



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

5th Session

Day 22

15th Assembly

HANSARD

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Pages 697 - 724

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

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, Hon. Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Hon. Kevin Menicoche, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the continuation of the Fifth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to belatedly, but most sincerely, offer my personal best wishes to each and every one of you for a happy and healthy new year. Although we have not met formally for several months, I know that you all continue to work diligently in committees, Cabinet and in your constituencies.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Vince Steen on Saturday, February 3rd, in Inuvik. Mr. Steen was a former Member of this Assembly and esteemed colleague to many of us. I would like to take this opportunity to extend personal condolences and from those of this House to his family and his community. A Member of the Assembly from 1995 to 2003, Vince worked tirelessly for the people of Nunakput, and as a Member of the Executive Council for all residents of the Northwest Territories. Our thoughts during this difficult time are with his family, his wife, Betty Elias, and their children.

At this time, I would like to ask that all Members rise and observe a moment of silence to honour Mr. Steen.

---Moment of Silence

Thank you, colleagues. You may be seated. As we enter this budget session, I would like to acknowledge, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, the efforts of our standing committees, Cabinet, government and Assembly staff on contributing to our budget development process. I would also like to acknowledge the residents of the Northwest Territories who participated in the pre-budget consultation that took place throughout the North last year. By expressing your views and concerns, you have also aided in this important process.

I look forward to a very productive session, to lively debate on issues that are important to all residents of the Northwest Territories and to discussions that lead to positive, informed decisions. I ask only that you conduct yourself within the rules that you have set down and continue to respect the dignity of the House and all of its Members.

It is now my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads, "Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly the passage of the Appropriation Act, 2007-2008 and Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007 during the Fifth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Anthony W. J. Whitford, Commissioner."

Thank you, colleagues. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 58-15(5): Condolences To The Family Of Mr. Vince Steen

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we observe the passing of Mr. Vince Steen, a former Member of the 13th and 14th Legislative Assemblies and a dear colleague to many of us in this House. We extend our deepest condolences and those of the Government of the Northwest Territories to Mr. Steen's family; his partner Betty, sons Warren and Waylon, and daughters Tina, Shannon and Meeka, and to his many friends, and offer them our thoughts and prayers.

Vince was admired as a man who was able to live a traditional lifestyle while maintaining an important political career, locally and territorially.

In his community life in Tuktoyaktuk, he served as mayor, justice of the peace and coroner. Vince also served as chief of the Inuvialuit Land Administration Committee for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, vice-president of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, chairman of the NWT Game Council, a board member of Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation, a board member of Tuktoyaktuk Hunters' and Trappers' Committee and a member of the federal Fisheries and Oceans Advisory Committee on Whales and Whaling.

Mr. Speaker, we will remember Vince as a man of integrity, honour and commitment; a man not afraid to speak his mind, who offered practical solutions for change and who always considered the impact of his and our government's actions on people in the communities. Vince was a man who wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives. We believe he achieved his goal. His family, his friends and his community should be very proud of him. He will be missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 59-15(5): Mental Health Week

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the week of February 4 to 10 as Mental Health Week. "Finding your Balance" is this year's theme in the NWT.

Today, I would like to speak about the importance of good mental health for every person, family and community within the NWT, and the valuable contributions made to

mental health by our Health and Social Services Authorities and non-government organizations.

As many as one in five northerners will struggle with mental illness. Most of us know someone who is directly affected by addictions, mental health, or family violence issues. We all feel the many demands in our daily lives, but as northerners we have a particular appreciation for maintaining a healthy balance mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Mental Health Week is an opportunity for each of us to take note of our coping skills and supports that help us deal with stress in our lives.

The Department of Health and Social Services has made it a priority to increase supports where people need them: in the communities. Some of the department's enhancements within the mental health field include:

- the Community Counselling Program, part of the mental health and addictions core services within our integrated service delivery model. Since 2003, the program has focused on the prevention and treatment of mental health issues, addictions and family violence problems at the community level. This week, the department is pleased to host, here in Yellowknife, the second annual conference for workers in this program;
- the FRIENDS for Life Resiliency Training Program. This program has been launched in 11 communities across the NWT, and children are receiving tools they can use to assist in maintaining a healthy balance for life. Group leaders are trained to help children develop methods to cope with stress and anxiety before they develop mental health problems such as depression;
- training for community wellness workers through a partnership with Keyano College in Alberta since 2003-04. Students work in their home communities and participate in 10 one-week university-level modules at Aurora College in Yellowknife between September and March;
- the Youth Net Program is a mental health promotion program for youth, lead and delivered by young people in schools and youth settings. Youth Net provides a safe place where youth can begin to talk about mental health stresses and connect with a youth-friendly support system;
- Open Minds is an anti-stigma program that will be launched this spring. People living with mental illness will share their personal stories with youth for enlightenment and information; and
- mental health workers are preparing for the national Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention, CASP, conference in Yellowknife this coming October. This conference will bring together health professionals, volunteers, educators and many others in the mental health field who work to help prevent suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have partnerships with non-government organizations such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, Northwest Territories division, who work closely with us in sharing information and promoting Mental Health Week.

The Canadian Mental Health Association operates the NWT Helpline that has been in existence for more than a decade. Anonymous, trained volunteers answer a countless number of calls 365 days a year on where residents can turn to for help in their community.

In closing, I would encourage everyone here to take a moment to understand how mental health issues affect the lives of northerners, and appreciate those working to improve and protect our well-being. I commend those who find balance for themselves, their families and their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 60-15(5): Notice Of Budget Address

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will deliver the budget address on Thursday, February 8, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Tribute To Former Nunakput Member Mr. Vince Steen

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very prominent and distinguished individual from Tuktoyaktuk died peacefully, after suffering a long battle with cancer, on Saturday, February 3, 2007. He was a dedicated father, businessman and, more importantly, a distinguished politician. I am speaking of none other than the late Mr. Vince Steen.

Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues from the 13th and 14th Assemblies knew Mr. Steen very well. Mr. Steen represented his constituents well in the 13th and 14th Assemblies. During the 14th Assembly, he held the portfolios of Public Works and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, prior to becoming MLA, Mr. Steen served as hamlet councillor and mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, sat on the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation, hunters' and trappers' committee and was a justice of the peace. These are just a few of his accomplishments since becoming a politician.

Mr. Speaker, after the election of the 15th Assembly, Mr. Steen returned to Tuk to retire. However, being the individual and politician that he was, he ran and was elected to sit as hamlet councillor and board member for the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation and hunters' and trappers' committee until his recent death.

Mr. Steen was a dedicated husband to his wife, Betty, his children Tina, Warren, Shannon, Waylon and Meeka. Mr. Steen loved being out on the land during his breaks, which really wasn't long enough to enjoy because as a politician the well-being of the constituents were foremost in his mind as he represented the people of Nunakput.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, on behalf of my family and constituents, I would like to send condolences to the family of the late Mr. Vince Steen. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty and her children during this time of sorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Important Decisions For Northern Leadership

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to extend condolences to all those across the NWT who have lost loved ones in the past year. Our prayers are with you.

Mr. Speaker, the leadership of the Northwest Territories is at an important time in our history. Decisions we make, Mr. Speaker, within the next few years will affect future generations, our children, our grandchildren. Decisions we make, Mr. Speaker, are like trying to find a resource revenue sharing deal to negotiate. We have to negotiate with Ottawa for our own wealth.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak, \$30,000 will leave the Northwest Territories. The leadership has been trying to advance this and it will only work, Mr. Speaker, if everyone gets on board. We should take offence to something being taken out of our neighbour's yard, Mr. Speaker. If I had \$100 for every time I heard the Prime Minister quoted as saying the North should be the primary beneficiaries of our own wealth, I would be a wealthy man right now and I wouldn't need a resource revenue sharing deal.

Mr. Speaker, we have decisions like management of the caribou population across the Northwest Territories. For generations the caribou has taken care of our families; they've fed us and clothed us and now it's our turn to return the favour. We have to do this, Mr. Speaker, so our children and grandchildren won't have to be raised on pork chops.

Mr. Speaker, at the recent summit in Inuvik, they came up with some recommendations and we look forward to seeing these recommendations being put into action. Mr. Speaker, we have many important decisions that we have to make as a 15th Assembly, not only as a 15th Assembly but as a leadership of the Northwest Territories. We have to make these decisions wisely and with the best interest of the future generations in mind.

This will go a long way, Mr. Speaker, towards addressing the legacy of not only this Assembly but the entire leadership across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

----Applause

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

Member's Statement On Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of this House are well aware that Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre has been closed since the fall due to the ongoing

labour dispute. However, it is my understanding that the government has continued to make payments to the tune of just over a half a million dollars since the dispute began on October 23rd. Under the terms of their agreement, the GNWT shells out \$1.89 million annually for this service. As of today, there has been no service provided at this facility. That's 107 days, Mr. Speaker.

Aside from the fact that this represents a clear waste of public funds by continuing the payments for a service that they cannot provide, the government may, in fact, be providing a disincentive for the society to move quickly towards a settlement for their workers. I hope the government will take lessons from this situation, Mr. Speaker, when they consider negotiating future contracts. Perhaps we should include provisions requiring contractors to pay back money when services are not rendered as promised; better yet, allowing the government to suspend payments when services are disrupted for periods of time.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Athletic Achievements Of Hay River Residents

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on this the first day back in the Assembly, I would like to title my Member's statement bragging rights for Hay River. We have had a number of outstanding accomplishments on the part of athletes just recently. I will go into more detail perhaps in the future.

Amy MacDonald, an outstanding biathlete, has just had some very successful races. The Monique Delorey Gagnier rink is off to the Scott Tournament of Hearts in Lethbridge.

I would particularly today like to highlight the success of Brendan Green. Most of you have probably heard a little bit about what happened at the world championship races in Val Martello, Italy, just a few days ago. Following the individual races, Brendan was a part of the Canadian team that ran an astonishing race. They were overjoyed to be on the podium, and proudly accepted the bronze medal for Canada. We were only a fraction of a second away from the silver. Every member of the four-man team had to come up with a near perfect performance to make the podium finish possible. All came through without picking up any shooting penalties.

In the anchor position, Hay River's Brendan Green had a major role to play in the success of the Canadian team. Brendan earned the honour of anchor after having the most consistent placings for the team in the three individual events.

A lot can happen in the final leg of a relay event when the teams are close. Nerves of steel are needed to cope with the excitement and intense pressure that develops. That was certainly the situation that Brendan faced when the handoff to him took place. At this point, Germany had a commanding lead of several minutes, but Canada was still

in medal contention at fourth place with five or six teams bunched together within a minute or so of each other. To reach the podium, Brendan had to overtake Poland or Austria, but several other strong teams including the powerful Norwegian and Russian teams were close behind and in position to overtake him if he lost his focus for only a minute.

Mr. Speaker, Brendan managed to overtake all but the Germans who had developed an insurmountable lead. Outshooting the Norwegian who had to take a penalty loop, Brendan managed to lead the range with clean targets and a slim seven-second lead. It came down to a skiing sprint to the finish, and seven-tenths of a second was all that separated the two as they crossed the finish line with Norwegians pulling ahead to snatch the silver. However, the Canadians could accept the bronze with pride, knowing that they had given one of the great skiing nations a run for their money.

Mr. Speaker, on the subject of bragging rights, I also -- in case my grandchildren ever read Hansard and wonder what their grandmother was doing -- I just want to say that I am a proud grandmother now of Grayson James Groenewegen and Julianne Elizabeth Groenewegen all since the last time we were here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On All-Weather Access Road To Diamond Mines

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that the winters are warming as is our climate. We know that, over the years, the ice road season has shrunk and as the diamond mines develop, the issue of resupply is a constant problem. Mr. Speaker, the issue I would like to talk about today briefly is the all-weather road access up to the mines.

In the mid-'90s, after I first got elected, I attended some meetings with the Tlicho people and some of the people from Hay River to talk about the viability of a road to supply the mines. This road would be a multi-purpose road. It will be through the Tlicho region, connecting all of the communities in the Tlicho at the same time and continue north to resupply the mines.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time to revisit that suggestion and that concept. I think there is tremendous merit to that. It would ease the tremendous amount of traffic on the over-used portions of Highway No. 3. It would allow a direct route across the river, down the highway, up north to the mines. It would connect all of the communities in the Tlicho, which is long overdue.

I believe we, as the territorial government, should be sitting down with the Tlicho Government as well as the diamond mines to talk about this. I don't believe this is far fetched. I believe it is a very real, doable issue. As you look towards the 16th Assembly and how we are going to open the North and how we are going to deal, anticipate and adapt to climate change like the shrinking ice road season, this is one way to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On All-Weather Access Road To Tlicho Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, every time there is a road built to the outlying communities, it is pretty hard to really look at it. We are saying that we want to work together regarding the winter road. Can they build a road on the land? We are talking about an all-weather access road. Later on, I would direct the question to the Transportation Minister. (Translation ends)

...fully depend on aircraft which, of course, is very expensive as you know, Mr. Speaker.

In recent years, the winter road season has been getting shorter and shorter as global warming continues. It is foreseeable that one day we will not be able to build a winter road at all. We need to begin planning for the possibility now, Mr. Speaker.

The Tlicho Government, as my colleague indicated, supports a realignment of the current winter road to a more direct multi-land-based wealth. This new road could eventually be converted to an all-weather highway with construction of a few bridges along the way, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this road is a critical link to the three isolated communities in the Tlicho region. New highways are not built overnight, Mr. Speaker. We must start planning and working now in partnership with the Tlicho Government and the federal government to ensure that these communities will continue to have road access in the near future. I will have questions for the Department of Transportation Minister at the appropriate time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We passed a very important motion in this Assembly last October, Mr. Speaker. It directed the Premier, as the key member of our Assembly, to bring back an agreement-in-principle to this Assembly and to the people of Northwest Territories on devolution and resource revenue sharing between Canada and the aboriginal governments of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, we were motivated by a sense of urgency because as the diamond mines continue to reap their rich harvest and the Norman Wells oilfield pumps its mammoth field, we are seeing roughly \$750,000 a day leave the NWT and flow directly to Ottawa. With more mines built and the potential Mackenzie Valley pipeline coming on stream, that could mean some \$3.5 million a day, Mr. Speaker.

Since our motion of just four months ago, there has been a considerable shift in the political landscape here in the NWT because with the regrettable collapse of the

Aboriginal Summit in December, the players have changed and so too have my expectations of achieving this agreement-in-principle, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the difficulties of maintaining consensus among organizations. Goodness knows, we have our issues and our difficulties here in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, so I do not want my concern to be taken as a criticism of the aboriginal governments, but a recognition that without their voices the collective will of the NWT can't be fully heard at the negotiating table.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my statement I spoke of urgency. We also face uncertainty as yet another federal election is possible at any time. We know that our own election is due here in the fall. Each change of leadership, of course, adds yet more time to this already urgent timetable.

Mr. Speaker, these issues must remain at the very top of our legislative priority list. It is time that we turn our vision into reality. The question remains still, how do we do this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Fostering Constructive Working Relationships

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start off by wishing everybody a Happy New Year this first time we're sitting in the House since 2006. Mr. Speaker, it's good to see that my colleagues are all back and in good spirits, I see. I'm looking forward to working with them over the next two months during this fifth sitting of the 15th Assembly.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, some circumstances in my family dynamics have changed and I have to reorganize my priorities somewhat. Between my work here and these new changes in my life, I see that there will be many new challenges for me. I look forward with excitement and encouragement toward having more direct input into the future for my kids and their kids, a future which we all have an opportunity in this House to lay the groundwork for in a political sense. Now that I have a bigger workload on the personal side, I have to really attend to that side of the equation more seriously, as we all do I'm sure.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my dedication to my Tu Nedhe constituents towards building better working relationships with all levels of government, with industry in our Akaicho Territory and the NWT, and especially building relationships amongst ourselves; that being the most challenging and compromising not to mention the most difficult to talk about, especially at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, many new issues have arisen since our last sitting that are going to require decisions made here that will have territorial-wide ramifications in areas such as wildlife, especially caribou management, energy, the environment and resource development, just to name a few. These should be at the top of this 15th Assembly's priority list over the next eight months. I'm confident that we can find some northern solutions to many of these very important decisions that will have to be very well thought out before actions can be taken. All these in conjunction

with many other personal concerns in areas of housing, health, justice and seniors will be brought to the attention of this government for more consideration and hopefully some timely resolution so that people can actually see and touch some changes before the end of this 15th Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Villeneuve, your time for Member's statements has expired.

MR. VILLENEUVE: I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? You may conclude your statement, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am proud to say that even after three years of constant dialogue and many mind-numbing sessions on many of these ongoing issues, I'm still optimistic that we can at least reach one or two very significant milestones that we, as northerners, can all be proud of this 15th Assembly for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, before I get into my statement, would like to express my condolences and send my prayers to the families of Vince Steen, our former colleague and someone I really enjoyed working with, as well as the families of Laura Lennie, mother of our colleague, Norman Yakeleya, and a lady who was highly respected and very wise, as well as the families of Danny Gordon of Aklavik, a father of another well-known leader, Evelyn Storr.

Mr. Speaker, the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre on the Hay River Reserve has been a vital part of the alcohol and drug treatment and healing program in the North for many years. However, over the last number of months, the doors to the centre have been closed and the workers of the centre have been locked out. Mr. Speaker, I must say this has been going on too long and it just has to end.

Mr. Speaker, this has been especially difficult for the workers. Some of them were in Yellowknife in mid-January and I was happy to accept their invitation to meet with them. We have also been receiving a lot of e-mails and correspondence from constituents, for me anyway, in and out of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I must say I am more optimistic now about the dispute and possibility of that resolving than before, because we know that both parties are back at the table talking. As is the case with any labour dispute, there is always hope as long as the parties are talking. This hasn't been the case for a long time and I feel that we are close to, and I am hoping that we are close to, some kind of resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that both the union and the Nats'ejee K'eh board have the best interests of the workers in mind as well as the need to provide the

programming. There is no question this is a very difficult issue. It involves a lot of jurisdictions even though it involves a union that is a union for the government but it is not really a government program. There are a lot of layers and authorities and jurisdictions. Having said that, I think it is in the interest of all of us that this centre gets reopened and the programs be provided. Most of all, my sympathies go out to the workers who are really just wanting to get back to work. I would like to urge all the parties to keep talking until they resolve this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Closure Of Weather Centres By NAV Canada

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I start my statement, I, too, would like to pass on my deepest condolences to my colleague Mr. Yakeleya who recently lost his mother, Ms. Laura Lennie. My prayers are with him; also to the family of former Member Mr. Vince Steen.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address a very disturbing decision made by NAV Canada to close the weather centres in Norman Wells and in Yellowknife. As I understand it, northern pilots will now have to rely on information which is relayed to a base in North Bay, Ontario, some 3,000 kilometres away, to get much needed weather information. The North, as we all know, is very reliant on air travel to access our people, our communities and our resources. In fact, air travel is actually fundamental to our transportation needs throughout our entire territory. The decision to close the weather centres here is absurd. We do not have a well-developed highway system like most of the rest of southern Canada. Air travel here is a necessity, a way of life. A safe environment for our pilots and the travelling public to operate in is a must.

I was very concerned that recent news articles would suggest that the decision by NAV Canada to pull out of Yellowknife and Norman Wells was because of a dispute they were having with the Department of Transportation over leasing space at the Yellowknife Airport. Is that worth losing our vital weather service? What exactly is the real story in all of this? The reality is that the Yellowknife Airport is amongst the 10 busiest airports in this country. Last year it had 66,137 takeoffs and landings. Pilots servicing our constituents need and require detailed, up-to-the-minute weather forecasts.

Mr. Speaker, there have been recent tragedies in the Northwest Territories that may have, in fact, been weather related. As a government, we can just not afford to discount or erode the safety of the travelling public any longer. These weather centres need to be reopened immediately. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation in this regard. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 183-15(5): Amount Of Resource Wealth Losses

MR. HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lafferty on October 25, 2006, regarding the amount of resource wealth losses.

During the question, Mr. Lafferty asked for just a rough figure on how much the GNWT has spent on devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations with the federal government over the past few decades.

Mr. Speaker, accurate numbers are difficult to report as negotiations have involved different governments and departments in different ways, and the true costs include both direct and indirect costs.

But since the Member is interested in rough numbers, I can advise that in the late '80s and early '90s, the GNWT was involved in the Northern Accord negotiations at a probable cost of one to two million dollars a year. Through the mid-90s, the GNWT was spending approximately \$600,000 annually on similar devolution-type negotiations, and since 2002 four GNWT departments have been allocated a combined total of \$2 million annually for what today we refer to as devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations. These costs include contributions to regional aboriginal organizations to assist with their participation in the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent of mine, Ms. Faye Duval, in the audience today. She's also a graduate from the Community Wellness Program that goes on. So welcome to the House.

---Applause

I'd also like to welcome friends of mine from our other territory, John and Janet Hodgson. They were former residents of Hay River and Yellowknife. John is now the executive director to Kivalliq Inuit Association. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to recognize a group of people in the gallery who promote healthy living through prevention and public education. These dedicated people are the most recent graduates of our Community Wellness Worker Certificate Program. I understand in the gallery we have Alice Zoe-Chocolate of Behchoko; Cecelia Deneyoua, Faye Duval,

Angus McKay of Hay River; Rick Alexander, Debra Buggins, Diane Hrstic and Patrick Kotok of Yellowknife; Shirley Elias of Ulukhaktok; and Darla Rabesca of Whati.

I'm also pleased to recognize an important partner of the Department of Health and Social Services, the president of the NWT division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Kathryn Youngblut. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Alice Zoe, Darla, they're in the gallery. I just want to thank them. They're teaching, they're in the wellness program and I just want to thank them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'd like to recognize Shirley Elias from Ulukhaktok, who just recently took the Community Wellness Worker Program. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a constituent among the community wellness workers, Diane Hrstic.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a couple of people. First of all, a constituent, Mr. Mark Bogan, an advocate for the rights of fathers in family court situations. I see him here today.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to join the Minister of Health in recognizing Kathryn Youngblut, the president of the Canadian Mental Health Association here in the NWT. I had the pleasure of serving on that board with her and she is a tireless volunteer there.

As well in the gallery is Ms. Lydia Bardak, another advocate on the social front here in the Northwest Territories, especially for that of the homeless people, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize three members from Nahendeh, Ms. Mary Neyelle, Ms. Grace Williams and also Lauren Donaldson. She's the young individual that

made our beautiful coasters that are in front of us. I'd like to say thanks.

As well, I'll recognize a friend, Ms. Tawna Brown. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, with great pleasure, would like to acknowledge Kathryn Youngblut. She's quite active in our community, so every recognition she gets she certainly deserves; Lydia Bardak, and one of our Pages today, Mr. Michael Malakoe. He was our youth parliamentarian for Yellowknife Centre and he was sitting behind me a moment ago. I saw him looking at my chair. That being said, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Mr. Paul Andrew, originally from Tulita, here with CBC North in Yellowknife. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. I, too, wanted to congratulate the grads. I was able to take part in the ceremonies last night for the tail end of it anyway. I wanted to recognize a number of people: Debra Buggins, Angus McKay, also Cecile Deneyoua, who used to live in Fort Providence and now lives in Hay River, and a couple of classmates or people I went to Akaitcho Hall with, Lorraine and Grace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the House. Always a pleasure to have an audience here. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 262-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's in follow-up to my statement, or part of my statement, about Nats'ejee K'eh labour dispute. I'm wondering if the Minister can give us an update on where the talks are at, as much as he can reveal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 262-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Members are aware, discussions are ongoing and meetings are happening, so that's been a good sign. As well, there was a press release issued by the union that they had a number of positive meetings. So things are moving along and hopefully we can make an announcement during our session here, bringing conclusion to the process that started a number of months ago. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 262-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've had a number of discussions on the progress of this issue with the Minister, but I must admit that I haven't had a chance to talk to him about it in the last couple of days. I did read that press release, but at that press release you indicated that they were going to plan for about two days of talks. So are they still talking now? As long as they're talking I think we have a good chance of arriving at negotiated settlement. Is there anything further on where they are, whether they are still talking, do they still plan on talking, or has that two days passed? If it has passed, then are there any more plans to reschedule? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 262-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the meetings, as I'm aware, were scheduled and ongoing. We're hopeful that if they're close to coming to conclusion that they will continue on. That's the latest that we have. Things are moving ahead. Discussions are happening. Beyond getting into more detail, I think we'll leave it at that and know that things have turned around and there are some good and healthy discussions happening and I think they've agreed to the majority of issues they were discussing. Thank you.

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

Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon will be for the Premier and they relate to the statement that I made earlier today on devolution and resource revenue sharing.

Mr. Speaker, this House had asked the Premier to come back to us with an agreement-in-principle on resource revenue sharing and devolution before the next federal budget. Mr. Speaker, we understand that the federal government is now looking potentially at a late-March budget day. My question is, is it realistic, Mr. Speaker? Is it realistic to expect that an AIP on resource revenue sharing and devolution could be delivered to the Northwest Territories by that time next month? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we last met in this Chamber, I've had several meetings with aboriginal leaders going back to early December. At that meeting there was agreement by the majority of aboriginal leaders, regional aboriginal leaders in the Territories, that it was possible to work toward -- and they would work with us -- toward an agreement-in-principle by the end of March 2007. Mr. Speaker, that's a week or so, or 10 days or so after the federal budget and realistically the federal government has indicated to us that it's not likely they could come to a resource revenue sharing deal in advance of the federal budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the sense that I'm getting then is that we should not expect an agreement-in-principle on those topics to be at hand. Are we still continuing to negotiate, Mr. Speaker? Is the NWT and Canada still continuing to negotiate with this new situation that the Aboriginal Summit is no longer at the table? I had always anticipated that these were a three-party negotiation and I'm wondering just what stage or what status do they have right now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be clear to the Member and to Members, we are working toward an agreement-in-principle by the end of March. That's our goal and that is the goal of the majority of aboriginal leaders. The federal government, the Minister of DIAND has indicated that he will work toward that as long as it's doable. He wanted to talk more with his negotiators, as well.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we are continuing to negotiate. We are negotiating on issues that are bilateral with the federal government. Those are ongoing. The last session was a week or so ago and are planned again for later this month or early March and working toward that date we have set.

Mr. Speaker, that's a target we're moving toward, so there's no binding contract saying we're going to achieve it. We're going to work toward that.

Mr. Speaker, the decision by the aboriginal leaders to dismantle the Aboriginal Summit was their decision and not ours. The summit is their secretariat, if I can call it that. They were frustrated by the lack of progress being made through that vehicle and are working very closely with us on the target of March 31st.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, there are workshops going on as they asked for us to explain more clearly to the aboriginal people in the communities what devolution in particular means and how it might impact on their claims. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again respecting the difficulties that organizations have from time to time at staying on the same page, this government and the federal government I know have made substantial investments into these processes, including the Aboriginal Summit and the Intergovernmental Forum. I'm wondering to what extent we are being asked, or are we going to continue to support or assist or enable the aboriginal organizations and governments to be at these negotiations and to be a full part of them, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly want to give the aboriginal leaders the ability, the capacity to be able to participate in negotiations toward devolution and resource revenue sharing. A decision has been made to allocate the money that we would normally contribute to the Aboriginal Summit to each of the regional groups on a proportionate basis that they have agreed to. We are in the process of doing that right now. Each region will be funded separately for negotiations. Mr. Speaker, they will work together and are of the same mind with regard to devolution. That is those who are working with us. Not all of them are working with us on this, Mr. Speaker, because they have other priorities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respect that we are continuing to keep negotiations going and, indeed, I support that and I want them to keep going. That's my concern and my question is, what's at risk here? As discussions and agreements continue and we put deals together, what is at risk by virtue of some of the aboriginal governments not participating or not being as fully engaged as everyone else, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 263-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I said, some aboriginal leaders have different priorities. They want to finish their negotiations for a land agreement or a land claims agreement. We respect that and we're not going to try to force them to change their priorities. Mr. Speaker, those who want to participate with us, of course, will be able to take advantage of the benefits that may come with a successful agreement and we do appreciate the support from them.

Mr. Speaker, what's at risk? I think the main thing at risk here is the ability for northerners, aboriginal or non-aboriginal, to make our own decisions regarding our territory. Mr. Speaker, it's very possible that if we are not successful with devolution and resource revenue sharing as a package, that we will achieve resource revenue sharing through another avenue. That is working with the

provinces and other territories on the fiscal imbalance task. We could, and I'm optimistic that we will, get the same sort of share of resource revenues in the Northwest Territories as do provinces. That was the recommendation from the O'Brien report and it's possible for it to be achieved that way.

Mr. Speaker, my concern with going that route alone is that it does not include the aboriginal governments. It doesn't include the aboriginal self-governments in the equation, and that would be the second choice, in my view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) ...that access winter road. I spoke on it about the road to Whati, Wekweeti, and it's very important. Right now we're talking about the all-weather access road. (Translation ends)

What has the Department of Transportation done so far to date to plan and secure funding for an alternate route through the Tlicho communities that could eventually be converted to all-weather road? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Menicoche.

Return To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Member's question, the Tlicho road access improvements are continuing to be something this government has been looking at. We have done the Tlicho corridors options study, which was completed last year. It does provide a basis for more detailed engineering and environmental scoping studies to be completed this year. Our government is consistent that any new roads, as well, the cost is usually borne by the federal government, as it will be in this case, and we continue to press the matter with the federal government, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

...transportation again about, like, how is the department involving Tlicho Government and the affected communities, Whati, Gameti, and Wekweeti, in the planning stages for the proposed realignment? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government does provide winter road access to the Tlicho communities on a yearly basis in order to provide materials and supplies for those

communities. In fact, in the last couple years we've added Gameti to that section as well. But in terms of the Tlicho corridors options study, Mr. Speaker, we did receive some money from the federal government to actually get into the engineering and environmental scoping studies to be conducted this year. That's when we're talking, the Member had asked about the realignment and this is the actual engineering realignment study that's going to be conducted this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

...the department's, their planning on this new initiative. I'd like to ask again to the Minister, is the department, in their planning initiative, going to include the realignment all-weather road connecting to Tlicho communities and on route to the mining industries? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to an all-season or all-weather road going through the Tlicho area and into the Slave Geological Province, that is something that is under discussion with the joint venture study that is currently going on as well. The department continues to look at the engineering study. That is the first thing we are going to have to do, is do our realignment. Having access into the Slave Geological Province for the mines is another issue we have been working with the joint venture on addressing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister is, when can we expect the construction completion of this winter road realignment? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 264-15(5): All-Weather Road Access In Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can't give a definite answer, but what I can say is that there is some very positive news with the funding from the federal government in getting money for the engineering scope and study for the Tlicho realignment. Once that is done, it looks like it might be up to \$1 million. Once that is done, we will look at the realignment of the winter road and, in the long run, an all-weather road. It will be part of that plan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, in my Member's statement, I rose with concerns about the contract that Nats'ejee K'eh has with the territorial government, so my questions are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Can the Minister advise whether it is typical for funding to continue for service contracts with agencies such as the Nats'ejee K'eh when services are disrupted for an extended period of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that contract is held with the Deh Cho Health and Social Services with the society and each authority would follow the outline of the particular contract. There would be provisions in there for dealing with a lack of meeting the commitment. There are also avenues of working it out. In this particular case, that hasn't been acted on. As we know, we are proceeding down a path hopefully to a successful conclusion on it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement, I pointed it out that it was over half a million dollars that we have been paying Nats'ejee K'eh to carry on this contract that they have not been providing. Now whether it is in good faith or scandalous or anything, that is not the issue here today. The fact is we have been paying them for no service. So I think personally that is wrong. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that there should be provisions or there are provisions in the contract. As Minister of Health and Social Services, will he communicate this concern to the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Board and ask them to recoup the money that has been lost that we have paid for services we do not receive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is using some numbers out there that I can't confirm at this point. The fact is we still own the facility itself and we have to continue to operate it. We are not going to mothball it and shut it down, because we know if we do that in the wintertime, it would just cost us more to bring it back up to speed again. So the cost of that facility remains the same whether we have clients going there or not, so that is an issue that has to be looked at. We have had our discussions with the department and the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority. But at this point, because of where we find ourselves in discussions, I am not willing to enter into the fray and hopefully we will see a successful conclusion and

have clients going back into that facility very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate that the Minister doesn't want to get into the discussion of the numbers because he doesn't have them before him, but I will tell him how I arrived at them. I took \$1.89 million and I worked out what 107 days cost out of 365 days. The point I am getting at is, even if the centre is empty that is, no one is receiving treatment, but it is available to accept people for treatment. That is a reasonable way we should be paying it, because we pay them to be prepared to accept folks into their service contract. But do you know what, Mr. Speaker? They can't provide services. So we are paying for a service that doesn't exist. That is where my concern is. Mr. Speaker, that is how I got over \$550,000 if we want to work it down to nuts and bolts. Mr. Speaker, my question still stands. Would the Minister look into this concern to see if we can recuperate this half a million dollars or more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, we have had discussions with the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority around the contract itself. At this point, we are not prepared to enter into further discussions, especially in this arena and this juncture in the discussions that are happening, to further inflame things. At this point, I am not prepared to do that. As we get back into the work and people are going back through there, we will re-evaluate the situation. In fact, that contract comes up due again at the end of this fiscal year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find it a difficult challenge here, because I don't find this responsible spending. We are paying for a service that we can't access. Why would the infrastructure there, the society, et cetera, want to settle this dispute? Because they are being paid as business as normal. That really puts the union in a difficult position, that we continue to pay management and the organization but they can't provide the service. That seems like a horrible situation that we have forced them in. So, Mr. Speaker, yes, we need to pay the heat and power bills, sure. We don't want it to crumble, but the fact is I would like to hear the Minister clearly say today that he will investigate this problem about reaching back into their contract to see if we can recuperate some of this half a million dollars because it is not going to where it was intended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 265-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, we have had discussions with the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority who holds the contract with the society. Regarding the contract itself, I am not going to state and get into the particulars at this point. The fact is we have had our discussions around the contract itself and about the provision of services. I will have to leave it at that at this point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Floyd Roland, with respect to some issues dealing with the treatment of some of our seniors in some of our major health centres here in the NWT. We all realize every day or every week here in the NWT, we are losing an elder in some form or fashion. Many are irreversible illnesses, terminal illnesses that we just can't help, and I can sympathize with that. In my community of Deninu Kue with a population of 550, I have 95 seniors, half of which are over 65 and I am sure we are going to have many more that are going to be moving on or passing on in the upcoming years. Since our last sitting, Mr. Speaker, since November, our community has seen four elders that have passed away in the last three months. Two of these, Mr. Speaker, were due to pneumonia which they caught in the hospital. They went in there for some treatment for some cancer issues and some operations issues, but then when they made it through their operations, they were wheeled back to their rooms and they ended up catching pneumonia and subsequently dying because of pneumonia. I don't think that should happen, Mr. Speaker. These are the people that I am standing up here and speaking for. Families have expressed concern as to why these...I had some people go to visit an elder in that hospital in Hay River and they couldn't even take their coats off in the room with the elder, Mr. Speaker. What does that tell you? These elders are just freezing after an operation. I want to know what the Minister can do to maybe help these people, maybe put in space heaters, put in an elders' ward. Are there any options that he could consider that would alleviate complications in pneumonia? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any particular cases of needing space heaters in rooms in different facilities across the North. If there are particular situations that the Member would like to discuss, I would be happy to sit down with him to go over those issues and raise them with the department. We work with the health authorities across the Territories for delivery of the service and continue to work with them to make sure that we can

supply a satisfactory level of service for the clients that do use our facilities. Unfortunately, there are times when even though we do intervene in a sense of the medical side of the equation to try to help folks, a lot of times the disease has caught on and it is a matter of management at that point. In particular, with that case there, I am not familiar with it. I would be happy to sit down with the Member to get more details. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are just a couple of examples that have been brought to my attention just from my constituency, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure there are many out there. In the Stanton Hospital, I know of a few elders who have passed along because of just catching pneumonia in the hospital, Mr. Speaker. Is there any consideration at the hospital? An elder goes through an operation and they are as frail as a newborn baby, which they have a whole ward for, Mr. Speaker. You can walk into that ward and it is very nice and heated. You walk into any elder's home in any community; it is very hot in there. But if you go in the hospital room in the ward where the elders are with the general other patients, it is pretty cool. Some of these elders are pretty frail. I just want to know if there is any consideration that this hospital could have a separate seniors' ward to alleviate any complications such as pneumonia for...

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. I will allow the Minister to respond.

Further Return To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, we would have to look at it case by case. We know our facilities are run by central heating plants and other systems. We look at the temperatures, of course. One of the things we challenge our authorities is to run as efficiently and effectively as possible but it is not to the detriment of patients, so we would have to look at the details of these cases that the Member is raising here. Again, as I said, I would be glad to sit down with him to go over the details and specifics of this and try to deal with them that way. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the hospitals do have a budget, just like everybody else, but you can't really connect the two. I understand that, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the Minister knows that too, that they are not directly related, but I think there is some correlation there, Mr. Speaker. Even in the summertime when you walk into the hospitals -- I know the doctors and nurses are always very busy -- the air conditioning is cranked right up. It is very cool in there. I know I go through the Hay River hospital also a lot of times. In the wards, it is really cool. You can't take off your winter coat in there without catching a shiver. Can the Department of Health and Social Services look at

some better options to accommodate, to make sure that if these elders want extra heat, they are going to get the extra heat, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, we will work with the different authorities of these particular issues that have been raised in our facilities. I would be glad to sit down with the Member and discuss these facilities. I am sure that, throughout the facilities, if things are raised with the staff in those facilities, we are able to try and accommodate patients. We also have to look at the safety of the patient themselves and some of the material that is in those facilities. When you are in a hospital room, there is also a lot of equipment there that you are not wanting to put other heating elements beside because that can cause other problems probably more serious. So I am happy to sit down with the Member to try to get some specifics on this to see what we can try and address. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize the sensitivity of equipment and everything like that, but people are pretty sensitive too, especially if you are lying there in your little paper gown there and with a couple of cotton sheets covering you and it is 45 below outside and you have a big bay window there that is wide open. I just want the Minister to really take a very serious note of this issue, that people are coming forward and saying my grandfather shouldn't have passed away. He made it through his operation...

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

MR. VILLENEUVE: ...but died of pneumonia. Can the Minister assure the public out there that the Department of Health and Social Services will talk with these local health boards to ensure that there is even a couple of rooms put aside for this specific purpose? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 266-15(5): Service Levels For Elders In Health Care Facilities

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a sensitive issue and I guess one we should be...When we are talking and having a discussion or debating in this forum and people out there are listening to the discussion and think that we have patients in paper gowns with a cotton sheet and then a bay window and it is wide open, let's be accurate here. That is not happening. In fact, if it is, then we definitely have to deal with that, but I know it is not happening. The issue, though, is sensitive when we do lose family in our facilities through illness, and that has to be looked at and has to be dealt with appropriately. I will work through the department and with health authorities, through the joint leadership committee to try to address issues around this when it comes to the

comfort of patients in our facilities and looking at all considerations that are possible, both safety side as well as comfort for individuals in our facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. It goes back to my Member's statement where I was speaking about the closure of the flight information centre, the weather service here in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife Airport is one of the 10 busiest airports in this country. It not only services the rest of the Northwest Territories, acts as a hub to the rest of the Northwest Territories, it also serves as a hub to the Kitikmeot region in Nunavut and as well the Kivalliq region in Nunavut. It is a busy airport and it deserves a weather monitoring station here, a man station. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation what is the current disposition of his department in relation to NAV Canada's decision to relocate that service to North Bay, Ontario? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I will just give the Member a little bit of history. This is an ongoing issue that NAV Canada has been looking at in the North. In fact, in 1998, they issued a study called the Service Review of Northern and Remote Areas. The purpose of the study was to determine if NAV Canada's service delivery was in accordance with the requirement of northern customers. Basically what that means is that if they are providing the level of service that is necessary for the North, and they determined that it was good at that time, part of their plans were to relocate the flight information centres to Ontario. We had put it off once or twice but they finally executed the decision to relocate since they established a fully operational centre in Ontario there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have to tell the Minister of Transportation how vitally important the aviation industry is here in the Northwest Territories. I also don't have to tell him how different the Northwest Territories is in terms of we don't have a detailed highway system, a well developed highway system like much of southern Canada. We are different. This decision...and I am to believe in a letter that the former Minister of Transportation wrote to NAV Canada last July that said the decision was improper. I want to know how come the government is not standing up to NAV Canada and demanding that this weather centre be re-established here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with respect to our government, what had occurred too there, Mr. Speaker, was that in May of 2006, NAV Canada did decide to relocate. I believe it was at that point the Minister indicated our displeasure of relocating the flight information centre. But their decision was based on a July meeting that NAV Canada had in the North. They had a consultation process, as it were. At that point, there was no stern objections by any of the carriers noted at that time, so they just proceeded with their decision to relocate the office then, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that is part of the problem. The consultation process took place in the month of July here in the Northwest Territories. We know that the folks are busy. It is a very difficult time to get people together for consultation. I would suggest that the government write back to NAV Canada demanding that that consultation take place again, because I am certain that they will get a different reply. Again, I point to media stories in the local media today even in Yellowknife that suggest that departmental officials are saying that it is no great concern that this service has been pulled out of Yellowknife and is now located in North Bay, Ontario. To me, Mr. Speaker, it is a big concern. It should be a concern of the government. I would like that to be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with that, Mr. Speaker, absolutely the service provider to northerners are a priority of our government and that we do stand to help our northern carriers to ensure that services provided by NAV Canada meets the needs of our northern operators. With that being said, these additional comments and objections being raised will be taken very seriously by our department and forwarded over to NAV Canada, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another issue that I have with this is the letter that the former Minister wrote to NAV Canada last July, the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, to my knowledge, had no knowledge of this flight information centre being relocated to North Bay. We had no opportunity to debate this. We had no opportunity to question government. We had no opportunity, no

avenue for input. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he will open this up again, if he will show the Governance and Economic Development committee the reply that the former Minister got from NAV Canada. Let's put it on the table and let's discuss it. I don't think it is too late to get this weather centre back and up and running here in Yellowknife. Mahsi.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

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

Further Return To Question 267-15(5): Closure Of Flight Information Centres In Yellowknife

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to know that at this point our government has been providing the space at the airport. We are kind of outside the process in terms of NAV Canada does provide to the air carriers and it is their decision. With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that we can bring forward these new concerns. Like the Member said, consultation was done in July and it was probably a poor time to do it, but to base their decision on that is perhaps not proper consultation. I can commit to the Member that I welcome the new concerns to NAV Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 268-15(5): All-Weather Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Road Access

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for a number of years, I have been talking about the Tuk-Inuvik highway. I guess there was a lot of discussion going on about the all-weather road between Tuk and Inuvik; also the access to source 177. Back in December, I had an opportunity to meet in Inuvik with the deputy minister of Transportation, the Inuvialuit Land Administration staff in Tuktoyaktuk and myself along with some councillors in Tuk and Inuvik. What has come out of that meeting since the meeting in December when they were supposed to come out and submit an application to ILA to get the process going for the access road to source 177? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 268-15(5): All-Weather Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Road Access

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to advise the Member that the discussions with the communities are ongoing and we recently met with the communities to talk about the construction of the access road from Tuktoyaktuk to source 177, which is approximately 22 kilometres away from the community. The department, with these discussions, are looking at the permitting process for the road as well as to actually construct the road, the additional resources as well would certainly be required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 268-15(5): All-Weather Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Road Access

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At that time in Inuvik, it was very clear, Mr. Speaker, that the department would submit an application to ILA. We are now just about in the middle of February and there is still no headway going in regard to the application. Will the Minister indicate to the Members here on this side, Mr. Speaker, that the application will go through to ILA within the next couple of weeks? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 268-15(5): All-Weather Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Road Access

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot commit to filing an application with the ILA at this point. The discussions are continuing. There are a few other barriers that I am sure the Member is aware of. There are engineering studies and scoping studies that have to be conducted as well on this portion of the road, because there is some realignment issues that have to be seriously considered. That is part of the discussions that are going on with the communities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 268-15(5): All-Weather Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Road Access

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned about engineering and survey study. There has been an engineering study done by Ferguson, Simek and Clark. I think it was about 1998. There was a study already done on that. Why don't they just take that document and use it? There shouldn't be that much realignment in terms of the access to the all-weather road. Can the Minister just take that document and go with it and sit down with the community? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 268-15(5): All-Weather Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Road Access

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the older study of 1998, it is a little bit dated and the Member is aware of the climate changing. It has happened rather quickly and to depend on an old study, it is just not prudent at this point. We have, in the past year, talked about a \$50,000 study to look at this realignment of this source 177, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 269-15(5): State Of Disrepair At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to pick up where my friend from Tu Nedhe left off with respect to some of the conditions in the hospitals. We have some very good brick and mortar facilities on the ground here in the Northwest Territories. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, I have had a couple of grandchildren in the last couple of months. I

have had a chance to hang out at the hospital a little bit lately. I was pretty disappointed, I have to tell you. I want to say top marks to the staff, the doctors, nursing staff; just unbelievable. The condition of the facilities, embarrassing. Like paper thin pilly sheets stretched over rubber mattresses. This is costing our government \$1,000 a day. Are these facilities not being properly resourced to be maintained?

Let me give you some other examples. Who could sleep on that? There is not even a proper sheet on there. Do we need a foundation or some people in the private sector to raise some money to donate sheets to the hospital? You may have to go out and actually maybe just bring your own linen. I did that. I went out and bought a mattress to put over that so that my daughter-in-law didn't have to sleep on a rubber mattress with something so thin like you wouldn't even find something like it at the dump. Then, in the room, obviously they were thinking about repainting and they had patched all the wall but just left all the patching on there and never painted it. I can understand there is a high volume of traffic through these hospitals, but come on. Set aside one room, finish painting it. Base cove missing, curtains all hanging higgledy-piggledy. You wouldn't see a curtain like that on skid row. Hems all half hanging out. I'm sorry. It is the truth. I will take photographs. I will show you. It was dirty and dingy.

The waiting room had about 50 dead plants where you sit in obstetrics. Go check it out. There is a big sign that says do not touch the plants. The only touching you want to do is grab them and huck them in the garbage. They were dead! Anyway, I could not believe the condition of the facility. I don't agree that there are windows open at 45 below or anything like that, but, I will tell you, the facilities are in tough shape. Are these facilities not being properly resourced to have proper linen and proper maintenance? You would not let government employees work in an office that looked like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 269-15(5): State Of Disrepair At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had opportunity to be in those facilities whether it is for my own going in for X-rays or whatever, or visiting people in a number of our facilities. Again, I would have to sit down with the Member and get the specifics. Which facility are we speaking of? When I have gone to visit these places, the only place I see the paper thin anything is when you are going for your initial exam. That is something that is standard across all facilities, even in the South. In this particular case, I would be happy to sit down with the Member to go over the areas. I know, for example, I have had discussions with the department and we've contacted Stanton on some of the cleanliness issues around the contract that's provided by the private sector contract, and we've had those discussions and we continue to follow up on that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 269-15(5): State Of Disrepair At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just saying that our constituents deserve better; and I am talking about Stanton. I'd be happy to go on a tour with the Minister and show him some of the things that I saw with my own eyes. I was just there, you know, trying to just be a cooperative mother of a patient, or mother-in-law of a patient, but it was bad and I don't think that it has to look like a five-star hotel in there, but it should be clean and there should be quality linens and proper things. I mean I'm sure it must have something to do with hospitality, and I can tell you those were not very welcoming rooms that I saw; obstetrics rooms, labour and delivery, not a picture on the wall. Tons of posters and junk stuck up with scotch tape that were all curled up on the edges. Like, I just want...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have another question, Mrs. Groenewegen?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would be happy or willing to take a tour with me of the Stanton Hospital and have a look at some of the things that I saw with me. I'll go with him. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 269-15(5): State Of Disrepair At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I've had opportunity to be in a number of areas and wards within the facility. Yes, there are areas where we've put posters up that reflect some of the messages that we want to get out to people in this public that visit our facilities. But as for the decorative issue that we're discussing here, a cleanliness issue, again, I'm happy to sit down and go over the particulars, but I don't think we need to tour the facility to go over and do a maintenance check ourselves. We can easily get the staff there to report back as to some of the deficiencies. We know there are plans for some renovations in areas, but I agree that if there are facilities being in use we should have them up to par. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Transportation, as well. Mr. Speaker, last year the shortened winter road season cost the diamond mines an additional hundred million dollars. This year they're trying to jam through 10,000 loads to get to the mines hopefully on an ice road that will last the full planned time. It's going to mean a tremendous amount of traffic on the road, on the all-weather road, on the winter road through the community of Yellowknife. Just to the north of them you have four communities, three communities that are desperately looking for some kind of road service, barely a good couple stone throws away from Highway No. 3 in Yellowknife. We have an opportunity made in transportation heaven here to bring two good issues

together, have one road that would meet both objectives; an all-weather road through the Tlicho done in consultation with the Tlicho Government that would hook up the communities of the Tlicho, carry on north into the diamond mines to allow year-round provisioning. This would take an enormous burden off the Highway No. 3 portion from Yellowknife to Rae. It would also take an enormous amount of pressure off the congestion and traffic concerns in the city of Yellowknife. It would allow the people of the Tlicho to be able to have a staging area and an economic opportunity that was entirely in keeping in their area.

So I would like to ask the Minister, has he had yet any discussions with the grand chief or does he intend to have any discussions with the grand chief about this particular initiative? It is not a new one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Menicoche.

Return To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course the improved transportation corridor through the Slave Geological Province has been looked at and is the long-term objective of our government and the Department of Transportation. In 2000 there was a highway strategy called Investing in Roads. Part of the strategy was to include the needs and feasibility studies, a route analysis of doing exactly that route that the Member had brought up there, Mr. Speaker. With that, as well the Premier had met with the Chamber of Mines and the diamond industry stakeholders on April 6th of last year to discuss this realignment, particularly with the shortened season that happened to the diamond industry last year. They are seriously looking at realigning their roads as well, up to and including an all-weather road in the future. A couple different ways of doing it, of course, one is to make that route through the Tlicho region and make that the access to the Slave Geological Province and/or continue with the present system that's out of Yellowknife here today. So discussions are ongoing and our government continues to be involved with the diamond mines and speaking with the Tlicho Government on this matter here, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a lot has happened since 2000. Clearly the last year's winter road season is one of those issues or items that demonstrated the fact that the climate's getting warmer. The Tlicho Government has signed its agreement and now it's a stand-alone government with self-governing powers and they have a significant interest, I would suggest, in this particular issue. So I would like to ask the Minister again, I know that there's been lots of work at the bureaucratic level. There's been in the past some other discussions. But I know this is a current issue given the pressures from last year. I'd just like to ask the Minister again, if he hasn't met with the grand chief to talk about this particular transportation issue and the appropriate

MLA, does he intend to do that any time soon? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The DOT has been working with DIAND and the Tlicho Government to undertake additional engineering and environmental studies for the Tlicho roads. Because both the realigned roads onto land and the future all-weather road will be considered in this study, and that's in my previous response to the Member. With that, Mr. Speaker, we continue our discussions. Thank you very much.

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

Supplementary To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, let me try to rephrase my question. I'm talking about a government-to-government high-level meeting that would map out some of the transportation issues and goals among the highest political decision-makers in the land, specifically the grand chief as well as the Minister of Transportation. So I'd like to ask him again, is he going to sit down to talk to them about those particular initiatives, especially now that the Tlicho Government has many new authorities and are very interested in doing this project, as well as it would meet the goal of provisioning the diamond mines? Is he going to meet with the grand chief and when would that be? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps at this point I'll apologize to the Member for Monfwi for forgetting his riding. But I have, in the answer that I did give to the Member for Monfwi, there is money to be expected to be released shortly for the study of the Tlicho roads and the realignment of the roads. It will be up to one million dollars and DOT will work with the Tlicho governments and industry in these studies and these studies will determine the next steps as to how we want to build the roads to the Tlicho and the Slave Geological Province and if we can synergize them and bring them together, that will be the best scenario there, Mr. Speaker. Just in answering the Member for Thebacha, the DOT will work with the Tlicho Government on this very important matter of the roads. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want the Minister of Transportation to underestimate or undervalue his role as the Minister of the department. My question to the Minister is, will he, as

Minister, commit to sitting down with the grand chief of the Tlicho Government to talk about that particular road issue, among others that may be there, but that particular road issue? Will the Minister commit to sitting down and establishing a meeting in the not-too-distant future with the grand chief? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 270-15(5): All-Weather Road Access To Tlicho Communities

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit to meeting with the grand chief...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oooh.

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: ...of the Tlicho Government and discuss the roads that are very important to their government. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier, Mr. Handley. I am following up with questions asked by my colleague Mr. Braden regarding the resource revenue sharing negotiations with Ottawa. I would like to ask the Premier in the response to one of the questions before, he said we are looking at the end of March to hopefully reach an AIP. I would like to ask the Premier who the AIP is with. Is it with the Government of Canada or is it between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the aboriginal governments? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The agreement-in-principle I referred to is between the federal government, the territorial government and those aboriginal governments that choose to sign on at that time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the meetings in December, I would like to ask the Premier do we have an AIP right now between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the aboriginal governments that chose to sign on? My understanding was I thought we may have had an AIP. Do we have an AIP with the aboriginal governments that have decided to sign on? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a draft of an agreement-in-principle that was completed in June 2005. It was never signed, but it was agreed to by the aboriginal leaders represented by the summit. Mr. Speaker, that was as close as we got. There were outstanding issues with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, in December, when I met with the aboriginal governments and organizations, we went through the principles that were included in the 2005 agreement and had verbal agreement from those around the table to the principles.

Also at that time, we committed to doing workshops to help explain devolution and resource revenue sharing to them in each region. Mr. Speaker, there was no signed agreement in 2005, the draft, and last December there was agreement verbally around the table to work towards an AIP to be signed by the end of March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that. I would like to ask the Premier if the aboriginal governments are part of the actual negotiations with Ottawa as far as resource and devolution deals are going.

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

Further Return To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, until June 2005, they were part of it. In 2005, they indicated through the summit that their issues were resolved. Since that time, there have been bilateral discussions between the territorial government and the federal government on six outstanding issues, one of which is resource revenue sharing. Mr. Speaker, as we negotiate with the federal government, we are also negotiating with the aboriginal governments on how to share the resource revenues that would come north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without the direct involvement of the aboriginal government, how much authority or weight are our negotiations with Canada on a resource and devolution deal? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 271-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as a territorial government, we have the right and the obligation to participate in resource revenue sharing discussions that

are taking place under the challenge of achieving agreement on fiscal balance across the country. So on the one hand, we are negotiating directly along with all provinces and territories for resource revenue sharing. At the same time, following a parallel path, we are negotiating devolution and resource revenue sharing with aboriginal governments. So there are two tracks we are following here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

---Laughter

Question 272-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one question only to the Premier again. It's regarding the questions I was asking a few minutes ago. I would like to ask the Premier, are we negotiating a devolution and resource revenue deal separately or are we negotiating them the same? Can they be negotiated separately? How is that working? I would like to ask the Premier that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 272-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can go back a little bit in history here, we, for the last 20-some years, have been negotiating trilaterally with aboriginal leaders, territorial government and federal government on a devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement. Mr. Speaker, more recently, going back to about 2003 or 2004, the provinces and territories and federal government acknowledged that there was a fiscal imbalance between how resources are shared across the country. Along with the other provinces and territories, we were involved with that exercise. That is a separate exercise, but it is looking at a fairer arrangement of sharing resource revenues. So, Mr. Speaker, there are two processes going on here at the same time. We, as I said, have a right and obligation to be involved in both of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Time for question period has expired. Written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 38-15(5): Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Ice Road

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

What is the annual cost for the last five years to construct and maintain the winter ice road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk?

Written Question 39-15(5): Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk All-Weather Road

My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

Can the Department of Transportation put a package together to demonstrate the work done during the past 10 years we have been seeking federal or other source revenue partnership to make this vital highway infrastructure between Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik a reality?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that I'm in receipt of all due replies to written questions on the Order Paper and direct that they be printed in Hansard in their entirety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 12-15(5): Impact Of Federal Budget Reductions On NGO And Government Sectors

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mr. Braden on October 18, 2006, concerning the impacts of federal budget reductions on NGOs and government sectors. Specifically, Mr. Braden asked for a written assessment of the impacts of those cuts on the NWT in the areas of jobs in the NGO and government sectors, court proceedings, economic impacts and social services impacts.

Mr. Speaker, the funding reductions announced in September amounted to just over \$1 billion. It is difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the impact as these cuts were primarily to federal administration and to federal funding for third parties. Many of the reductions were in the area of application-based funding programs like the Museum Assistance Program, the Court Challenges Program and several women's programs.

The ability of several and various third parties to adjust to lost opportunities, as well as the impact of cuts to federal government administration and operations, is impossible for the GNWT to assess with any accuracy.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT's formula funding arrangement with the Government of Canada, as well as government-to-government funding agreements already in place, were not directly impacted by the federal funding reductions announced in September. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 13-15(5): Leakage Of Resource Royalties In The North

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on October 18, 2006, regarding leakage of resource royalties in the North.

1. Can the Premier provide the amount of royalties leaving the North and staying with the federal government, and our return from these resources in the last 10 years?

Later today, I will table a chart that shows federal resource revenues from the North over the past 10 years. The federal government does not publish separate numbers for each territory. However, most of the royalties after 2002-03 would be from the Northwest Territories, because Yukon implemented a devolution agreement in 1998 and

any mines operating in Nunavut were unlikely to have generated significant royalties.

The Government of the Northwest Territories does not report tax revenues specifically from the resource industry. However, the Department of Finance estimates that from 1999 to 2004, corporate, property and fuel tax revenues received directly from resource companies totalled \$115 million. This does not include taxes from spin-off industries or businesses that service the resource industry, nor does it include personal income taxes, payroll taxes and other taxes that employees of resource companies might pay.

2. In terms of our financial fiscal imbalance, what does the North need to do to begin having our revenue from our resources managed by the North?

Revenue from NWT resources will be managed by the North once a devolution agreement among Canada, the GNWT and aboriginal governments is signed and implemented. There are a number of outstanding issues that must be resolved before such an agreement can be signed, including the allocation of revenues among northern governments, and the net fiscal benefit northern governments will receive on their resource revenues, after offsets against federal transfers are accounted for.

Canada has indicated that it is not prepared to discuss the net fiscal benefit until after new equalization and territorial formula financing arrangements are in place.

3. Will the GNWT provide an opportunity to discuss post-revenue sharing in the North? Who or when will the North sit down to discuss federal resources revenue management framework?

The GNWT will continue to work in partnership with aboriginal governments to get the best deal for the NWT. Bilateral discussion on resource revenue sharing amongst NWT governments had been under way since 2002. A joint GNWT/Aboriginal Summit proposal was developed and presented to the Government of Canada in 2003. Since that time, aboriginal governments' support for the 2003 proposal was withdrawn. Aboriginal Summit and GNWT negotiators worked on and exchanged proposals into the fall of 2005 at which point their respective mandates had been exhausted.

Discussions were initiated at the political level and have continued with aboriginal leaders, but no agreement-in-principle has been reached. Premier Handley, Minister Roland and Minister Bell met with aboriginal leaders on the matter in June 2006. I subsequently met with leaders in December 2006.

Difficulties arise in trying to come to agreement on how revenues should be shared amongst NWT governments in the absence of knowing what the net fiscal benefit from the revenues will be, a matter yet to be negotiated with the Government of Canada. In order to overcome this difficulty, the GNWT has proposed principles to guide the sharing of resource revenues in lieu of actual amounts.

The federal Department of Finance showed little support for the May 2003 joint proposal although some negotiations did take place to try to define a fair and adequate net fiscal benefit. In April 2005, Finance Canada made a proposal that the NWT receive a

minimum of \$30 million with any further sharing to be reviewed upon completion of the work of the federal Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing. The GNWT did not accept the federal offer.

4. Can the Premier outline a strategic plan that demonstrates how northerners will react, should we not get a satisfactory resource revenue or devolution agreement within the next year?

Over the past 10 months, the GNWT has received positive commitments from the new Prime Minister and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that reaching an agreement on devolution and resource revenue sharing is a priority. We are working hard to try to reach an agreement-in-principle before the end of this fiscal year.

5. What will be the process to get the aboriginal governments a fair share of the resource revenue agreement and the devolution agreement?

The GNWT intends to continue to press the Government of Canada for a fair deal on the net fiscal benefit for the NWT from resource revenues through all available avenues including national fiscal imbalance discussions, devolution discussions and territorial formula financing discussions. At the same time, the GNWT will work with aboriginal governments to develop a fair sharing arrangement.

Return To Written Question 14-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital 2002 Operational Review - Status Of Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Ramsay on October 18, 2006, regarding Stanton Territorial Hospital 2002 operational review - status of recommendations.

On January 15, 2004, the Stanton Territorial Health Authority Operational Review Status Report was prepared. The majority of recommendations provided in the report have been addressed, including the development of a Stanton Territorial Health Authority staffing plan, the completion of a physician recruitment plan, and the initiation of various nursing specialty programs to increase skills and abilities in a number of areas. A copy of this status report has been provided to the Member.

In view of the dissolution of the board at the Stanton Territorial Health Authority shortly after the review was completed, recommendations directed toward the board were deferred until such time as a new board may be appointed. At the present time, a public administrator has been appointed for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority, and the role of the board has been assumed by a subcommittee of the Joint Leadership Council, which oversees the health and social services system in the NWT, including the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

Recommendations with respect to human resource functions were assigned to the Department of Human Resources. As concerns are raised by employees regarding their benefits and superannuation, Human Resources staff work with the employees to provide information and resolve any difficulties. Progress is being made to ensure processes are improved for the provision of benefits and payroll information by the Department of

Human Resources. In particular, this is being examined in light of the implementation of PeopleSoft self-service at Stanton, which was scheduled for start-up on February 3, 2007.

In addition, several recommendations are being addressed on an ongoing basis, including recommendations number 2 and number 23. These two recommendations relate to the completion of a master development plan for Stanton and the implementation of the integrated service delivery model. The Department of Health and Social Services is working in partnership with the health and social services authorities on these aspects of the operational review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 15-15(5): Territorial Residential Schools Interagency Committee

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on October 19, 2006, regarding the Territorial Residential Schools Interagency Committee.

The Member asked for a territorial interagency framework for the survivors of residential schools in the Northwest Territories. The Member also asked for an outline of an action plan and the mandates, roles and responsibilities for the Territorial Residential Schools Interagency Committee.

The development of the territorial interagency framework will be an outcome of the coordinated partnerships between the GNWT and members of the Territorial Residential Schools Interagency Committee that will include representation of survivors of residential schools. It is our intent to have the first interagency meeting in the spring of 2007.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is taking the lead in the process to develop a territorial interagency framework.

As a first step, ECE has set up an internal working group to provide support to the residential school survivors' group in the NWT and to the GNWT social envelope departments to establish similar working or support groups. The internal working group is developing an action plan that identifies key areas of responsibility for the different divisions within ECE.

Following the establishment of an ECE-based working group, ECE plans to facilitate the formation of an interdepartmental support and working group for the GNWT by March 2007. The main objectives of this support and working group will be to launch the Territorial Residential Schools Interagency Committee, and to develop an action plan that identifies key areas of responsibilities for the social envelope departments. The group will also assure that support is provided to the residential school survivors' groups in a coordinated manner.

By May 2007, the Residential Schools Interagency Committee will develop terms of reference that plans to identify roles and responsibilities for committee members as they seek to provide support for survivors of residential schools in the NWT. A framework will be developed that will provide direction to the interdepartmental support and working groups about the key priorities in providing support, in developing action plans, and in carrying them out.

The Residential Schools Interagency Committee will also plan for the first face-to-face NWT Residential Schools Interagency Committee meeting by May 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the Member asked a question regarding how the region in the North will be an active participant with the interagency residential schools committees.

The committees will ensure that residential school survivors' groups and other related agencies are informed and participate in the consultation and review of action plans.

I would like to invite Mr. Yakeleya to help facilitate the participation of residential school survivors on the interagency committee and to have their representative contact Ms. Judy Desjarlais at the Department of Education, Culture and Employment at 867-873-7900, or e-mail judy_desjarlais@gov.nt.ca, who is establishing a contact list for participation on the interagency committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 16-15(5): GNWT Funding For Literacy Programs

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Lafferty on October 19, 2006, regarding GNWT funding for literacy programs.

The Member asked for a breakdown of the funds that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides to the NWT Literacy Council and whether the funds are committed on an annual basis. Each year, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides approximately \$500,000 to the Literacy Council, including \$96,000 for core services, and \$400,000 for individual projects. Core services and projects are reviewed annually based on identified needs and priorities.

In 2005-2006, ECE provided \$489,000 to the NWT Literacy Council. To date in 2006-2007, ECE has provided the NWT Literacy Council with \$500,000.

The Member also asked for a breakdown of the funds that the GNWT provides for literacy programming, whether the funds are committed annually, and what communities benefit from the funding. Each year, ECE provides a total of \$6 million for literacy programs, including \$4 million to Aurora College, \$500,000 to the NWT Literacy Council, \$700,000 for community literacy projects, and another \$850,000 to support aboriginal language literacy, community libraries, persons with disabilities, and research projects.

All communities benefit from literacy program funds. Aurora College has a formula that determines funding allocations for adult literacy and basic education programming in all NWT communities. Communities are also eligible to apply for funding under the community literacy development fund, learning support for persons with disabilities and aboriginal language literacy. These programs are driven by proposals. The community library fund has specifically benefited the communities of Hay River, Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Hay River Reserve, Deline, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Fort Good Hope, Fort Resolution and Ulukhaktok.

The Member asked a final question about the amount of core funding that the GNWT provides to the Literacy

Council. As I indicated earlier, ECE provides the NWT Literacy Council with \$96,000 annually to provide core services. The rest of the funding is for identified and agreed to projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 17-15(5): Sale Of Public Housing Initiative

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Villeneuve on October 20, 2006, regarding the sale of public housing initiative. Specifically, these questions related to the number of units sold to public housing clients over the past three years, and whether any of these units have been repossessed or have outstanding arrears.

Over the period in question, 16 public housing units have been sold under the sale of public housing initiative. Four of these units were sold to public housing clients.

As of January 31, 2007, no units sold under the sale of public housing initiative have been repossessed. Since the beginning of the initiative, only two clients have fallen into arrears under this initiative. One of these clients has repaid all outstanding arrears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 19-15(5): GNWT Analysis Of Alternative North's Mackenzie Gas Project Assessment

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Ms. Lee on October 23, 2006, regarding the GNWT's analysis of Alternative North's Mackenzie gas project assessment.

The GNWT has conducted a review of the study and has determined that there were several errors in the model used, which had significant impacts on the results. Because of errors contained in the model, the study overestimates the potential revenue derived from the project. Alternatives North publicly acknowledged these errors during the November 7, 2006, session of the Joint Review Panel in Yellowknife.

While the GNWT will consider all pertinent information with respect to its discussions with the federal government on resource revenue sharing and devolution, it will continue to rely on the Wright Mansell report as the principle assessment of the economic impacts of the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline.

Return To Written Question 20-15(5): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on October 24, 2006, regarding the seniors' home heating subsidy.

As well as answering the questions, general policy information is also provided in this response. The calculation of the SHHS involves a net income threshold and fuel consumption threshold. It does not include a fuel cost threshold. Senior homeowners' fuel subsidies are based on the actual cost of the fuel up to the established consumption limits. For example, where 4,000 litres of propane is proposed under the program, the SHHS program, not the senior, assumes the increased cost for fuel as the price goes up. The budget for the SHHS has been \$525,000 and actual expenditures have recently exceeded the budget to the program. In 2005-06, we

spent \$1.1 million for SHHS resulting in an expenditure of \$586,000 over the initial budget. We anticipate that we will again expend a similar amount on the SHHS in 2006-07.

The Member asked how the maximum amounts were developed for the subsidy, and how these amounts compare to the actual cost of heating the seniors' homes, including older and less efficient homes.

Fuel consumption thresholds were determined by a review of specific fuel types such as wood costs and propane costs. Thresholds were also determined by the average consumption in households located in three geographic zones within the Northwest Territories. For example, fuel consumption is less for Yellowknife, in zone 1, than the community of Fort McPherson, in zone 2. Older homes with greater consumption are factored into the average costs determined for the specific geographic zone, but are not considered in the calculation of individual subsidies. The actual management of fuel consumption is determined by the homeowner(s). The SHHS is intended to subsidize the cost of the home heating, but not to cover full costs. Covering full costs may mean that the program would not encourage energy efficiency.

The Member also asked about the rationale for rolling off the assistance by 25 percent as household income increases. Senior homeowners' fuel subsidies are determined by an assessment of net income. A lower income means residents need greater subsidy and support. To be fair, a formula is used to determine the relationship of subsidy to income. For example, senior homeowners in zone 1 with an income of \$36,249 or less would receive 100 percent of the established subsidy threshold. A homeowner with an income of \$37,499 would receive 75 percent of the threshold. Previously, the program provided the same subsidy to all seniors up to a single household income cutoff. A graduated reduction in the subsidy was recommended by Members of the Assembly.

You also asked about how the income thresholds were arrived at and how they compare with the actual incomes of the seniors. An income threshold based on cost of living data was set in 1992, with the initiation of the Seniors' Home Fuel Heating Subsidy Program. Initially the program was designed only to supplement the purchase of firewood so seniors could continue to stay in their homes during the winter season. The program was adjusted over the years in recognition that there are other heating sources used by seniors and to deal with the fact that the initial focus on firewood restricted the benefit to people living below the treeline. Most recently, for example, wood pellets were added to the list of heating fuels under the program subsidy. Education, Culture and Employment continues to review the SHHS on a regular basis to ensure fuel sources are kept current. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 21-15(5): WCB Chronic Pain Policy

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Ms. Lee on October 24, 2006, regarding WCB chronic pain policy.

Specific changes to legislation were requested to allow the Minister responsible to issue directives to the WCB

related to policy development, in particular a policy on chronic pain.

In March 2007, I will be introducing a bill to replace the current Workers' Compensation Act. This bill will clearly set out the roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of the Minister, the Governance Council, the Workers' Compensation Board, and the Appeals Tribunal. The bill that will be presented will satisfy the recommendations of the Act Now report regarding transparency and accountability. The bill will also satisfy the Act Now's recommendation and the Auditor General's comments that the WCB remain independent from political influence.

With respect to the WCB chronic pain policy, the Governance Council is considering options for amending its policy at the February 13 to 16, 2007, meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 22-15(5): Affordable Housing Plans

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Villeneuve on October 26, 2006, regarding affordable housing initiative plans. Specifically, the Member asked that the "new" affordable housing plans of the NWT HC be tabled, and that information be provided on changes and post-analysis.

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation does not have a singular design for the homes to be constructed under the AHI. Rather, it has numerous designs on which construction plans are based that are then tailored to meet the specific needs of communities and those who will be residing in these dwellings. This allows the Housing Corporation to be flexible in targeting specific needs in communities and allows residents to have input into their new homes.

There are many innovative changes that can be incorporated into AHI dwellings. Primarily, public housing dwellings constructed under the AHI will be multi-configured, thus improving energy efficiency, reducing operations and maintenance costs, capitalizing on available developed land. There is no standard design for multi-unit buildings as multi-unit configured dwellings must be designed for each community based around the specific site on which development is planned.

Depending on the needs of individual clients, dwellings constructed under AHI may also include barrier-free features for persons with disabilities, modifications to allow seniors to live more independent lives, and new technologies designed to lower heating costs. Above all, the infusion of over 500 new affordable dwellings in NWT communities will target public housing units in need of replacement, and ease the transition to homeownership for qualified tenants of public housing.

The Housing Corporation will conduct an analysis in the near future to ensure that the designs have met their intended goal, and to identify other areas where floor plans can be modified to meet the needs of residents.

Later today, examples of floor plans that have been used in AHI construction during 2006-07 will be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 23-15(5): Direct Appointments, Transfer And Casual Hires

Mr. Speaker, I have a response to written question asked by Mr. Ramsay on October 26, 2006, regarding direct appointments, transfers and casual hires.

The number of direct appointments to the Government of the Northwest Territories' public service from April 1 to October 26, 2006, by department and agency, was 74. Most, 43 percent, were of interns and 23 percent were appointments of successful candidates of the Graduate Placement Program: health care and social workers. Other direct appointments involved women being appointed into non-traditional occupations and senior management, ministerial staff appointments, a person with severe disabilities and individuals in highly specialized, hard-to-recruit positions; for example, oil and gas.

Existing employees can be moved to another position without competition on a temporary basis. This is most commonly done by transfer assignment. Transfer assignments are a tool used by the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide employees with opportunities to broaden their work experience and gain knowledge of other departments/units with the organization.

These temporary work placements also allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to meet short-term human resource needs that cannot be met through the open competition process. Two hundred ninety transfer assignments were approved in the 2006 calendar year. Please note that one employee may go on more than one transfer assignment in a given year if operational requirements warrant it.

Casual hire numbers are challenging to provide as an individual may have multiple casual jobs during a year. About 11 percent of the Government of the Northwest Territories' workforce was a temporary hire during the 2006 calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 24-15(5): Chronic Pain Claimants

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Braden on October 26, 2006, regarding chronic pain claimants.

Of the 39 claimants diagnosed with chronic pain, 17 have been resolved and closed, three are open and working toward a resolution, and 19 are receiving a pension for their original injury. Of the 19 on pension, four are also receiving ongoing temporary benefits related to chronic pain.

In response to the second question, the number of injured workers who have returned to work has increased from 23 to 29 since June 2006. Of the 29 who have returned to work, 24 have returned to the kind of work and pay that they had before being diagnosed. There are currently four appeals in process related to chronic pain: three for workers who have not yet returned to work, and one for a worker who returned to work but not at the same level.

In response to the third and final question, each case is looked at individually to consider all circumstances. It must first be determined if the worker is able to return to work without further treatment. Although most workers

return to their pre-accident employer, if the worker cannot return to their pre-accident employer, they may be eligible for the vocational rehabilitation process. If the worker returned to work and later requested to participate in pain management treatment it would be reconsidered.

If a worker declines to participate in treatment and they are unable to return to work, their benefits may be reduced or suspended according to policy 04.01. This policy states that an injured worker is required to undergo certain medical investigations or examinations and is obliged to cooperate fully in his/her recovery by taking reasonable measures to moderate the disability. If a worker does not comply with these measures, the WCB may first notify the worker of the actions he/she must take to meet these requirements, and then reduce or suspend the workers' compensation payments if the worker does not comply with the requirements in a reasonable time.

In relation to training, a worker is fully involved in their vocational rehabilitation process and participates in the creation of their plan. Under policy 05.01, if a plan is selected and then the worker does not participate, the WCB can cancel the training program and limit benefits to 13 weeks for job search. Prior to the commencement of the job search, workers receive up to two weeks of job seeking skills training along with the associated benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 25-15(5): Job Application Acknowledgement Notice

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Hawkins on October 27, 2006, regarding job application acknowledgement notice.

The Department of Human Resources acknowledges those applicants who submit their resumes by e-mail. Unfortunately, right now the department does not have the resources to acknowledge applicants who submit their resumes by post or fax as that process is much more time consuming and the volume of applications is in the thousands. As we migrate to version 8.9 of PeopleSoft, we will be implementing the E-recruit module that will generate a document acknowledging all applicants.

Mr. Hawkins also asked that a web page be set up that would provide the status of jobs, such as open competition, accepting applications, competition closed, screening, interviews, finished and appeal process.

There currently is a section of the Department of Human Resources' website -- linked to the Government of the Northwest Territories' site -- that lists all employment opportunities and the closing dates. However, the staffing process after this point is not linear. While a normal competition would move from screening to interviews to references and completion, this is often not the case. In keeping with the affirmative action policy, departments begin with interviewing affirmative action candidates. However, if none of these candidates is successful in interviews or have poor references, the process moves back to the screening stage. The same thing happens if an individual turns down the job at the offer stage or if a decision is made to consider individuals who do not fully meet the criteria. It would be very confusing for those not fully familiar with the recruitment process.

An applicant may contact his/her local human resource service centre at any time to inquire about the status of a

particular competition. They will be advised whether a competition is still in process or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 26-15(5): Consultation On The Chronic Pain Policy

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Braden on October 27, 2006, regarding consultation on the chronic pain policy.

The Governance Council will be amending its pain disorders policy to allow for the awarding of permanent pensions for pain disorders. The Governance Council will consider options for amending this policy at its February 13 to 16, 2007, meeting.

The Governance Council, recognizing the importance of consultation with stakeholders on this important topic, undertook a consultation in the form of focus group discussions and telephone interviews. These took place during the last week of November and the first two weeks of December 2006. Participants were representatives of employer and worker associations, the workers' advisor, members of the public, and injured workers who have pain disorders.

The focus groups and interviews initially dealt with background knowledge of the workers' compensation system, employer assessments, and benefits provided to workers. The discussion then dealt specifically with chronic pain syndrome and its impact upon injured workers and the benefits currently provided to them. Finally, the discussion focused on the appropriateness of a permanent pension for pain disorders and how other compensation boards and the American Medical Association guidelines rate this as an impairment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 28-15(5): WCB Chronic Pain Policy

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Braden on October 30, 2006, regarding WCB chronic pain policy.

The Governance Council is considering options for amending this policy at the February 13 to 16, 2007, meeting. Upon the Governance Council's approval of the most appropriate option, the WCB's policy on chronic pain, as well as other policies that may be impacted, will be amended to reflect the council's decision.

All of the WCB's policies are accessible to the public on the WCB's website or by request. I will table the WCB's pain disorders policy once finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 30-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Ramsay on October 31, 2006, regarding Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre.

1. The department undertook a review of several factors for testing and treatment options for sleep apnea. A Sleep Disorder Advisory Committee considered the equipment, which Dr. Remmers of Calgary provides, and also worked with a consultant to develop the

- options and assess the implications of the program models proposed by the committee. A copy of the consultant's report has been sent to the Member.
2. The working committee recommended an in-house sleep apnea program to be based at Stanton Territorial Hospital. However, funding for this recommendation was not available. As a result, the following arrangements have been established for the testing and treatment of sleep disorders, including sleep apnea:
 - initial testing is undertaken in the regional centres of Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik;
 - Stanton has arranged for this testing to be provided through a private contractor;
 - the testing is an insured service under the NWT health care plan;
 - an internal medicine specialist reviews the test results and, if needed, prescribes specialized equipment for treatment, such as continuous positive air pressure device or a bi-directional positive air pressure device;
 - most northerners have a significant portion of the costs for these machines covered through their employer's insurance plan;
 - First Nations and Inuit persons are covered under Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program;
 - the Department of Health and Social Services administers the Metis Health Benefits Program that covers the costs of eligible equipment for Metis northerners, and the Extended Health Benefits Program that covers the costs of eligible equipment for people 60 years and older; and
 - the Specified Medical Conditions Program under the Extended Health Benefits Program covers the costs of the equipment for non-aboriginal northerners if the equipment is required for the treatment of a chronic condition under the program.
 3. The coverage for this service is not different from the way health services are routinely administered in Canada. A physician makes a diagnosis and identifies the treatment plan for the patient. These services are insured services under the NWT health care plan. The NWT health care plan does not cover the treatment needs, such as prescription drugs or medical supplies of patients who are not in hospital. As a result, clients must pursue coverage of those costs through one of the programs noted above.
 4. Stanton Territorial Hospital does not maintain detailed waitlist information for this service. However, the contractor has been able to respond to the demands for testing without significant delay.
 5. Stanton has contracted out the services for sleep studies to a private contractor. The provision of sleep studies is shared between Stanton staff and a private contractor. Staff provide overnight oximetry and if this indicates that a full study is warranted, the full sleep study is ordered through the private contractor.
 6. With respect to the Member's question on the clinical staffing review at Stanton Territorial Hospital, the consultant is completing the work for the report. When the report has been completed, it will be distributed to all stakeholders, including the union and the department.
 7. Employees in health care professions have raised the issue of having their own bargaining unit within the Union of Northern Workers. Health care professionals believed that this would give them a better advantage in negotiating greater wages and benefits than other employees and further attract and retain individuals to health care professions in the North. However, negotiating differential pay and benefits for only their group would be a violation of equal pay requirements. This issue has been raised numerous times over the past two decades. The Department of Human Resources advises that multiple bargaining units and multiple agreements are not possible within the UNW. Provisions of relevant legislation do not contemplate bargaining units within the UNW other than those identified in s. 41. (1.4) of the Public Service Act. An employees' association, such as UNW, can initiate collective bargaining only on behalf of the members of a bargaining unit. Unless the UNW is representing a bargaining unit identified in s. 41. (1.4) of the Public Service Act, the Minister is under no obligation to bargain.
 8. The relevant provisions of the present Public Service Act do not offend the freedom of association guaranteed by s. 2(d) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as determined by a Supreme Court of Canada decision in 1990. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
- Return To Written Question 31-15(5): Airport Runway Extensions**
- Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on October 31, 2006, regarding airport runway extensions.
- In March 1998, the Department of Transportation released A Study of Runway Issues in the Northwest Territories that examined the then current and future requirements of community airports and runways. A key finding was that none of the 27 GNWT airports would be constrained due to runway length to meet passenger service requirements.
- The Department of Transportation recognizes that conditions may have changed since 1998 and is currently updating the study. The update will consider, among other things, changes in aircraft type, the impact of resource development, tourism, community needs and new air regulations. The department will work with stakeholders to evaluate current and future required runway lengths. The study will also establish the priority for runway extensions that may be required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 32-15(5): Photo Identification Cards

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Braden on October 31, 2006, regarding photo identification cards.

The NWT motor vehicle registrar currently issues a general identification card to a person in accordance with the requirements of the Motor Vehicles Act. The person must prove their Northwest Territories residency, age and identity, and shall provide an address within the Northwest Territories.

Elections Canada has stated that they do not currently require voters to provide photo identification when voting. A person must produce valid identification showing the elector's name, address and signature. A GIC contains these elements. In a press released issued by Elections Canada, it is stated that, "An elector who does not have identification may register under oath, when he or she is accompanied by another elector registered in the same polling division who can vouch for the elector." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 33-15(5): Yellowknife Airport Runway Extension

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Hawkins on October 31, 2006, regarding the Yellowknife Airport runway extension.

The extension of runway 15-33 is considered in two recent studies undertaken by the Department of Transportation: Planning for the Future the Yellowknife Airport (YZF) Development Plan and Aeronautical Market Study. The studies find that runway 15-33 is of sufficient length to meet the requirements of the carriers currently operating at the airport.

The final decision and timing of the extension would be dependent upon the results of a comprehensive market analysis that supports the presence of tangible, long-term demand for the enhanced service and securing funding. The department will continue to pursue these opportunities as the needs arise. To provide for the potential extension, the Department of Transportation has acquired the additional land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 34-15(5): Non-Custodial Fathers' Visitation Rights

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Braden on November 1, 2006, regarding non-custodial fathers' visitation rights.

It is important to note that the Department of Justice does not have a role in determining the outcome of individual cases. This is a judicial role. Decisions are made according to statutes, common law and precedent. Territorial family laws were passed by the Legislation Assembly, which determined the factors to be considered when a couple separates.

There is both federal and territorial legislation dealing with access and custody: the federal Divorce Act and the territorial Children's Law Act. Parents in the Northwest Territories may have custody and access issues determined under either legislation, depending on their circumstances. In either case, the law presumes that

children benefit from maximum contact with both parents, unless it is not in the child's best interests. Under both laws, neither parent has a legal advantage based on their gender and, accordingly, it is more appropriate to use the word "parent" rather than "father" or "mother" in discussing access rights.

Parents are likely to use the territorial Children's Law Act to deal with access and custody considerations if they live common law and are not "legally" married, or if they are married and separated but do not wish to divorce. When parents are legally married and seeking divorce, custody and access issues are typically determined by the federal Divorce Act.

The Children's Law Act sets out a system for determining access and custody, and the factors to be considered in doing so, and the remedies available to parents who are wrongfully prevented from exercising access to their children. Section 17 of the Children's Law Act identifies several factors to be considered in determining what custody and access arrangements will be in the best interests of the child, including the ability of each party seeking custody or access to act as parent and, notably, the willingness of each to facilitate access between the child and the other parent. Access to a child also includes the right to visit with, and by visited by, the child, and to make inquiries and receive information as to the health, education and welfare of the child.

Where a parent has been granted general access to a child and they are wrongfully denied access, the first step towards enforcement is to obtain an order pursuant to section 21 of the Children's Law Act that sets out specific times and days when access is to be exercised. In the event that this does not resolve the issue, then an application to enforce the access order can be made under section 30 of the act. The court may issue any order it considers appropriate, including one or more of the following:

1. an order requiring the other party to give the access parent compensatory access to the child for a specified period;
2. an order giving directions for the supervision of custody or access;
3. an order requiring the other party to reimburse the access parent for reasonable expenses incurred as a result of the wrongful denial of access; and
4. the appointment of a mediator to assist the parties in working out access, in accordance with the provisions of the Children's Law Act.

These legislative provisions do not limit other remedies that a court may grant, such as varying custody where there has been a continual denial of access, or holding a parent in contempt for non-compliance with court-ordered access.

The federal Divorce Act uses the "best interests" test to determine custody and access, although it does not specify factors to be considered with the same level of detail as the Children's Law Act. It does, however, expressly stipulate that children should have as much

contact with the non-custodial parent as is in the child's interest.

The Divorce Act also does not set out specific remedies for parents who are wrongfully denied access; however, parents who have been granted access under this act may make an application to the court to enforce those rights in much the same way as they would under the Children's Law Act. In these instances, the court has jurisdiction to offer any number of remedies, and usually the first step is to ask the court to specify access times. If that is unsuccessful, then the court may issue other remedies, such as the imposition of cost penalties, variation of custody or holding the other parent in contempt.

It is important to note the provisions of the Children's Law Act cannot be used to enforce access orders made under the Divorce Act, as it is federal legislation. This is confirmed in subsection 30(5) of the Children's Law Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 35-15(5): Two-Rate Zone Structure

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on November 2, 2006, regarding the two-rate zone structure.

This response assumes the two-rate zone structure is made up of a hydro zone for all the current communities served by hydro and a thermal zone for all the communities currently served by natural gas or diesel generation.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a chart of cost comparisons for single thermal zone and community rates in the Sahtu communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 36-15(5): Constitutional Discussion With People Of The NWT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on November 2, 2006, regarding constitutional discussions with people of the NWT.

The Government of the Northwest Territories and various northern aboriginal governments are currently involved in aboriginal rights and devolution negotiations with the Government of Canada. These negotiations are expected to lead to the transfer or jurisdiction over resources and other programs to aboriginal and public governments in the Northwest Territories. The GNWT believes that these negotiations are the reality of political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories.

The GNWT has worked hard to build partnerships at these tables and we continue to believe that working with these partners offers the best possibility for the people of the NWT to gain control over our lands and resources and to secure our rightful place within the Canadian federation.

Mr. Yakeleya also asked if I would consider meeting with the MLAs sometime during the next 10 months and I can say that I am available to meet with the Members whenever our schedules permit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 37-15(5): GNWT Medical Health Travel Assistance Program

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on November 2, 2006, regarding GNWT Medical Health Travel Assistance Program.

In October 2004, the Department of Health and Social Services published two brochures designed to give a general overview of out-of-territory health care coverage for students attending an educational institution outside the NWT and for residents travelling outside the territory. The brochures, titled Studying Outside the NWT? and Traveling? What You Should Know, provide information on health care eligibility, insured services and reimbursements. All health centres and hospitals in the NWT received copies for distribution, and the brochures were posted on the Department of Health and Social Services website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Petitions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 4-15(5): Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre Labour Dispute

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The petition contains 42 signatures of Fort Smith residents and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that all steps necessary be taken by all levels of government to encourage the board of Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre to immediately resolve this dispute, meet with the union to negotiate a fair collective agreement for the workers, and reopen the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 18: An Act To Amend The Education Act

Bill 19: An Act To Amend The Archives Act

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Education Act, and Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Archives Act, and wishes to report that Bills 18 and 19 are now ready for Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**Tabled Document 82-15(5): Federal Revenues From Natural Resource Exploitation In The North, By Category 1992-93 To 2005-06**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents for tabling. Mr. Speaker, further to my Return to Written Question 13-15(5), I wish to table the following document entitled Federal Revenues from Natural Resource Exploitation in the North, by Category, 1992-93 to 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 83-15(5): Examples Of Floor Plans Used In Affordable Housing Initiative Construction

Further to my Return to Written Question 22-15(5), I wish to table the following document entitled Examples of Floor Plans Used in Affordable Housing Initiative Construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 84-15(5): Cost Comparisons For Single Thermal Zone And Community Rates/Services In The Sahtu Communities

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to Return to Written Question 35-15(5), I wish to table the following document entitled Cost Comparisons for Single Thermal Zone and Community Rates/Services in the Sahtu Communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**Motion 17-15(5): Provisional Rule Changes To Implement Designated Budget Days**

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 9, 2007, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that "designated budget days" be implemented on a provisional basis; and further that Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week be "designated budget days;" and further that the House shall commence sitting at 11:00 a.m. on "designated budget days;" and further that the time of adjournment on "designated budget days" shall be 6:00 p.m.; and further that notwithstanding Rule 34(6), the time allotted for Ministers' statements on "designated budget days" shall not exceed 10 minutes; and further that notwithstanding Rule 38(4), on "designated budget days," when a Minister answers an oral question, only two supplementary questions per Member directly related to the same subject may be asked; and further that notwithstanding Rule 27(2) and 27(3), the daily order of business in the Assembly on "designated budget days" be amended on a provisional basis to remove the items: Replies to Opening Address, Reports of Standing and Special Committees and Motions; and further that notwithstanding Rules 4(1) and 4(2), the House shall not sit from Friday, February 23, 2007, through Friday, March 2, 2007; and furthermore that the "designated budget

days" provisional rules be in effect from Tuesday, February 13, 2007, until the prorogation of the Fifth Session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**Bill 21: Appropriation Act, 2007-2008**

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 9, 2007, I will move that Bill 21, Appropriation Act, 2007-2008, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 22: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Friday, February 9, 2007, I will move that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Report of Committee of the Whole. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, February 8, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
6. Returns to Oral Questions
7. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Replies to Budget Address

13. Petitions
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, Write-off of Assets Act, 2006-2007
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 8, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 15:24.

