had heard about the proposed location of the WCB. But at the end of the day, it is the decision of the Governance Council. At this point, as I understand it, they have made an irrevocable offer to purchase the land. As long as the conditions are met in that offer, the land will be purchased by the WCB. They didn't have to come to us and tell us where it was they were looking at buying the land. That isn't an issue in terms of our oversight for them. They sought permission from Cabinet to purchase land to build a building on, and that was granted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was at that meeting and I am sure I could have done exactly the same job as him: convey the concerns to the president of WCB. I don't expect the Minister to be a reporter or messenger. I expect him to be the leader. Having heard all the concerns he has heard in this House, outside of this House, from the community representatives, is the Minister willing to take this to Cabinet and see if he can consider legislative changes until the WCB establishes that this is a good deal not just for the WCB, but for the people, the city, and the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 301-15(4): WCB Office Complex Proposal**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be happy to take this issue to my Cabinet

colleagues, and I would invite any other Members who have an interest in this, to contact me and let me know their position, as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of ITI regarding the role ITI plays in harvesters' compensation model in the regions. I know ITI has a hands-off approach to the divisional harvesting groups, and to the industry, because that is a land claims issue. I want to ask the Minister the role the GNWT can play in facilitating a successful model for harvesters in our region. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the request. We would certainly be interested, and I know I have a very experienced and capable staff in the Sahtu region. We would be very interested in sitting down with traditional harvesters, and with industry, to discuss how we might move some of these issues forward and that might include, depending on what the parties are interested in, coming up with the harvesters' compensation model. Obviously, nothing can be binding, but if we can support the efforts of those harvesters and industry in finding some common ground, we are prepared to do that. I think it's a good idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the harvesters in my region will be pleased with the support it's getting from this Minister and this government. Because it's a sensitive issue, and I am not sure if we are breaking new ground because of the funding part of this harvesting model. Would the Minister consider having some form of policy or strong legislation in terms of having the GNWT develop a harvesters' model for all trappers or harvesters in the North? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because much of this, and the requirement for industry to consult with traditional harvesters and to, potentially, compensate those harvesters when development takes away some of their ability to earn a livelihood, because much of that flows from land claims and much of this consideration is being given and these discussions are being held during impact benefit agreements, we, obviously, aren't directly involved in much of that. But I

would say we are very interested in seeing a successful conclusion to those discussions and negotiations. Whatever we can do, although I doubt it would be binding, to help play a support role, I am prepared to lend the resources of the department toward that end. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had some research on the different trappers' compensation models. It speaks to it in the Yukon. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister -- because the Minister sort of has the dollars in his department, but the programs are being administered or run by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -- is this a good approach in terms of deciding to move one part of ITI's responsibilities into the Department of Environment and Natural Resources? Is this a good place to look at, in terms of having a one-stop-shop for the harvesters? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think along the ground right now, there is a one-stop-shop, but I would be interested in understanding -- the Member mentioned the Yukon -- how other jurisdictions are handling this issue. I can certainly, and I am interested, in seeing the information the Member has. I would certainly be willing to talk to my colleagues about this. I have already indicated that I was prepared to come to committee to have this discussion. We certainly believe it was the right decision at the time. Protocols have been established. I am interested in understanding and hearing that they are working well, or not working well. Once we have some of that information, this is a good discussion for committee, and certainly a discussion that I will then take back to my Cabinet colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the Minister in terms of time frame. Some of the industries are coming into the Sahtu this year. Some industries are coming in next year. Can the Minister commit to having his staff work with the Sahtu harvesters, and in any other regions, in terms of putting together a harvesters' compensation model that the GNWT could ensure some time frame along with the affected parties? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 302-15(4): Model For Harvesters' Compensation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am prepared to get to work in the Sahtu right now. I will send

that direction to the regional staff. I think, in any of the regions where harvesters are interested, or industries interested, in having us bring the parties together, that is certainly something that I will look at. But in the coming weeks, we can certainly have this discussion. I would like to have our regional staff, that know the players very well, lead the discussion and lead this work and come back to me with some recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 303-15(4): Exemptions From Jury Duty**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Brendan Bell. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the Minister has the ability, or the mandate, to affect this issue at all. I know he has probably received one written inquiry regarding it. It has to do with jury duty. Many times, when potential jurors are called, there is quite a large number that are called from which to select for jury duty. In the cases of sometimes certain businesses, or even in the case of teachers who are called, if you have a number of teachers called to report for jury duty on any given day, the number of substitute teachers, that pool, would be completely exhausted. I am asking the Minister, today, if he has any ability to affect whether or not the jury roster that is selected could avoid having quite a number of people from one particular profession, or one particular company? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 303-15(4): Exemptions From Jury Duty**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** That is a great question. I am not sure I have a very good response. I will certainly look into that and find out what can be done, but I think this is largely outside the Department of Justice and with the courts. Let me verify that and come back to the Member with something that is a little more researched. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 303-15(4): Exemptions From Jury Duty**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. I just want to ask the Minister if he, just from that brief preamble, has a good grasp of what I am talking about, of the kinds of problems that it causes for local businesses and institutions? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 303-15(4): Exemptions From Jury Duty**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate not only the disruption, but how critical this could be, especially if it is a larger trial and a number of people are being called in a smaller community. It is important, and vital, that day-to-day business and services

carry on. I am sure that can be taken into consideration. I am just not sure who has to make that consideration. I would like to discuss this further with the Member, make sure I understand the request, and then I will take it up with my department officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am interested in the outcome of the Cabinet meeting on the WCB issue. Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask another question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It has to do with the capital project for the new school in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, this has been on the books for at least a couple of years. We all know that capital dollars are scarce. I know that these decisions are made on need. Yet, after approving it two years ago, so far we do not see any movement in what is going on with this school. I know that the Minister has been doing nothing but just forming meetings and meetings and meetings, which he is prone to do on so many different issues. I would like to know why it is that, after this House approved a budget for a new school in Yellowknife, we have made no progress in the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the stakeholders in Yellowknife who are interested in school renovations or school projects agreed, some time ago, to work together to see if they could come up with a plan for how the money should be spent. That plan has been finalized. The final report is being presented by the consultant, to the stakeholders, today and tomorrow. I would hope that we will be able to move forward from those presentations very quickly. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to tell you, but I have been hearing that for the last two years. A good friend of mine told me, you cannot, as a politician, use meetings and proposals as an alibi for inaction. Mr. Speaker, it is completely inexcusable that, when how difficult we all know it is to get money for a new capital project, the Minister sat on this project for two years. Why is it that he insists on having meeting after meeting for a project that, obviously, was in need when you brought it to the House, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whether it is Colville Lake, Tuktoyaktuk, or

Yellowknife, we have a process that we follow. That involves consultation with the stakeholders. That sometimes takes some time. The stakeholders have concluded their work with the consultant. The report has been finalized. As I said, the final report is being presented to the stakeholders. This evening is the first meeting, and tomorrow is the second meeting. That is the first time that the stakeholders are seeing that final report. From that point, we will move forward.

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

**Supplementary To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister still hasn't answered the reason for his lack-lustre decision-making power in this regard. Mr. Speaker, what guarantee can he provide, when I have been hearing that this consultation group has been meeting for over a year now? We know, a capital project, in order to make it in the book, has to be in need right then and there. What guarantee can he provide that he is actually going to do his job, make a decision, and do something with this capital money that is on the books, before two more years?

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

**Further Return To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the capital money is in the plan. I am confident that it will continue to flow, as outlined in the capital plan. But we have to work with the stakeholders in Yellowknife to determine how it should be spent. It took some time to get the parties together to reach the agreement on what the report will look like. We have that final report now. I will have to review that with the stakeholders. We will then make a decision.

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

**Supplementary To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the stakeholders were telling him a long time ago what they wanted to do with that. Mr. Speaker, in the last review of the business plan, this money was delayed a year. Does he not feel responsible that the facility that was so needed in this city was delayed by a year because he cannot do anything without having 10,000 meetings on a topic?

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

**Further Return To Question 304-15(3): New School In Yellowknife**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The stakeholders involved all had a different opinion, when we got this started, as to what should happen. So, yes, I have heard a lot of different opinions about what should happen with the money. We are trying to move forward with exactly what the Member has requested, and that is a needs-based study to determine what is needed and where it should go. Thank you.

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

**Question 305-15(4): Respite Care Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a couple of questions today to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is in regard to the field of respite care. Mr. Speaker, many families in the North do their very best for family members suffering from various degrees of disability. In the case of a severe physical or mental disability, this can be extremely demanding. The field of respite care, meaning some service or some aid that can come into the home and give the family some support and some break from those duties, is shown to be very valuable. The Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Speaker, funded a pilot project, along with the Yellowknife Association of Community Living. This pilot project, I understand, is now expired. Some evaluation is underway. I am wondering if the Minister can apprise the House of the status of the respite care program. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 305-15(4): Respite Care Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the pilot project has been completed and evaluated. We intend to share that information, in relatively due course, with the Members. We have kept money in the budget to keep the program going until the end of the fiscal year. We have also put money in the budget to ensure that we can continue the program in Yellowknife, as well to try to address the waiting list, as well as have funds to try to start expanding this program outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 305-15(4): Respite Care Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to look forward to that evaluation and see just where we can go with the degree of future funding. Some 14 families have been served. I understand there is a waiting list of almost that many again. Can the Minister advise us if the level of funding proposed is going to be adequate to absorb this and, as well, build on it outside of Yellowknife? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 305-15(4): Respite Care Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is our hope. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 305-15(4): Respite Care Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, something that the department has been looking at very closely, and is certainly supported by the Standing Committee on Social Programs, is a broadly expanded area of home care services in general. Is this something that has some connection there, or is it a stand-alone program? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 305-15(4): Respite Care Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In its broadest definition, of course, they are closely related. They are programs that assist and help keep people in their homes, either themselves or with their loved ones who may be in a circumstance where they require respite care. But this program initially started because, a few years ago, the only program for respite was medical respite. It was quite narrowly defined and hard to access. There was clear recognition, in my mind, to the fact that there was also another broad area that had to be addressed, and that is social respite, and that families needed some help, that they were providing a service that we would not be able to afford to do, and if we wanted to, in fact, keep them in a position and in a state of mind and health to be able to do that, then we had to give them some support. That is why we moved to look at social respite. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during our pre-budget consultation, discussion on the high cost of living has been a huge issue during our tour. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, who is responsible for social housing. I would like to focus on the hardship that the current rents impose on my constituents in saving for a down payment, or just getting ahead in life. Mr. Speaker, some are paying upwards of \$1,400 a month and working half-time jobs. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation tell this Assembly how the rent scale for social housing is determined? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, social housing is pretty well for low income people. The way that we establish the rate scale is to basically take...if you pay \$32, we basically have a low income wage and also, as your wage increases, your rent also increases to the level of your wage. Once you exceed 30 percent of your income, you pay the \$1,400 a month because your wages...based on 30 percent of your

income is exactly what you are going to be paying, based on national building numbers that we use. I think that is how it is set. Social housing was supposed to be for social clients, for low income people. In order to balance that out, these are the levels that we use. It is based on the income. The higher your income, the higher your rent. The lower your income, you pay \$32.

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

**Supplementary To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these individuals I am referring to, community homeownership who are in social housing units, they are paying that amount due to the fact that one of the spouses is working a seasonal job that was making a hefty wage over the summer, and then they were on EI. It was based on the salary that was earned earlier. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, has the department been looking to other alternatives to reduce the rent scale to meet community needs, and help renters gain self-sufficiency? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the ideal situation for people who have a high income is to get into homeownership. We do have programs out there to deal with that. The Member is right. The way that we assess income is on household income. If one person is working in the mine, or someone has a seasonal job, you will see a major increase in the amount of rent that you are paying. The ideal solution to this problem is to get people into homeownership through our EDAP programs, or IHP programs, that we have in the department to ensure that people get into homeownership. That is the whole goal of the department, to get people out of social housing and allow the social housing to be there for social clients and the people making the high income, by way of working in the mines and that, to get them into homeownership. That is the goal we would like to meet, and what I have been trying to do working with the communities in the North Slave.

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

**Supplementary To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, one of the questions that I would like to ask the department is, we have community members that have been living in social units for a number of years, some of them over 15 years. I am wondering if the department is open to transferring these older units over to renters so that they can take ownership of the units. What the Minister is telling us here is that they qualify for homeownership, but some cannot qualify due to the \$200,000 houses, but these old units, 15 years or older,

could be easily transferred over to community members. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have such a program in the public housing initiative which allows the clients in public housing to take over the unit that they are in, based on an appraisal done on the unit, how many years they have stayed in it, and how much they have paid in rent. There is going to be an evaluation done within the corporation.

We have done appraisals on different units in different communities, so that we allow this program to take place. But if the Member knows of clients in this situation, I am willing to sit down with him, and with my department, to see if they are able to acquire those units through our Public Housing Purchase Program for the individuals in those units to purchase those units that they have lived in for a number of years, and we are basically doing the appraisal of those units. They will take it on at a lower rate, instead of trying to build a new stick-built building where you are looking at \$200,000 to \$250,000 mortgage. The program is there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the fact that the Minister is willing to sit down and talk about transferring these units. The Minister also touched on the evaluation being done. I am just wondering when that evaluation is being done for the Tlicho region. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 306-15(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do an assessment on most of our properties in all the communities. We have a rating of all of the social housing that we have, and we know exactly what the rating is. If they have a high rating where we are looking at, we can get that for the Member, for the North Slave region, but also realizing that we have to work with the clients to ensure that we are able to find solutions to these problems. I have been working with the Member and the Tlicho Government, and I am willing to do a tour with the Tlicho Government, along with the MLA, to all the Tlicho communities, and hope to be able to discuss these types of issues, realizing that...

---Laughter

With that, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the Member, and also giving him the information that he requested. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, working with the Member and the Tlicho Government and the people in the Tlicho and finding solutions to the Member's questions.

---Laughter

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Time for oral questions has expired. Item 11, petitions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 10, replies to opening address, on the Order Paper.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 10, replies to opening address on the Order Paper. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 10, replies to opening address. Mr. Dent.

#### REVERT TO ITEM 10: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

##### Mr. Dent's Reply

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are all politicians here, and I think that we understand that this august House is also a theatre, where the public and other members are the audience. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes made the point very well, earlier this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, like the theatre, not everything that happens here is straightforward and sometimes, without context, people might be left wondering what is really going on. Our process here doesn't always lead to opportunities to respond and provide that balance. For instance, Ministers aren't able to jump up and respond to Members' statements, or in oral questions, your time is limited and you must be respectful of people who aren't here and are unable to defend themselves. It doesn't always lead to a good understanding of what we are actually doing here.

I would like to take this opportunity today, Mr. Speaker, to address a few issues. This week, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lee has continually questioned me over the impending closure of one day care in the Northwest Territories; she has been very aggressive in her questions. In many cases, for me to provide direct answers, would have required me to get into a level of detail that I don't think would be fair in this very public forum.

As you, Mr. Speaker, and previous Speakers, have ruled, we should be very careful about referring to individuals in this forum, and I take the position that we should have similar respect for small non-profits, where all involved can be easily identified. I, therefore, felt somewhat constrained in responding to this issue. I have tried to take a broad view, agreeing that we need to improve our system and be fair to all operators.

Mr. Speaker, balance would be nice in how our responses are measured. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Lee asked the Premier about the possible closure of the day care, and he responded, and I quote from Hansard on October 18, 2005:

**MR. SPEAKER:** Point of order, Ms. Lee.

##### Point Of Order

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood that replies to opening address is an opportunity for Members to raise issues that are of concern to their constituents,

not an opportunity for a Minister to make statements about his responsibilities as a Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Chair will allow debate on the point of order. To the point of order. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know if this situation has ever arisen, where a reply to opening address by a Minister is being used as a forum to respond to his responsibilities as a Minister. I thought that he had to speak as the Member for Frame Lake, not as a Minister of ECE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the point of order, Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, a reply to opening address is for the Members to take the opportunity to address issues of concern to them. I would point out that the Member opposite has used her reply to opening address to criticize me in my position as a Minister. I have no other opportunity in this House to respond to that kind of criticism, than through the replies to opening address.

Minister's statements are required to be about one topic, and are limited to areas of responsibility of the Minister. I want to address the issues that the Member has brought up under her reply to opening address, and I am not aware of any other opportunity for us to do that in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the point of order, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I see it, under section 41(1), "Every Member may make one reply to the opening address given under Rule 33 and may speak on any matter." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### Speaker's Ruling

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the point of order. Thank you, Members. The Chair recognizes Rule 41(1). "Every Member may make one reply to the opening address given under Rule 33 and may speak on any matter."

It is my ruling, with regard to the remarks made by Mr. Dent, the Member does not have a point of order. Thank you, Members. Mr. Dent, you may continue with your reply to the opening address.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was about to quote the Premier's reply to Ms. Lee's question about day care on October 18, 2005, "Mr. Speaker, we want to be careful with what we do, that we are not providing an unfair advantage or amount of money for one day care that we are not giving to others."

Mr. Speaker, the position of this government is one that we must be fair and equitable to all people and all organizations in the Northwest Territories. That's our government policy. Yet, Ms. Lee has singled me out for criticism, and being incompetent for taking that approach in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, on another issue just today, the Workers' Compensation Boards across the country have been set

up similarly to follow the Meredith principles. These are a non-profit, generally, no-fault insurance companies responsible to their stakeholders, employees and workers. They have all been set up so as to eliminate political interference. That means the government can't get its hands on the accident fund or direct investments of the board. That's been found to be a good process across the country.

Mr. Speaker, here in the Northwest Territories, we have similar legislation. The Minister's powers are limited. The Minister is responsible for administering the act; the Governance Council for operations. Ms. Lee, today, criticized me for not interfering in the operation of the board. Mr. Speaker, in most jurisdictions, interference of the sort that Ms. Lee proposed would cost the Minister their position. I can just see the headlines now: "The Minister interferes to force WCB to favour one landowner over another." Of course, Mr. Speaker, there may be some who hope I make that kind of mistake and lose my position on Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of Education, Culture and Employment departmental staff. Their dedication to the delivery of education and training services is remarkable, and I appreciate their daily efforts. There are a number of significant initiatives this government has undertaken, and Education, Culture and Employment staff have participated not only in a cooperative way, but often taking on a leadership role. I am proud of efforts made by staff to be respectful of their clients, to hear the concerns of communities and parents to respond to needed changes to our support programs, and to be innovative and creative. Both at headquarters and in many of our communities, ECE staff should be commended for their efforts. I would also like to thank my ministerial staff for supporting me, trying to keep me organized, and rarely telling me what I want to hear, but often telling me what they think I need to hear.

Mr. Speaker, when a Minister is called incompetent, as I have been, there is an opportunity for that Minister to refute that accusation by words and actions. I have always been a fan of actions speaking louder than words, although I have been accused by many in this House of using too many words.

When the accusation of incompetence is repeated over and over again, it starts to become more challenging for staff who are working for the Minister, and are, perhaps, unable to understand the subtleties of political life. Mr. Speaker, I am not afraid to stand up and take the heat for decisions I have made. I also believe I have treated Members fairly and respectfully, even when we've disagreed. I am not afraid to admit when I have made a mistake, and I am not afraid to say that we need to continue to make changes to our programs.

There are some, though, who say, when we have a disagreement, that I become robotic or too polite. It isn't in my nature to get emotional when I disagree with somebody. I want to be careful to make sure that I am hearing what they have to say, that I can hear the arguments, and that I can respond rationally, because I don't think that getting caught up in an emotional argument is the best way to pursue things. Too often, when that happens, when somebody is accused of making a mistake, they dig their heels in and they are

afraid to admit a mistake has been made, and you wind up just fighting over that. I don't want to get into that position, Mr. Speaker.

I think we all have to be here to make sure we are representing our constituents across the Northwest Territories, and try to make this a better place for all. Mr. Speaker, I have often made this offer to the MLAs, and I will reiterate it here: my door is always open. I welcome your comments. I welcome your criticism. I welcome your suggestions for change to programs. I am prepared to work with you. I won't always agree with you, and we may not always be able to come to an agreement on how the program should change, but I will listen to you, and I promise to respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

##### **Tabled Document 73-15(4): Letter From Yellowknife Condominium Corporation No. 9 Re NWT Liquor Act Review**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a letter to table today. It's from the Yellowknife Condo Corporation No. 9, also known as Northern Heights. It's in the Yellowknife Centre constituency. They have a letter regarding the Liquor Act review. I would like to table that today as an information piece. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

##### **Tabled Document 74-15(4): E-mail From Rainbow Child Care And Development Centre Re Parents Who Have Found Child Care**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table an e-mail that I received this morning at 11:46 which gives an update of the placements for the parents at the Fort Smith day care. Only two parents have placements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

##### **Tabled Document 75-15(4): Annual Report On Official Languages, 2004-2005**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish table the following document entitled Annual Report on Official Languages, 2004-2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006; Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement; Committee Report 4-15(4), Report

on the Review of the NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2003-2004 Annual Report, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I call the Committee of the Whole to order. We have before us, Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No 2, 2005-2006; the Sessional Statement provided by the Premier; and the Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2003-2004 Annual Report. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Madam Chair, the committee wishes to consider Bill 11, Minister's Statement 24-15(4), and then Committee Report 4-15(4).

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Members, if I can direct your attention to page 3, we will stand down the preamble and the clauses, and go to the schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures, \$63.719 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$3.034 million, total supplementary appropriation, \$66.753 million. Mr. Ramsay.

**Committee Motion 8-15(4) To Amend The Schedule Of Bill 11, Carried**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to move a motion for Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, that the schedule to Bill 11 be amended to

- a) decrease by \$460,000 the supplementary appropriation amount set out in part 1, item 9, "Education, Culture and Employment", by
  - (i) striking out "9,397,000" and substituting "8,937,000" in the column entitled "Operations Excluding Amortization", and
  - (ii) striking out "9,397,000" and substituting "8,937,000" in the column entitled "Appropriation by Item";
- b) decrease by \$460,000 the amount set out in part 1 as the "TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES", by striking out "\$63,719,000" and substituting "\$63,259,000"; and
- c) decrease by \$460,000 the amount set out at the end of the schedule as the "TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION", by striking out "\$66,753,000" and substituting "\$66,293,000".

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Okay, the amended schedule now. Part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$63,259,000, part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$3.034 million, total supplementary appropriation, \$66.293 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Agreed. Thank you. Please turn back, then, to the clauses. Bill 11, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Preamble.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Agreed. Thank you. To the bill as a whole, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 11 is ready for third reading, as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Bill 11 is now ready for third reading, as amended.

Committee, I'm not sure the order that was intended. The Minister's statement is the next thing that your Chair indicated. General comments on the Minister's sessional

statement. Any general comments? If not, does the committee agree that the...Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I have three questions on the sessional statement that the Premier addressed to us, with regard to the community capacity building fund. The Premier told the House that the eligibility criteria are designed to create incentives for all governments, whether public or aboriginal, within a community to collaborate in developing and subsequently endorsing the community plan that benefits the community at large. I believe we heard that in many communities that were in the paper, that the governments were not able to achieve consensus on how to spend this money south of the lake and around the lake here. We have, since, heard the Premier say that, at some point, this government may have to just step in and make those decisions.

Mr. Premier, I believe that we're a long way from that, and I believe that it's incumbent on us to provide some help and guidance in this new type of decision-making, first. For too long this government has been making some of these major decisions, and this approach has really supported the communities in terms of making decisions, in terms of this funding. Because we have limited funding, we want to give the communities an opportunity. I know at some point we're going to have to make a decision if communities aren't able to come to a decision, which may be seen that this government is taking back 100 percent control of how communities are going to spend their money.

So I want to ask the question to the Premier, Madam Chair. Is he prepared to make every effort to assist the governments within the communities in their decision-making process, and can we be helpers in this process in helping him make that decision, or, at some point, are we going to have to take control back of that decision-making process? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Premier.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The money in the community capacity building fund is money that's available over a three-year period. The Member is right; that this is a new way of doing government. We listened to people; they said they wanted to have control over their decisions at the community level, and we made that available.

We will help them. We will help them primarily through the MACA staff, but also other staff, if they request it of them to help set their priorities and determine how they may want to invest the money. MACA is also offering to help them, if they need to have a facilitator work with them on determining those priorities. If they are not able to make a decision by April 1, 2006, then we could step in and decide we'll do it the conventional way; we'll set the priorities for them and determine how the money is going to be allocated. But, Madam Chairperson, we don't want to do that. We would sooner let the communities make the decision and we'll act as facilitators. But if someone can't, then, definitely we would just do it the regular way, and we would listen to their needs, and tell them where we're going to put the money.

Can we help? Yes, we can each help, Madam Chair. We can help as MLAs. I believe all Members have a schedule of how much money will be allocated to each of the

communities. We can, as MLAs, sit down with our community, talk to them about the criteria -- MACA has made that available -- and ourselves be facilitators on how this money can be spent.

Madam Chair, this is a new way of doing business, so it's new for all of us. But I think it's a responsible way that lets community leaders lead, let's them decide if they want to spend it on a capital project, if they want to spend it on helping to reduce energy consumption, or whatever it may be that's sort of in their control. They can choose anything, as long as it's spent to the benefit of their community. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you, Mr. Premier. Madam Chair, we've been told that we're in discussions with the proponents on the proposed Mackenzie gas pipeline, and that the federal government is to convert workforce housing used in the construction of the project into critically needed housing in our communities. Leaving aside for a moment that this housing might be received by the people in our communities that it is intended for, I wish to ask the Premier just how the feds are involved in this discussion. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe the Member is referring to what we call the Novel housing. Yes, Madam Chair, we are applying, through the Minister responsible for Housing, to the federal government for funding from the federal government to pay for a fairly large portion of this. We don't have a firm commitment from them yet, but the federal Minister responsible for the CMHC is definitely very interested in it. Our ask of the federal government is \$90 million, and our application is going forward soon. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. My other question to the Premier is, will the NWT Housing Corporation see a change in their funding from CMHC, and what are the financial and other impacts to such a deal with regard to the Housing Corporation in the North, and will there be an impact with regard to other departments, either federal or territorial, if this department goes ahead on the Novel housing through CMHC, Madam Chair?

I have one more question, if you want to do it now.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Sure. Go ahead, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just one more question to the Premier, and that will be it for my comments. I want to ask the Premier on the Bear River hydro. In his sessional statement, when the Premier was talking about how our economy needs to be diversified, due to the gas pipeline, the Premier mentioned something about the Bear River hydro project, and you were talking to the pipeline proponents about possibly using the hydro power for the compression stations, or station. As the

Member for Sahtu, you can appreciate that need to be able to talk to my constituents about such an important project in our region. Will he be able to tell me today about the types of discussions that are ongoing? What are the chances of this hydro project going ahead? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The funding for the Novel housing is funding that's above and beyond what the Housing Corporation would be eligible for through the regular CMHC programs. So this has no impact on the other money. We will still continue to apply through the regular programs.

Madam Chair, I might say that the federal government have indicated that they're going to be tabling, or unveiling, a new national housing strategy by next April. So it's hard to tell what the long-term impact is going to be on us, but I expect we'll get this money, plus we'll get our share of the other housing programs. So it should not affect us in any negative way.

The Minister of Housing and Minister of Finance are meeting soon with the Minister responsible for the CMHC, and, over the next couple of months, a lot of this will become much clearer.

With regard to the Bear River hydro, the work, up to now, has been largely pre-feasibility engineering and environment, just looking at the impacts, trying to get an assessment of the cost, the potential, and so on, and some general consultation with the community. The discussions with Imperial have been fairly general, but also we have made our case that this is important to us for economic reasons, as well as cost of living reasons. The Bear River hydro, of course, would not go anywhere without a large customer. The pipeline is a large customer. So as soon as we know that the Mackenzie Producers Group is going into public hearings, then we'll be turning up the heat, and certainly at that point getting into more detailed discussions. But right now, it's very general, very conceptual. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Next on the list, I have Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. There are four things I'd like to reflect on. In a sense, it's to project to February 1, 2006, Madam Chair, which I think is the date agreed upon to resume this session, and the expectation that on opening day in February, we're going to have another sessional statement, and that the Premier will be able to address, among other things, these four areas, being the fiscal situation that we find ourselves in, the very dynamic, rapidly changing and, regrettably, more and more volatile and uncertain fiscal situation that we have. Madam Chair, that not only changed this week with the use of a major shortfall in corporate income tax revenue and the impact that's it's going to have -- a \$10 million impact, approximately, on programming this year and in subsequent years -- but also, Madam Chair, on the big process that we had all engaged in to look at our overall formula financing agreement, which has now been probably, very likely, delayed by several months. I think the reality is, maybe, more or less a year. These are major pieces of our fiscal planning and, certainly, the

framework, and I am really hoping the Premier will be able to talk about that next February.

A third area, Madam Chair, would be -- as we've just been talking about this today -- the future of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, and just how that is going to come together. We're facing some significant deadlines in the next couple of weeks. But even after that, if those are resolved in the project's favour, and I certainly hope they are, no doubt there will be more news and more things to come over the next few weeks, between now and February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The other, I think, sort of major item that the Premier, I hope, will be able to address in February, will be the ongoing impact of the major spike in fuel and energy costs. We've undertaken some steps to see what we can do to assist consumers, and communities, and constituents, over the next few weeks. But there will be, also, a significant fiscal impact on our government, because of the extra, the unbudgeted costs that we're going to incur this winter, along with everybody else who has a furnace to run, lights to keep going, and utilities to operate.

Madam Chair, although we know that that's coming, it was not addressed in the supplementary bill that we've just concluded. I understand the process well enough now that if we can't predict something, that it's not within our rules to put something on the books. But this is going to be in the millions. We have that fiscal situation to grapple with, along with everything else, this current fiscal year. So we're running close to the bone. I remain very confident of our ability to keep going and to keep running a good ship, but we're running out of free board here, largely from things that are out of our control, and we need to keep a very steady hand at the tiller. That's all. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley, if you'd like to respond to any of those comments.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Madam Chair, all of those are important issues, and I can assure Members that they will be responded to either in the Finance Minister's budget address, or in a sessional statement. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Any other general comments? Mr. Pokiak. Or did you have something further? I'm sorry; just one minute. Mr. Pokiak, you have the floor.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just one quick comment, as the Premier indicated in his sessional statement when he talked about the increase in the prices of oil and natural gas, he goes on to say that the government has a number of programs and measures in place. I think the bottom line in that regard is, he did mention that people in public housing won't see any increase. But my concern is with regard to a lot of the people in the communities that own their own homes. In the interim, who do we help these people that have to take care of their own fuel costs, energy costs? He goes on further to say that in the short term, the request is that we reduce energy consumption in the units. But again, Mr. Speaker, we have long, cold winters, and a lot of homeowners don't have woodstoves in their homes to fall back on, and the price of fuel is high in the small communities. So I just want to ask the Premier, are there

any plans in place for the homeowners that have to take on these extra costs? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. We do have a number of programs to help people with the cost of energy. As the Member has mentioned, people in public housing, people on income support, their fuel costs are covered, so they won't feel the burden; we will. We also have a seniors' fuel subsidy that people can apply for. We have the Territorial Power Subsidy Program that is becoming a concern to us. It's well over \$8 million right now, and heading toward \$10 million a year.

Madam Chair, we've done a lot of work on conservation, and conservation measures, working with the Arctic Energy Alliance on the methodology for doing audits, and so on. The only direct subsidy -- if that's what the Member is referring to right now -- would be through the federal program that was recently announced. Again, it's \$250 and there are eligibility criteria. But if any constituents in the territory want information on that, we would be happy to point them in the right direction. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Next, I have Mr. Robert McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. In the short time that I've been here -- it's been almost a year now -- I've probably learned a lot of things about how things work here. In all the conversations I've had with the Premier on the pipeline, he's very optimistic that this pipeline is going to go ahead, and I share that optimism with him because I believe this pipeline will go ahead. By the time we come together again in February, we will know, for sure, if something is happening.

Just a couple of questions for the Premier. As far as the resource revenue sharing talk is going, I would like to know what are the next steps, or what are his immediate plans for these talks, and when are they going to happen again? Will the announcement from Ottawa affect these talks in any particular way? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Madam Chair, first of all on resource revenue sharing, the latest proposal we have put to the federal government is that we would accept the \$30 million net fiscal benefit, on the condition that they would put in a percentage of resource revenues as being part of the package. We would then sign an agreement-in-principle, and get on with negotiating a final agreement. So that's our offer. Give us net fiscal benefit, plus a percentage.

I think the Member is referring to the article that appeared in the National Post today, saying that it is rumoured the federal government was taking a 20 percent equity position in the pipeline. I might say, Madam Chair, that the federal government has, since then, denied it, categorically has said no, we've never made such a proposal. But in the event it does happen that way, and if the federal government strikes a deal where they take an equity position, and that equity position is not based on

buying a share in cash but, rather, on forgiven royalties, then, yes, it would have a big impact on us, and we would insist that in that event, that that royalty holiday be taken into consideration. In fact, that the equity position be treated as being in lieu of royalties. We don't want to go through the Norman Wells argument all over again. So, Madam Chair, if we end up there, then, yes, we would make a strong case for that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank the Premier for that response. As I said before, I share his optimism that this project will go ahead. It's a project that everybody has been working hard towards, and a lot of Members on this side of the House firmly believe that we should be entitled to what's rightfully ours. It's too bad we have to go to Ottawa and try to argue with them over what, I believe, belongs to us. I would encourage the Premier to continue his fight. If there's anything I or anybody on this side of the House can do, we will be glad to. I will end with that, Madam Chair, and I'll look forward to February and what happens between now and then. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I didn't hear any question there, just a comment. General comments on the sessional statement. Seeing none further, does the committee agree that consideration of Minister's Statement 24-15(4) is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Agreed. Thank you. The next thing on our agenda is the Report on the Review of the NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2003-2004 Annual Report. Mr. Menicoche.

#### Access And Privacy Directory

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. With regard to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report, the Commissioner recommends that the GNWT prepare an updated access and privacy directory to be revised annually, as required under section 70 of the act. This is the second year that the Commissioner has noted the need for an updated directory of contacts. This year, the Commissioner recommends that the directory should be made available at no, or minimal, cost to the public; it should be available for public review at government offices throughout the territory; and it should be easily available online, possibly from a link on the Legislative Assembly's web page. It is the committee's understanding that the government is in the process of addressing this recommendation.

Easily accessible front-line staff, available to assist the public with access to information requests, do much to ensure the transparency of government. An accessible and up-to-date directory, including contact information for department ATIPP coordinators, will facilitate public accessibility. Given the inevitability of staff turnover and recent and pending changes to the act, the committee is of the opinion that the directory should be regularly reviewed and updated.

**Committee Motion 9-15(4): Recommendation To Review And Update The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Directory Annually, Carried**

I move that this committee recommends that the access to information and protection of privacy directory be reviewed annually and updated as required under section 70 of the act.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

**Annual Review Of ATIPP Regulations**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Commissioner recommends the GNWT undertake an annual review of schedule A of the regulations that name public bodies that are subject to the act, so as to ensure that the regulations remain up to date. In her report, she specifically notes that the new Human Rights Commission has recently been created, but is not yet listed in schedule A of the regulations. The committee supports this recommendation. The committee also suggests that each time a new government agency is created, that the implications of the act on this new agency be taken into consideration.

**Committee Motion 10-15(4): Recommendation To Review Schedule A Of The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act Annually, Carried**

Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommend that schedule A of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be reviewed annually so as to ensure that the act be kept as up to date as possible, thereby ensuring that it will accurately reflect any changes to the GNWT structure, including changes to boards and agencies.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those in opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

**ATIPP Training For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Commissioner noted a notable lack of awareness amongst GNWT boards and agencies of the requirements and implications of the ATIPP Act. The Commissioner recommends that when appointing members to boards, the GNWT should ensure that at least senior members of boards and agencies receive ATIPP training, and that

retraining be provided at least once every two years. The committee supports this recommendation.

The committee notes that substantial work has recently been undertaken to review GNWT boards and agencies. The committee suggests that if ATIPP training for boards and agencies has not already been taken into account in this review, that it may be appropriate to do so in the development and refinement of the GNWT boards and agencies governance framework.

Madam Chair...Mr. Chair...

---Laughter

**Committee Motion 11-15(4): Recommendation To Provide ATIPP Training To Board Members, Carried**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that when appointing members to boards, the GNWT should ensure that board members receive ATIPP training, and that retraining be provided at least once every two years.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

**Amendment Of The Act To Clarify The Status Of Board Members**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Further to the previous recommendation, the Commissioner also notes in her report that there is some confusion amongst board members as to the status of their records with respect to the ATIPP Act. She recommends, in her report, that the act be amended to clarify that board members are considered public employees for the purpose of the act, and that all records generated by them in the course of their duties are subject to the act.

The Commissioner also recommends that board members be given instruction as to the collection, use and disclosure of information and the records that come into their possession in their roles as board members. She recommends that a protocol be developed with respect to how boards and individual board members are required to deal with records created, obtained or received in the course of their work on such boards. The committee supports this recommendation.

Given that the proper management of a record throughout its lifecycle is necessary to adequately respond to an access to information request, and to ensure personal information is properly managed, it is absolutely crucial to have procedures in place for records management at the board level. Again, the committee notes that it may be appropriate to consider records management procedures and protocols within the context of the boards and agencies governance framework.

**Committee Motion 12-15(4): Recommendation To Develop Protocols And Procedures For Board Records, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the GNWT develop draft procedures and protocols to guide board members in maintaining the records they create doing board business.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Access To Information And Privacy Legislation For Municipal Governments**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** For the fifth year in a row, the Commissioner's report addressed the lack of access and privacy legislation for municipal governments, and recommends that municipal governments be brought under territorial access to information and privacy legislation, either by including them under the act as public bodies, or by passing new legislation specific to them.

The committee considers access to information and protection of privacy standards to be an essential part of open and transparent government. Members acknowledge the challenges of developing and implementing such legislation for municipal governments, but do not consider them to be insurmountable. The committee points out that it can also be a substantial burden for municipal staff to respond to information requests, from the public, without the benefit of legislation to guide decision-making.

The GNWT has identified several challenges to address before municipal governments would be in a position to comply with new information and privacy legislation. First, there are concerns with how the act would impact day-to-day operations and general administration of the municipalities. Second, there are concerns relating to the cost of administering the act and whether the additional money to cover the cost of implementation would be added to municipalities' base funding. Finally, there is need for additional training for ATIPP and records management. In addition, the GNWT has committed to clarify how the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, PIPEDA, which came into full force on January 1, 2004, will impact municipalities, and report to the committee in the fall of 2005. The committee looks forward to reviewing this report. Committee members also recognize that addressing these challenges will require support and continued effort from municipalities and from the GNWT.

**Committee Motion 13-15(4): Recommendation To Assess The Resources Required For Municipalities To Comply With ATIPP Legislation, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the GNWT continue to work with the NWT Association of Communities to assess the resources

required for municipal governments to be able to comply with access to information and protection of privacy legislation, and to develop an implementation plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Private Contractors**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** The Commissioner recommends that access to information and privacy clauses should be included in outsourcing contracts, so as to require compliance with ATIPP. The committee recognizes that the recommendation to include privacy clauses in outsourcing contracts is being addressed by the GNWT.

The committee also notes that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, proposes several changes that would broaden the definition of "employee" to cover contractors, which will also address this important concern.

Given the Information and Privacy Commissioner's expertise on the act, and that an essential part of her role is making recommendations to the Assembly for amendments to it, committee members feel strongly that her consultation and involvement in proposed changes to the Act is crucial.

**Made-In-The-NWT Privacy Legislation For The Private Sector**

As in previous reports, the Commissioner recommends the NWT enact its own "made-in-the-north" privacy legislation to regulate how the private sector collects, uses or discloses personal information.

NWT businesses are already regulated by PIPEDA, which came into full force on January 1, 2004. However, the Commissioner has raised concerns that PIPEDA will not provide an adequate regulatory framework for the NWT. Unless the Northwest Territories passes its own legislation, privacy protection in the private sector will be dictated by Ottawa, and may not be appropriate to the realities of the NWT.

Businesses need guidelines and the rule of law to regulate the use of personal information, and the public needs legislation for protection. The issue is becoming more and more urgent with rising incidence of identity theft. Alberta, Quebec and B.C. have all enacted their own provincial legislation, and three more provinces are considering doing the same. The committee supports the Commissioner's recommendation, and is of the opinion it is time for the GNWT to begin to address this issue.

The PIPEDA is new and its effectiveness in the NWT has not yet been tested. Committee members are of the opinion that the GNWT should begin to prepare its own review on whether the NWT needs its own private sector

privacy legislation, and integrate the general findings of the House of Commons review once complete, in 2006.

**Committee Motion 14-15(4): Recommendation To Review Personal Information Protection And Electronic Documents Act, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the GNWT begin to formally review the effectiveness of PIPEDA in the NWT, and prepare an initial report on the need for "made-in-the-north" private sector privacy legislation.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear! Hear!

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

**Health Sector Legislation**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** The Commissioner recommends the NWT enact its own "made-in-the-north" private sector privacy legislation for the health care sector. The Commissioner strongly recommends that even if the GNWT does not tackle general private sector legislation, at a minimum, health sector legislation should be considered.

The contracting out of health care to private contractors occurs with more and more frequency across the country. The NWT is no exception. Very sensitive personal health records are created and managed by private contractors, which can lead to situations where there is cause for concern. For example, the British Columbia provincial government was outsourcing health records management to a Canadian subsidiary of an American Company. This meant that the personal health information of B.C. residents could be subject to the American Patriot Act, which gives the U.S. government access to the records.

The committee is aware that proposed amendments to the act will clarify that contractors are to be considered employees with respect to the act, and, therefore, the records they create or manage are subject to the act. Nevertheless, the committee supports the Commissioner's recommendation. The committee is of the opinion that the GNWT should follow the lead of other jurisdictions, such as Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and begin to develop legislation that deals with privacy issues within the health sector.

**Committee Motion 15-15(4): Recommendation To Develop A Legislative Proposal For Health Sector Privacy Legislation, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the GNWT come forward with a legislative proposal for legislation that addresses the need for private sector privacy legislation for the health sector.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

**Devolution And Self-Government Negotiations**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** For the second year, the Commissioner recommends that access to information and protection of privacy issues be kept at the top of the agenda in devolution and aboriginal self-government negotiations to ensure accountability and protection of personal information by new governments. The committee supports this recommendation. It is important that emerging governments are aware of these issues. The committee was pleased to note that the GNWT is in agreement and has committed to look at ways to address this issue further.

**Committee Motion 16-15(4): Recommendation To Develop A Plan With Timelines To Ensure Access And Privacy Issues Will Be Considered In Devolution And Self-Government Negotiations, Carried**

I move that this committee recommends that that the GNWT come forward with a plan, including timelines, to ensure access and privacy issues will be considered in devolution and self-government negotiations.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

**Conclusion**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight would like to thank the Commissioner, Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts, for presenting her report at the committee's public hearing.

**Committee Motion 17-15(4): Recommendation To Provide A Comprehensive Response To Committee Report 4-15(4) Within 120 Days, Carried**

I move that this committee recommends the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days, in accordance with Rule 93(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Does committee agree that Committee Report 4-15(4) is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. There is a motion to report progress on the floor; it is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you, committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please. Mr. Ramsay.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006; Minister's Statement 24-15(4); and Committee Report 4-15(4), and would like to report progress, with 10 motions being adopted, and that Committee Report 4-15(4) and Minister's Statement 24-15(4) are concluded, and that Bill 11 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Do we have a seconder? The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with third reading of Bill 11. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with third reading, Mr. Roland.

#### ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

**Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 11 has had third reading. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 16 on the Order Paper.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with item 16, motions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with third reading, Mr. Ramsay.

#### REVERT TO ITEM 16: MOTIONS

**Motion 10-15(4): Extended Adjournment Of The House To February 1, 2006, Carried**

**MR. RAMSAY:** I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on October 27, 2005, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 1, 2006.

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 1, 2006, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, at this time, would you please ascertain if His Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

**COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Monsieur President, Monsieur Premier, les deputes, madams et messieurs, mes amis, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, last month, I represented the Northwest Territories at the swearing in for our new Governor General, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean. Subsequently, I had the privilege of meeting Madam Jean, who asked me to pass on her greetings and best wishes to the people of the Northwest Territories. I am happy to fulfill her wish at this time.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, regretfully, since we last met in this House, a number of our loved and respected elders and residents of the Northwest Territories have passed away. I will not list them all, but want to pass on my sincere condolences to their families, and I am sure that the loss of those loved ones leaves a gap in our hearts, as it does in our communities.

**Assent To Bills**

Now, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act;
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act;
- Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005;
- Bill 7, Personal Directives Act;
- Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act;
- Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act;
- Bill 10, An act to Amend the Income Tax Act; and,
- Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006.

Mr. Speaker, as this House will not reconvene until the new year, may I be the first to wish all Members a safe and a happy Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous new year. Merci.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members, before I go on to the next item on the Order Paper, I would like to take this opportunity to let Members know that it has been my pleasure to preside over this last session. I know we have had many issues come before the House, and I want to thank all the Members for their indulgence and cooperation in getting through this session.

I know that we will not be getting together in this setting until into the new year. I know Members on both sides of the House have a lot of work in front of them over the next few months. I also would like to wish each and every one of you a very joyful and peaceful Christmas and holiday season. I hope you do take some time around the holiday season to spend with friends and loved ones. As well to the staff, the Pages who have helped us out, my thanks to you. To all the people of the Northwest Territories, a happy and merry Christmas. Thank you, Members. We will see you in February.

---Applause

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 Social Programs committee tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 1, 2006, 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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
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 Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:55 p.m.

