



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**5<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 33**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, February 22, 2007**

Pages 1111 - 1140

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Paul Delorey**  
(Hay River North)

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

**Mr. Bill Braden**  
(Great Slave)

**Hon. Charles Dent**  
(Frame Lake)  
*Government House Leader*  
*Minister of Education, Culture and*  
*Employment*  
*Minister of Human Resources*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Status of Women*  
*Minister responsible for Persons*  
*with Disabilities*  
*Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**  
(Hay River South)

**Hon. Joe Handley**  
(Weledeh)  
*Premier*  
*Minister of the Executive*  
*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and*  
*Intergovernmental Relations*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*NWT Housing Corporation*

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**  
(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. David Krutko**  
(Mackenzie-Delta)  
*Minister of Public Works and Services*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Workers' Compensation Board*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Jackson Lafferty**  
(Monfwi)

**Ms. Sandy Lee**  
(Range Lake)

**Hon. Michael McLeod**  
(Deh Cho)  
*Minister of Environment and Natural*  
*Resources*  
*Minister of Municipal and Community*  
*Affairs*  
*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Robert McLeod**  
(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

**Hon. Kevin Menicoche**  
(Nahendeh)  
*Minister of Transportation*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Public Utilities Board*

**Mr. J. Michael Miltenberger**  
(Thebacha)

**Mr. Calvin Pokiak**  
(Nunakput)

**Mr. David Ramsay**  
(Kam Lake)

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

**Mr. Robert Villeneuve**  
(Tu Nedhe)

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**  
(Sahtu)

### Officers

#### Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tim Mercer

**Deputy Clerk**  
Mr. Doug Schauerte

**Clerk of Committees**  
Ms. Gail Bennett

**Assistant Clerk**  
Vacant

**Law Clerks**  
Mr. Glen Boyd  
Ms. Kelly Payne

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

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER .....</b>	<b>1111</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS .....</b>	<b>1111</b>
76-15(5) - CANADA WINTER GAMES.....	1111
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....</b>	<b>1112</b>
MR. ROBERT MCLEOD ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARCTIC UNIVERSITY IN THE INUVIK REGION .....	1112
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON 2007 CANADA WINTER GAMES.....	1112
MR. YAKELEYA ON SUPPORT FOR NORTHERNERS GRIEVING FOR DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS.....	1112
MR. RAMSAY ON SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH AUTISTIC CHILDREN.....	1113
MR. POKIAK ON SUPPORT FOR ULUKHAKTOK ARTS AND CRAFTS COOPERATIVE.....	1113
MR. MILTENBERGER ON MARKET DISRUPTIONS FROM CENTRALIZED GNWT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.....	1114
MS. LEE ON WHISTLE-BLOWER LEGISLATION.....	1114
MR. HAWKINS ON FOSTER SCHOOL SUCCESS RATES.....	1114
MR. BRADEN ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NWT OIL AND GAS SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD.....	1115
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY .....</b>	<b>1115</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>1115</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS .....</b>	<b>1127</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.....</b>	<b>1138</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY.....</b>	<b>1138</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, February 22, 2007****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Please be seated. Good morning, colleagues. Welcome back to the House.

Colleagues, yesterday during oral questions, I disallowed a supplementary question on the grounds that it alluded to documents that were not before this House. In addition, the Chair was concerned about references to in-camera committee proceedings. While it was an oral question that ultimately led to my intervention, a number of similar references from both sides of the House preceded the oral question. I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to remind all Members of my previous rulings on matters such as this.

On October 21, 2004, I delivered a ruling on a point of order that clarified what is and is not acceptable in terms of referring to discussions at standing committees. In this ruling, I stated that neither Ministers nor Regular Members are permitted to allude to proceedings in standing committees until the committee has addressed these proceedings in a report to the House. This does not mean that the government is precluded from disclosing information in the House that has not been made public, even if this information has been discussed with standing committee.

However, specific reference to the in-camera proceedings of standing committees by either committee members, ordinary Members who are not members of the committee, or Ministers, is strictly prohibited until the details of such proceedings have been reported to this House.

Of course, as Chair, I am not always aware of what has or has not been discussed in standing committee. As such, I am reluctant to intervene unless a perceived breach is brought to my attention by way of point of order. However, the debate in the House yesterday that led to my intervention dealt with the contents of a legislative proposal and the ensuing discussions that occurred between the sponsoring Minister and the responsible standing committee. Legislative proposals are, by definition, matters subject to committee confidentiality. Therefore, I am unable to think of any circumstance where either a Minister or a Regular Member should discuss the details of a legislative proposal in this House, or the specifics of any standing committee meeting dealing with a legislative proposal.

I remind and encourage all Members to refrain from divulging any part of the proceedings of an in-camera committee meeting until it has been addressed in a report to the House. Failure to do so may not only constitute a breach of order, it may also constitute a prima facie breach of privilege.

Thank you for your attention, Members. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 76-15(5): Canada Winter Games**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week, NWT athletes will begin to travel to Whitehorse for the 2007 Canada Winter Games. These games are the first to be held in the territories and I want to congratulate the host society on their excellent work in planning for these games, which will provide a showcase of the North for the rest of Canada.

The Northwest Territories will be represented by more than 200 athletes at the games in a variety of sports and I want to wish them the very best. While the games provide an opportunity to promote athletic excellence, it also provides participants with a means of experiencing and celebrating the diversity of life in Canada and provides the host region with an opportunity to showcase itself to the rest of the country. I know our athletes will do us proud in the sporting events, but also as representatives of the Northwest Territories.

In addition to the regular games, athletes from the Northwest Territories will be participating in special Dene and Inuit games competition that will be featured as part of the national television and media coverage of the games. Thirty pan-north youth ambassadors will also represent the Northwest Territories at the games. These young people are from communities across the Northwest Territories and I am sure they will represent the Northwest Territories well through their volunteer roles at the games.

As noted, the Canada Winter Games provides an important opportunity for the North to promote itself to the rest of the country. The Canada Games Host Society and the governments of the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories have partnered together to promote travel and investment in the North. This marketing campaign has already started to run and will carry on throughout the games and into the spring.

Territorial artisans and performing artists will also play important roles during the opening and closing ceremonies throughout the games. These activities will provide cultural industries and artisans from all three territories with the opportunity to promote cultural products and educate visitors on how the wilderness, history and culture of the North are reflected in art. The NWT artisan performers will also be participating at cultural festivals planned during the games and at a First Nations cultural retail venue. Also, two NWT artists were selected to be part of 10 artists from across Canada included in an arts exhibit sponsored by the Yukon Arts Centre that will coincide with the Canada Winter Games.

Finally, NWT House will be open for the duration of the games. This central meeting place located in downtown Whitehorse is designed to promote the Northwest Territories to visitors and to provide a place to meet, warm up, have a cup of coffee or hot chocolate for NWT athletes and their parents. NWT House will have a communications centre for e-mail contact with friends and family back home, will provide NWT results from the games and will feature workshops, presentations and performances by NWT artists and performers.

In closing, I am sure you all join me again in wishing the very best of luck to our athletes and in providing our best wishes to all NWT representatives at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

---Applause

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

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago my colleague from Kam Lake spoke on the need for a university in the Arctic and he made a compelling case for Yellowknife. I would like to go one step further, Mr. Speaker, and make a case as to why I believe the Arctic university should be in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, this is the International Polar Year and Canada is one of the countries that failed to establish university capacity in the Arctic compared to the commitments made by some of the other circumpolar countries. Inuvik, Mr. Speaker, the Beaufort-Delta, for that matter, has a rich diversity of everything. We have the tundra; we have the mountains; we have the river delta. We have oil exploration going on and gas exploration. So Inuvik, Mr. Speaker, the Beaufort-Delta, seems to be a logical choice.

The majority of the licences that are issued by the Arctic Research Institute are done and issued to studies in the Inuvik region. That's largely because of the diversity of the environment, culture and political development.

Mr. Speaker, there is a worldwide concern over climate change and the Arctic region will come under close scientific investigation because this is where a lot of the traumatic effects first appear: polar cap ice melting, permafrost deterioration, polar bear and caribou population decline. So, Mr. Speaker, I think this gives a good case for Inuvik. I think it's the belief of many Members on this side that university is needed in the Arctic between ourselves, Nunavut and the Yukon. We should come up with an agreement to pursue an Arctic university. I do want to make a good case for the Beaufort-Delta why it should be there. It's a proven fact, Mr. Speaker, that small towns can support a university. Wolfville, Nova Scotia, is a good example. It brings a lot of money into the local economy.

So I would encourage the Department of Education, Government of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon to pursue an Arctic university and to have it in the Beaufort-Delta. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### Member's Statement On 2007 Canada Winter Games

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as most of us know, the 2007 Canada Winter Games will take place in Whitehorse, Yukon, over the next few weeks and many of our constituents and even a few of the Members from this House will be making the trip to the Yukon to join in this sports and cultural extravaganza.

The original concept for the Canada Games first arose in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1924, and for more than 40 years it remained a frequent subject of discussion. Finally, in 1966, in Quebec City, the governments of Canada and Quebec gave their joint approval to hold the first of many Canada Games. The following year, 1967, was the birth of the games and this year, 2007, it will be the first ever Canada Games to be held north of 60.

The games motto is "Come Celebrate Winter" and what better place to do this than in northern Canada. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, today to thank our government, the federal government and other NWT sponsors for their efforts and financial support making it possible for Team NWT to be part of this great event. An estimated 3,500 athletes, artists, coaches and officials will be participating in the games. Of the 237 NWT representatives taking part in this event, I would like to recognize the Hay River South participants and wish them good luck in their respective sport competitions and to those who will be exhibiting their talents and abilities as artists and coaches at these games.

From Hay River South, best wishes to: Coady Duncan for badminton; Brendan Green for cross-country skiing and biathlon; other biathlon participants: Amy MacDonald, Brian Swallow and Doug Swallow; for curling: Gary Hoffman; for women's hockey, Sabrina Broadhead, Carisa Broadhead, Michelle Daigneault and Cali Groenheyde.

In men's hockey: Kyle Biggar, Brett Stewart, Michael Taylor and Cole Miltenberger; in the national artist program: Christine Morgan; cultural program: Julia Pokiak-Trennert; a member of the mission staff: Quinn Groenheyde; and, finally, our distinguished youth ambassadors from Hay River: Riley Boden and Stephanie Kimble.

Congratulations to all of these people for being accepted to participate in the Canada Winter Games and best wishes for a successful and fun filled experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### Member's Statement On Support For Northerners Grieving For Deceased Family Members

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, I received an e-mail once again from my riding that someone has passed away in Fort Good Hope: Mr. Paul

Cotchilly. My prayers to Monique and to her family and to Paul's children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the last couple of days I had the opportunity to sit with an elder. The elder was talking to me and giving me some insights into the recent loss of my mother and talking about the wisdom the elder has passed on from her parents in terms of helping us go through significant losses in people's lives. In the Northwest Territories, because we are a small population, these losses affect communities and even into the larger centres such as Yellowknife, Hay River or even Fort Smith. The importance of elders sitting with us and consoling us through stories and the meanings, and some the presence of them sitting with us to support us, because the Northwest Territories is small in population, but is huge in heart. When things happen to us in our communities, people really rally together and it really shows and brings out our humanity and helps us go through hard times, especially young children.

Mr. Speaker, recently I was also informed that Mr. Mike Kochon and Rita Kochon in Colville Lake lost a six-month-old baby in Colville Lake. Alfred Orlias and Cathy Kelly lost family in Fort Good Hope last weekend. My friend J.C. Catholique lost her daughter. So, Mr. Speaker, as leaders and politicians, we sometimes have these losses. It affects us greatly but we still do our work. I hope that the Department of Health and Social Services has some kind of programs for families that deal with loss and grief and issues for children and families, and put some programs there to help families go through some of their own losses in lives.

Our prayers are with them and all the other families who lost loved ones in the last year. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Support For Families With Autistic Children**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is again going to focus on autism and how our government is failing parents who need help. I spoke yesterday that my constituent has a three-year-old boy who has autism. Mr. Speaker, autistic children do not cope well when faced with changes to their daily routine. My constituent has been trying to tell this to the Department of Health and Social Services, but to no avail. When it comes to speech therapy for an autistic child, why can't home therapy be an option? It is next to impossible for my constituent to get her son to go to the half-hour per week session with a speech therapist. He is out of his element and begins hitting whatever he can, banging his head off the taxi and screaming incessantly. These out-of-home visits to speech therapy cause my constituent and her family a tremendous amount of stress each and every week.

An autistic child is usually diagnosed around the ages of two. Between the age of two and four, a parent is virtually left to their own devices when it comes to the 24-hour care that is required to attend to the needs and safety of the child. The Department of Health and Social Services could offer a day aid to help, but the stipulation is that my

constituent would have to leave the home with her two-year-old daughter for the day. This scenario might help if there were two parents, both of them working. However, for a single mother living in social housing it's not an option.

I also mentioned yesterday the steady increase in the rate of autism being seen in our children today, and I believe it is time that the government take a serious look at the establishment of a day care type facility for children with special needs. Today there is no facility or dedicated services for preschool autistic children. As a government, I believe we can, and should, be doing more to address this special need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Support For Ulukhaktok Arts And Crafts Cooperative**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Brendan Bell, the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Justice, his staff and I visited Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok in July 2006. In Ulukhaktok we had an opportunity to meet with the hamlet council and members of the arts and crafts committee. We also had an opportunity to tour the Ulukhaktok Co-operative arts and crafts shop.

Mr. Speaker, the local artists in Ulukhaktok are well known for their sealskin sewing, but, more importantly, the artistic value in printmaking. The last number of years the local artists have stopped printmaking because of the condition of the building and the printmaking equipment. During the tour, it was visible the printmaking shop needs a lot of repair to make it viable for the artists to do what they love doing: printmaking, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since the tour, I'm happy to report that there has been some repairs done to the building, more specifically related to the water and sewer tank repairs and heating system of the Ulukhaktok Co-operative arts and crafts shop. These repairs were paid for by BDIC. The community is very happy with these minor repairs to the centre to date. I thank the Minister and his staff, the department, for finding the funds to do these minor repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Economic Development in Inuvik continues to work with the arts and crafts committee in Ulukhaktok to find funds to complete the repairs of the printmaking shop. Mr. Speaker, I am in support of the completion of this project and would encourage the Minister to find the appropriate funds to complete the renovations to the arts and crafts shop. By completing the repairs to the building and printmaking shop, it will bring employment for the people. Employment is scarce in the community; therefore, completing the printmaking shop will bring a much needed economic base for the people of Ulukhaktok. More importantly, it will once again recognize artists for what they can do to become world-renowned printmakers. In closing, I will have questions for the Minister of ITI at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to raise some concerns in this House about the Information Technology Services Centre and the impact that they've had in some communities.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the incorporation and development of this particular model of service delivery, departments provided their own service, they built up their own infrastructure, and in communities mainly outside of Yellowknife, support services in the private sector were built up to assist the government to do this.

The Information Technology Services Centre is a concept that was done to improve service to provide integration of service across government to provide consistency and compatibility of service delivery systems within government, all of which are good things. However, Mr. Speaker, there have been some unintended side effects, in my opinion, that have had a negative impact in communities like Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik. There is significant market disruption. The service providers in the private sector that used to be there, that developed as a result of the request of government to help them provide those services, have been marginalized. There has been, I think, significant centralization into Yellowknife and services provided to the regions out of Yellowknife. The intent of the service centre, in my recollection, was to be compatible and not to provide a negative impact on communities.

I've been on this issue with Ministers now for a couple of years, but it's reached the point where I think it's time for us, as the government and as the Legislature, to take a look at the issue of what happened in terms of market disruption, this unintended side effect, and are there many possibilities of remedy that can be worked out with the communities and with the private sector. The intent never was to put people out of business. I'm going to be asking, later today, the Minister to look at what steps could be taken, and a review could be done, to talk to these service providers in the communities to see what steps could be done to remedy the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Whistle-Blower Legislation**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on many occasions in this House I have spoken about the need for made-in-the-North whistle-blower protection legislation. The general idea is that such legislation would allow the employees or contractors, or even the general public of the NWT, legislative protection from adverse consequences to their employment and economic security or other repercussions for speaking out about government's action or inaction. As I have noted on many occasions, in a small jurisdiction like this where virtually everyone knows everyone else, or is somehow connected by everyone who they play sports with or work and do

business with, this is especially an important and necessary protection to have. I believe it's in the interest of good government and a society that values accountability and transparency like ours, that this government takes a leadership role in this area.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was very encouraged to hear from the Premier and the Minister on the other side last fall that the government had begun working on this initiative. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Honourable Floyd Roland, then Minister of Human Resources at the time, said the following: "As the Premier stated and comments raised in this House by Members, the whistle-blower legislation portion has been discussed a number of times. The Member for Range Lake has made this an issue on a number of occasions and we have taken that and begun to work on it. I am, very shortly, going to be presenting my Cabinet colleagues with the beginnings of a discussion paper and then, if I get approval at that stage, I will be coming to the Members with that discussion paper and see from there if we go out for public discussion on that basis, and then from there begin preparation on legislation."

Mr. Speaker, four months later and with the time of this Assembly running out, I haven't yet seen any indication that this initiative is moving along. I would also, therefore, Mr. Speaker, like to take this opportunity to remind the government that they live up to their commitment and release a discussion paper for public debate as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Foster School Success Rates**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Success rates in our school are something that needs to be addressed. All of our children need to see the importance of completing their education so that they can be productive members of society for the benefits of the future of the Northwest Territories. A 50 percent territorial graduation rate should not be considered a success. It should truly be a call to arms of this Assembly as a high priority.

School attendance needs to be an area of attention, not just to the high school levels but throughout our education system. A strategy to improve attendance should be aimed towards keeping students interested in learning. However, if a carrot approach doesn't work, other methods need to be found.

The Province of Ontario recently established a new law that would strip drivers' licences from young people under the age of 18 who do not finish their secondary education. This law also moves the mandatory age to remain in school from 16 to 18. Additionally, in its efforts to slash dropout rates in half, the Government of Ontario is using the new law to fine employers who hire or schedule students during school hours. Granted, many students may not excel in some curriculum courses, but as a government we need to develop options, remain flexible, and hold the interest of our students. If we want to produce productive members of society, we must have a hand in creating them, not limiting their skill sets available in our schools.

We all know people's interest lay in many different categories outside core curriculum. Providing students with options that they have active interest in, take pride in, and want to do, will produce people who excel and want to do good in school and finish. I would like to see a partnership between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Transportation to join forces in a project like the one in Ontario that is trying, to reduce dropout rates in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, this might not be the right path, but certainly a discussion needs to take place. I wouldn't necessarily advocate taking someone's driver's licence away because they didn't finish school, but, Mr. Speaker, again it needs to be the highest priority to ensure our kids graduate from high school. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement outlines a number of areas of vital concern to the people of the Northwest Territories, our communities, our businesses. An aspect that is addressed in the agreement is the creation of the NWT oil and gas socio-economic advisory board. Mr. Speaker, this is a new level of, I'm assuming here, some accountability along with an advisory capacity that is being set up by the proponents and by the government, and it will include a number of members from aboriginal authorities.

Mr. Speaker, this is, as every project that we've seen, every major development project that we've seen has had advisory boards or monitoring boards bolted onto them and this is all very progressive, but we also need to look at these, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the value that they give to the overall process and just whether or not they actually improve the levels of accountability and transparency, and input, and influence that the Northwest Territories, either through government or communities, have.

I must express some concern, Mr. Chairman, at the terms of reference, which I won't go into. They are contained in the agreement, which is public and has been tabled. Because they do go into areas where this board, this society, is mandated to provide advice and analysis of various aspects of the conditions of the socio-economic agreement and a principle concern, as we've seen with so many other levels of governance, is just who is responsible, who is in control, and who has the ear of the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITIONS OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize with us today Dr. David Leadbeater, an associate professor from the Department of Economics at the Laurentian University in Sudbury up here to do a presentation tonight on what happens when the mine closes; basically a discussion on resource-based towns and what happens to their economy, to their communities when they close. He's here with us in the gallery today.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question 395-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Opportunities For Small Communities**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment a question in terms of the socio-economic agreements. There's some very key chapters in there and there's very key initiatives that are going to happen. I want to ask the Minister a question in follow-up to Mr. Braden's Member's statement in terms of the implementation parts of this agreement. Is this chapter here on the implementation, are those too many chefs in the kitchen and not enough workers out there to know what's going on? How is that going to help the communities in terms of us explaining, have us understand how this agreement is going to work out in our communities in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 395-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Opportunities For Small Communities**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things going on and the Member is correct; of course, we have access and benefits agreements that are being agreed on between the regions and Imperial. We have the \$500 million fund that the federal government has pledged to mitigate socio-economic agreements. There are a number of things going on in addition to our socio-economic agreement negotiations and now the signing of the document. It's understandable that communities need to get a handle on how this will impact them, how they will take advantage of the businesses and opportunities. Obviously in terms of specific business opportunities in the socio-economic agreements, Imperial has made some pledges and some commitments. They are working in regions to develop lists of business and business capacity, so they know who they can use and who to use.

Mr. Speaker, we're more than prepared, as a government, to sit down with communities that are interested and further brief them and discuss with them all of the various negotiations and aspects of the various deals going on,

Mr. Speaker, as well as the socio-economic agreement. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 395-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Opportunities For Small Communities**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister to go one step further by advising the smaller business organizations, the community members who maybe need to have this outlined in plain language in terms of some of the benefits of this agreement and some of the things that need to happen with community involvement and some time frame, date, in terms of this agreement being rolled out. The implementation of this agreement is key, so would the Minister look at some of these options I've laid out? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 395-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Opportunities For Small Communities**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree that implementation of this agreement is key and, of course, that hinges on a positive construction decision being made. We are advancing through the regulatory process, JRP, NEB, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to sit down with communities and go through this. I can't say definitively when that construction decision will be made. We think end of '08, first gas by 2012, but I do know that work is underway. Imperial, on behalf of the producers, are meeting with the regions to talk about creating lists of businesses so that the business community can take full advantage. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 395-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Opportunities For Small Communities**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would again urge the Minister if he would at least check with his staff to ensure that there are other regions out there that want to get a jumpstart on understanding this agreement and the amount of work that needs to be explained to our people in terms of what do we need to do to get ready for the first gas down the Mackenzie Valley here in terms of having this agreement come into effect in terms of the benefits that will show the Northwest Territories, otherwise this deal will go, you'll have sour gas. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 395-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Opportunities For Small Communities**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly will make the commitment that my department will work with the regions to talk about the business opportunities. I know that, as I've indicated, work is underway. We don't know exactly what's in the access and benefits agreements, but let me say that I have it on good authority that there's millions and millions and millions of dollars worth of set-aside work and contracts for the regions. That's why the lists are being created. That's why Imperial

is leading this work. This socio-economic agreement commitment is in addition to that. We're prepared to sit down with the regions and talk about how that will impact them. Thank you.

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

**Question 396-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Public Works and Services and they follow up on my Member's statement. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would consider, or whether the department has in fact done, any kind of review of the market disruption that has been claimed by many of the small community businesses of the setting up of the TSC? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 396-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the reason that this government went to a centralized system was to save costs and look at a more workable system that we're able to facilitate all the departments and also the regions in having a system that's more efficient, but also ensuring that we have security considerations taken care of, we have the technical support there when we need them, and also to ensure that we have a system that's basically workable in all areas, from health care, education, and the government programs and services. That decision was made by the previous government to ensure that we do centralize our system. Mr. Speaker, this is not unique just to governments. Industries across the country are doing a similar thing, having a centralized technical support system so that they can maintain their own service, but also, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we have the security that is now required and also having the support mechanisms there to do it. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 396-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I appreciate the Minister's history of this whole process, the question is, has the department done any review of the market disruption and the concerns that have been raised now for years? I have a file that's fairly thick on this and I've gone to a number of Ministers to try to address this. We have enough time under our belt to try to go back and take a longitudinal look in the rear-view mirror to see. I'd like to ask the Minister, if they haven't, would he consider doing such a review so that we could have that discussion and put this matter to rest? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 396-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government continues to spend roughly about a million dollars a year just on IT support out there in the private sector with regard to calls that are put out to consider the material requests we need for new computers, new upgrades and whatnot. So we are working with the private sector. We're spending about a million dollars a year out there with regard to technical support which is put out through a tendering process. We are still working with them to ensure that we are benefiting the business community out there. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 396-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this money, I would suggest, is probably spent mainly in Yellowknife. This is a small community/regional centre issue. I would like to ask the Minister again, would he commit to have his department take a look at the impact of what has happened with the setting up of the TSC and that impact on communities and businesses in the smaller centres that have been directly affected? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 396-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, as we all know, there is a pretty vibrant business community out there. We have NorthwesTel that's involved in the Internet system; we have different aboriginal corporations now looking at it. I think the systems that we have in place, that we're not the only game in town. We have to realize that there are other industries out there that are also competing for the similar market. I think for ourselves to take the notion that we're the ones at fault here, I don't think it's justified but, again, Mr. Speaker, if the Member would like, I can give him a breakdown on those expenditures that are out there today. We cannot take the full responsibility of what's happening with regard to this business by way of the private sector. Again, it's a competitive business and we are providing a service for this government and on behalf of the people in the Northwest Territories to ensure that we are efficient in what we do but, more importantly, that we're responsible for the costs of doing this business. Thank you.

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

**Question 397-15(5): Programs To Assist Families With Autistic Children**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I wanted to get back to my Member's statement and the issue is autism. As I mentioned, the diagnosis on an

autistic child usually takes place around the age of two. Mr. Speaker, the change to a daily routine for an autistic child is something that just throws them for a loop, it causes them a great deal of trouble and they are completely out of their element when you add changes. So a weekly visit to a speech therapist in a taxi cab is quite a chaotic event for some parents who have to take their children there. I'm wondering if the Minister could let the House know today what services are currently available for parents with preschool autistic children between the age of two and four. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 397-15(5): Programs To Assist Families With Autistic Children**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the area that we have available to families in the Territories, I can't say specifically between the ages of two and four but for families who have children that suffer from autism, we do have a number of programs that are available for families. For their care, we work with the local health authorities, the regional health authorities, and try to come up with the appropriate level of care. Many times it would require families going into a certain location in the community, because that's the best way we can deliver that service to as many clients as possible throughout a day. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 397-15(5): Programs To Assist Families With Autistic Children**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given the difficulty that parents have getting an autistic child to speech therapy, wouldn't it make more sense that we look at home therapy and getting speech therapists to go to the home so that the child is not disturbed and they can go through their daily routine? Would that not make more sense, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 397-15(5): Programs To Assist Families With Autistic Children**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are many things we do that would make more sense if we changed some of the programming. Is it something we can afford to do? Can we get enough people in place to provide an enhanced level of service? We've had a lot of difficulty between Education, Culture and Employment and ourselves at Health and Social Services to come up with a speech pathologist in communities, never mind even headquarters. So that becomes the difficulty, is how much service we can cover. If we could arrange a program, we try to do that on an individual basis if we can come up with the necessary level of service. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 397-15(5): Programs To Assist Families With Autistic Children**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the doctors and the specialists out there that deal with autism would agree that the best thing for the child is to receive the therapy in the home so they're not disturbed from their daily routine. The other day I had an exchange, during Committee of the Whole, with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with regard to the establishment of a day care facility, a specialized centre that would treat and provide the services necessary for autistic children. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if his department has ever given that any consideration? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 397-15(5): Programs To Assist Families With Autistic Children**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any plans that have been put in place to build a facility that would deal with these areas. Just for the record, as well, as I say, there are a number of services provided to families that are in need of this assistance. In the most severe cases, it requires a southern referral. We also deal with, for example, occupational therapy, speech therapy and physical therapy, and if we can coordinate, again, with our services available in a community, we can set up a visitation that would cover a number of bases at one time. Again, it's not always the best issue when it comes to particular issues that we deal with clients. Thank you.

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

**Question 398-15(5): Decentralization Of Workers' Compensation Board Functions And Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many times in this House I have raised the issue of the fair and equitable distribution of GNWT resources in terms of jobs, programs, services and the ability of this government to make decisions, where possible, to decentralize services so that the economic benefits would flow to communities in the regions. Mr. Speaker, the highly publicized issue of the suitability of the headquarters for the Workers' Compensation Board here in Yellowknife was in the news over the last year and, to my knowledge, has not been resolved. In terms of the question of the Minister's authority, or the Minister's role, I'd like to ask the Minister for WCB what ability he would have to bring to bear a change and possibility the decentralization of some functions or all functions of the headquarters of the Workers' Compensation Board to a community outside of Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsibility for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 398-15(5): Decentralization Of Workers' Compensation Board Functions And Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Workers' Compensation Board is a joint board which represents Nunavut and ourselves but, again, the services that they do provide are basically centralized out of Yellowknife and Iqaluit. They also have regional offices, or staff, in Rankin Inlet and Inuvik. Again, the request to have more people in different communities, it's in response to either an increase in development, oil and gas in one particular region or mining in another. I think that we have to be cognizant that where we need resource people is connected to where those activities are happening. Again, I know the Member raised this question before and I did put it forward to the chairman of the board to take another look at it to see exactly how we can ensure that when we put people in different areas, that we have some formula or some mechanism to do that. I did put the request in and they are looking at it.

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

**Supplementary To Question 398-15(5): Decentralization Of Workers' Compensation Board Functions And Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister didn't exactly answer my question as to what influence he could bring to bear on where some or all of the functions of the Workers' Compensation headquarters could be located. The Minister indicated that the principle behind that would have to be related to activity in that region. How about decentralization because it's just a fair and good thing to do? Mr. Speaker the Workers' Compensation Board headquarters here in Yellowknife now employs about 100 people and it costs the operations of the WCB about a million dollars a year just in administration costs related to their location. I would like to ask the Minister if that overhead in administration is picked up by the stakeholders, the employers and the premiums and the rates that they are assessed. Are they the folks who have to pay for that \$1 million per year to be located here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 398-15(5): Decentralization Of Workers' Compensation Board Functions And Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that cost is borne by the workers and the employers who put into this fund. Again, the office is basically a statute of legislation which recognizes that the headquarters of the Workers' Compensation Board will be in Yellowknife. In order to change that, we will have to change the legislation in conjunction with Nunavut and ourselves. They are established through legislation at the present time. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 398-15(5):  
Decentralization Of Workers' Compensation Board  
Functions And Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Oh, wow! That's really good news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, because I think there's going to be a review of the Workers' Compensation Board legislation here in the works. I think that there could be an opportunity to perhaps lobby the Government of Nunavut, particularly the folks who end up having to pay the administration and overhead costs of the Workers' Compensation Board, the employers and employees, to look at options for operating at a much lower rate. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be amenable to considering that in his role responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 398-15(5):  
Decentralization Of Workers' Compensation Board  
Functions And Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will be coming forward with the legislation that the Member mentioned, but we also are going to be having a briefing with the standing committee on, I believe it's the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. At that time, maybe this question could be put forward to the representatives of the Workers' Compensation Board and see exactly how we can deal with it. Thank you.

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

**Question 399-15(5): Tuktoyaktuk To Inuvik All-  
Weather Road**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was going to have a question for the Minister of ITI but I'd like to ask the Premier, I guess. This morning on CBC Radio I heard that he would be travelling to Whitehorse for the Canada Winter Games, but, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, he'll be meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. I'd like to ask the Premier, with this discussion with the Prime Minister, that he would make it very clear that the Tuk-Inuvik highway is very important to the people of the Beaufort-Delta and that he will continue to lobby on our behalf and get the funds necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 399-15(5): Tuktoyaktuk To Inuvik  
All-Weather Road**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be travelling to Whitehorse tonight and I will be meeting with the Prime Minister tomorrow. I think I mentioned it yesterday in the House that I would be. There is a limited amount of time. The two main issues I want to deal with him are on resource revenues and devolution, and also on climate change. However, if there is time for other issues, then certainly I would bring other matters up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 399-15(5): Tuktoyaktuk  
To Inuvik All-Weather Road**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the Tuk-Inuvik or Connecting Canada: Coast to Coast to Coast and also...(inaudible)...too, so will the Premier at least put that as part of his discussions with the Prime Minister? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 399-15(5): Tuktoyaktuk  
To Inuvik All-Weather Road**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if there is time, then, yes, I will talk about infrastructure including the Tuk to Inuvik road, but I can't guarantee this time. There are three Premiers who all want the Prime Minister's ear, I'm sure, and we have a limited amount of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 399-15(5): Tuktoyaktuk  
To Inuvik All-Weather Road**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I know time with the Prime Minister is important but also time is important with even the Premier, so I just hope that the Premier can at least throw in there really quickly the Tuk-Inuvik highway. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. I don't know if I heard a question there or not, but I'll allow the Premier to respond. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 399-15(5): Tuktoyaktuk  
To Inuvik All-Weather Road**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to me the most important thing for us in the Northwest Territories is to have a fair share of those resource revenues come here. Then we will deal with our own highways and our own bridges and our own issues. So I intend to continue to push him on resource revenue sharing. If there is opportunity, then certainly I will talk about infrastructure and specifically the Tuk to Inuvik highway, but, at this point, I can't guarantee that we will be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 400-15(5): Discussion Paper On Whistle-  
Blower Protection Legislation**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the Member's statement I made about the whistle-blower protection legislation and I'd like to direct my questions to the current Minister of Human Resources. I would like to ask him if he could give us an update as to where the government is on coming up with a public discussion paper on whistle-blower legislation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 400-15(5): Discussion Paper On Whistle-Blower Protection Legislation**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, I expect to be able to have a paper for consideration, or a draft of what we're proposing to use for a discussion paper, before the standing committee before the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** About time.

**Supplementary To Question 400-15(5): Discussion Paper On Whistle-Blower Protection Legislation**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, in the last answer to my question in October, I think the time period was about a month. I'm being told it will be the end of this session, which is the end of March. Now that I have it on record, I would encourage the government to really push it along and hopefully we could see it and work on it together. I'll put the government on notice that I'm not going to take another deadline after that.

---Laughter

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No question there. Thank you, Ms. Lee. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 401-15(5): Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the need of an Arctic university in my Member's statement. I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if the Minister and his department have discussed the possibility of establishing an Arctic university in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 401-15(5): Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in response to questions from Mr. Ramsay in Committee of the Whole, I don't see us establishing a stand-alone university in the Northwest Territories. The smallest university in Canada right now has an operating budget of around \$70 million a year. We know that it would be much higher than that to operate in the Northwest Territories. What we have started to do is look at whether or not there might be options to create a virtual university using the campuses of the colleges that we have between the three territories. There's been some discussion about that. There is some interest from my colleagues in the other two territories. I would hope that over the next few months we'll be able to advance that discussion somewhat. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 401-15(5): Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this is International Polar Year and an established university in the Arctic might add some weight to our Arctic sovereignty, and the GNWT, federal, regional, aboriginal, international governments, they already invest some money into Arctic research without the benefit of an established university. The only one I know of maybe close is Edmonton and that's not the Arctic. I'd like to ask the Minister, and he mentioned speaking to his counterparts, I'd like to ask the Minister, have they met to discuss the benefits of pooling their resources and have a stand-alone Arctic university? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 401-15(5): Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not met on a face-to-face basis with the other two Ministers at the same time. I have spoken to the Ministers in each jurisdiction by phone to discuss the issue and found that they were interested. We had agreed that we were going to get together to discuss it face to face. Unfortunately, at our last meeting of Education Ministers, which is when we had planned to do it, only two of us were able to attend. So we are still looking for an opportunity to advance the discussion. I will endeavour to do that, as I say, over the next few months. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 401-15(5): Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned a virtual classroom and I don't think a virtual classroom would work for university students. It doesn't work for high school students. So I'd like to ask the Minister what is the next step. What would we have to do to begin the process of trying to get a stand-alone university? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 401-15(5): Establishment Of An Arctic University In The Inuvik Region**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is talking about bricks and mortar, we have a long way to go. The proposal I made to the other two Ministers was that using the facilities that we have with our campuses, the existing campuses, by expanding what we're doing into more of a research oriented area of interest, that we could probably attract money that is now going to other universities.

The Member mentioned the University of Alberta. They get millions and millions and millions of dollars from the Government of Canada to fund research chairs, and it was my thought that if we were able to work together with the other two jurisdictions to have a pan-territorial university, that we might be able to attract those dollars as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 402-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, the proposed creation of the NWT oil and gas socio-economic advisory board as part of the Mackenzie Valley SEA is worthy of questions and I will direct them to Mr. Bell, the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Investment. Mr. Speaker, the board is set up to provide advice, to receive and analyze reports, and to undertake other studies related to the SEA. There are five objectives outlined in some length in the agreement. But what I was curious about here, Mr. Speaker, was the duty to really give value to this whole process, to this whole project, and to the ability of the people of the NWT to know what's going on and get effective monitoring on the SEA. So, Mr. Speaker, the question that I'd like to ask is just where is the significance of this board, how is it being resourced, what are the expectations in terms of our ability to use it as an effective part of this project management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Two or three questions there; I'll allow the Minister to answer one or all three of them. Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 402-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an important aspect of this socio-economic agreement. Socio-economic monitoring is critical, it's vital. We do know that we will be challenged with a two-year, maybe three-year, construction period to have the board meet a few times a year, compile reports, receive information from our government, from Imperial, as to how successful they are being in meeting the objectives of the SEA. But the plan is to have them do just that. Come back to us with recommendations about adaptation, about changes, about things that we need to do. But, very much, their job is quite intense initially. After two years of construction, it's about monitoring the operations as it relates to socio-economics and it significantly ramps down, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 402-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, we know from the 20 or so pages that define this advisory board, that it is made up, at least initially, of one person from the Government of the Northwest Territories, three from the original proponents, four aboriginal organizations, and then potentially in the future any other downstream operators and any other aboriginal organizations that may come forward. Mr. Speaker, my concern is that the GNWT, which also has a \$200,000 a year commitment to fund this organization, has one vote out of many. How is the effectiveness of our voice going to be heard on this advisory board when we are potentially going to be overwhelmed by the other operators and aboriginal organizations on this board, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 402-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think we should take the view that we're going to be overwhelmed by aboriginal organizations. I don't think we're adversaries; I think we're working collectively. I see it as the representation of the public interest, and we are doing that together; both our government, the aboriginal authorities whose people, this land, is clearly going to be potentially impacted. Their standard of living, the socio-economic impacts, are going to affect our communities. They have a vested interest in how this unfolds. So we don't see it as an us and them. We do think, though, that we have to hold industry to account. We are proposing that it is the aboriginal organizations and our government which will collectively and cooperatively do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 402-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm all in favour of a collective and cooperative approach and I do hope that's what this society will do for us. However, Mr. Speaker, I do want to indicate that the Minister is being somewhat selective in saying that we don't want to be overwhelmed by aboriginal organizations. That is not, Mr. Speaker, absolutely not the intent of my question. But what we should do is look very carefully at the three seats already occupied by the original proponents and potentially any other operators. This board could be overwhelmed just by operators, just by industry, Mr. Speaker. The question that I'd like to ask the Minister is, this is a public government that works on behalf of all residents of the Northwest Territories, and that is why I want to again return to this point of where is the effectiveness and the equity of the whole of the Northwest Territories in a board that, so far, has the GNWT's single voice among at least seven other members, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 402-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it may not have been the Member's intent to suggest that we were going to be overwhelmed by aboriginal authorities, but I believe that that's in fact what he said. So I appreciate the clarification. I think that that's important. This board needs to strike an industry and a public interest balance. We think the public interest is served by having our government at the table. Obviously, the various departments of our government need to feed into this process. We will rely on Health and Social Services, ECE, ENR to provide information to the board. But again, there is deliberately a balance between the public interest, as represented by our government, and the aboriginal authorities and industry. In future, we think, as future developments happen, there's more exploration in the basin, other industry partners will come to the table, as will other affected aboriginal interests, it would be again

our desire to strike that balance between industry and public interest. Thank you.

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

**Question 403-15(5): Discussion Of Caribou Matters At Meeting Of Territorial Premiers**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are directed to the Premier and it's in regards to his meeting that's going to be taking place tomorrow with his colleagues from Nunavut and the Yukon. Specifically, I'd like to ask the Premier in regards to the strong inter-territorial concern about caribou and their herds, whether he would take this opportunity to ask Premier Fentie to ensure that the Porcupine caribou survey is done this coming year, and he would ask his colleague Premier Okalik to work with us to carry out the Beverly Qamanirjuaq herd survey and, more importantly, talk to him about the protection of the calving grounds that currently exist, of which there are five in Nunavut. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 403-15(5): Discussion Of Caribou Matters At Meeting Of Territorial Premiers**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll certainly have opportunity to talk to the other two northern Premiers. We do have an interjurisdictional agreement with Nunavut and with Yukon. Caribou figures highly in our issues today and I will raise this with the other two Premiers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 404-15(5): Implementation Of The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI, again I'd like to follow up on my previous questions on the socio-economic agreements in terms of the strength of these agreements in terms of commitments by all parties in terms of ensuring that this agreement will be fulfilled to the spirit and intent of the signatories to the document. What strength do we have, does the territorial government have, to ensure the people in the Northwest Territories that this agreement will be implemented as it was supposed to be, or should be? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 404-15(5): Implementation Of The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important that we keep in context the fact that this is one agreement of many that we've seen recently that related to the Mackenzie gas project. I indicated earlier the \$500 million fund, the access and benefits in our communities, in our regions, are critical. A lot of money, a lot of work, a lot of opportunity, Mr. Speaker. I do know that currently underway in our communities, in our regions, Imperial Oil, on behalf of the producers, is

conducting workshops to help build better local understanding related to project timing, related to the bidding and qualification process. They are, as I've indicated, setting up lists and working with the regions to understand who can do what, who will be the approved businesses. I think the proof is in the pudding and in the work that is being done in the regions, by governments and by industry, to help us be ready. Because, Mr. Speaker, commitments are one thing, but if we can't reach those commitments because our people aren't ready, they are, in effect, meaningless. So that's the most important point here, Mr. Speaker. We have a lot of work to do to build capacity and we are doing that jointly. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 404-15(5): Implementation Of The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope that the commitments will be fulfilled by all the signatories to this document. I guess we'll wait and see in terms of how these commitments will roll out. Time will only tell, after the next five or 10 years after the pipeline has been considered for construction and being built, and after construction. I want to ask the Minister in terms of these socio-economic agreements, how is this in terms of the Diavik or BHP socio-economic agreements? Where, in a territorial-wide basis, is the Sahtu in these socio-economic agreements that the territorial government signs? How are we impacted or how are we being looked at in terms of this agreement? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 404-15(5): Implementation Of The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that all our agreements are good and all meet the GNWT and I think the public interest objectives as laid out. Mr. Speaker, of course, they are different. This project is different. As I've indicated, very much a two or three-year construction window and then a tapering down into operations. With the mines, it's different. Open pit mining, obviously a number of people onsite for a continued period of time, Mr. Speaker. So they are different agreements, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing, as I've indicated, with Diavik, with BHP, with the De Beers agreement, we didn't have the federal government coming to the place with \$500 million largely for socio-economic issues. So there are a number of other things going on. I think we need to see through that lens when analyzing and trying to compare the various different agreements that we have between government and industry. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 404-15(5): Implementation Of The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to let the Minister know that at least initially the first

time I looked at the socio-economic agreement that certainly it looks good on paper and certainly the numbers are coming out in terms of what the benefits are for the people around the Mackenzie Valley. The key for me is really the implementation of this socio-economic agreement. Certainly, our regions will definitely benefit in terms of a project like this. We're not too sure right now if \$500 million would be available to us. However, I'd like to ask the Minister again to re-emphasize the need to come into our region and explain in plain language and to our people in the language of the Dene. Mahsi.

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

**Further Return To Question 404-15(5):  
Implementation Of The Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Agreement**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will certainly do that. I'll work with our regional staff, with the Mackenzie gas project office, to ensure that happens. It's important to remember in these SEAs that the commitments are made, Mr. Speaker, to hire people if they're ready. So we, as a government, have decided to focus on getting our people ready. They will make commitments to use our businesses if our businesses have the capacity and the ability. So we've chosen to focus on working with the proponent to get our businesses ready, Mr. Speaker. I think that's the most critical point in these socio-economic agreements. Lots of reasons for us not to achieve targets. We want to remove those reasons. Lots of reasons for people not to be able to get to the jobsite. We negotiated that people will have their way paid to the jobsite, Mr. Speaker. These are important aspects of this agreement. Thank you.

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

**Question 405-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to continue exploring the socio-economic agreement advisory board with the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Investment. Mr. Speaker, among the criteria outlined in the agreement for this advisory board, the members do not intend the board to maintain permanent staff or premises other than a registered office, but yet it's going to have a budget of some \$200,000, half of which we are committed to fund. What are we going to be paying for, Mr. Speaker? What is the value that we're going to be getting out of this non-permanent advisory board, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Return To Question 405-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, maybe I'm reading the question wrong, but the Member seems to be suggesting that this is too much money. We think it's an adequate amount of money to do the socio-economic monitoring. They'll be working with our government to monitor the project. We will have people on this board who will have to make site visits, who will have to go to communities to talk to community members about the impacts, about the commitments that have been made.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is research to be done, there's on-the-ground site visits to be made, we do need a budget to do that kind of thing. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 405-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is inferring that perhaps I think \$100,000 of taxpayers' money is too much. You know, really on the contrary, I'm concerned that with the significance that we're attaching to this, but yet the intention that we're not going to have permanent staff, that the board is going to conduct itself in a fiscally prudent, reasonable and cost-effective manner and not spend in excess of a budget approved. How is it going to get all this important work done, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 405-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, we think that it certainly can get the work done. We don't think that a permanent presence with an office and a bevy of staff is required. We think that this board will be resourced, obviously by our government. We will work to provide it with information. We think that this is an adequate budget. Should we determine at some point in the future as we're going through the couple of year construction period that it needs some uplift and the government makes a decision in this House that there are additional resources required, there is provision, certainly, Mr. Speaker, for this group to undertake more work and research if it deems that necessary. As a government, we'll be there to support it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 405-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** It's an interesting contrast here, Mr. Speaker, because I believe that there are permanent offices established for at least the environmental monitoring aspects with our diamond mines. I stand to be corrected on that, but these are projects that are 10 times...The pipeline is a project 10 times at least the size of the diamond mines, and yet we have significant resources for that monitoring. They may not be full-time attached to the diamond mines. Why is it that this level of advisory and monitoring seems to be so diminished from those other projects, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 405-15(5): Establishment Of The NWT Oil And Gas Socio-Economic Advisory Board**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to take a tour with the Member of the permanent offices for BHP and De Beers. I think it will be a quick tour, Mr. Speaker. I'll just say that.

---Laughter

The agreement is different because the nature of the business is different, Mr. Speaker. These mines are intense activity, potentially 1,000 people working for 20, 30 years, Mr. Speaker. We need the continuity, we need the presence, that's why you see with DCAB a slightly different arrangement than you see with this agreement. To staff up, to rent out office space and hire a vast number of people for two construction seasons, we felt, Mr. Speaker, was unnecessary. Thank you.

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

**Question 406-15(5): Power Corporation Reliability Issues**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. The Power Corporation is in the process now of going through a general rate application which will see power rates increase here in the Northwest Territories. I think it's very hard for the residents here in the Northwest Territories to stomach any type of increase, given the fact that last summer there was over \$500,000 paid to senior staff in bonuses at the Power Corporation. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I represent a riding that has over 100 businesses in it: Kam Lake Industrial Park. The power goes out every second day in the summertime and it costs businesses in my riding money and no one is very happy with the Power Corporation looking at raising rates. So I'd like to ask the Minister why are they going to a general rate application to raise rates on residents here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 406-15(5): Power Corporation Reliability Issues**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know living in the Northwest Territories, costs have gone up for the purchase of diesel fuel to purchasing materials. I think we have to realize that there is a cost. If NorthwesTel's power rates go up, it is all affected by the cost of doing business. It has been four years since the last rate application. We all know the cost of operating in the Northwest Territories has jumped drastically in the last four years.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out that out of the 23 communities we represent, we are going to see an increase in roughly 17 communities from the range of roughly about .01 cent a kilowatt to 12.53 cents a kilowatt. Also, we are going to see a decrease in nine communities that range from 1.47 cents a kilowatt to 28.70 cents a kilowatt. Again, there is going to be some increase in some communities. There is going to be a decrease in other communities. In regards to the residents of Yellowknife, it is simply an increase to the wholesale rate that is being charged in the area of about 2.13 cents a kilowatt. Again, that is roughly the range of the increase that we are looking at. We haven't had a rate increase for the last four years. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 406-15(5): Power Corporation Reliability Issues**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that, but the fact of the matter remains that rates are going to go up for the majority of residents here in the Northwest Territories. As I mentioned earlier, businesses are paying a hefty price every time the power goes out. Here in Yellowknife, the power goes out every second day in the summertime; sometimes twice a day. I would like to ask the Minister if the Power Corporation has any type of game plan to address that, the power outages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 406-15(5): Power Corporation Reliability Issues**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do everything we can to ensure that we do have a steady flow of power into communities. Yes, we have disruptions, but in most cases those disruptions are caused by natural occurrences. Basically, we have a lightning strike or a raven lands on the power line. Again, there have been a lot of upgrades going on in Yellowknife over the last year as we can all see driving around the city, that Northland Utilities has been a major influx of increase in the power outage in the community, but more importantly ensuring that the grade system in Yellowknife can sustain the excess power but also with the growth of the city. So we have to acknowledge that this is happening again. There are circumstances which are out of our control in most cases. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 406-15(5): Power Corporation Reliability Issues**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I probably wouldn't be too far from the truth, I guess, if I suggested that Yellowknife, as a capital city in this country, experiences the most power outages of any capital city in North America. I have been to other cities in the summertime. The power doesn't go out, Mr. Speaker. Businesses are paying the price. When the power goes out at a restaurant at lunchtime, they lose \$2,000 in sales over the lunch period. Mr. Speaker, it is not acceptable. What will the Power Corporation do to ensure that there aren't the outages and disturbances in the future? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 406-15(5): Power Corporation Reliability Issues**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Power Corporation supplies power to Yellowknife through a wholesale agreement with NUL. Northland Utilities is the distributor in Yellowknife and Hay River and a few other communities. Again, they are the operator that provides the power to the residents of Yellowknife. Again, through their rate application, this question could be brought up with the NUL and also in

regards to the Public Utilities Board to ensure that there is information provided in regards to the number of outages. If the Member would like, I can give him a breakdown of exactly how many outages have taken place and also exactly what has caused the breakdown to occur. If the Member would like, I can provide him with that information. Thank you.

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

**Question 407-15(5): Location Of Socio-Economic Impact Fund Office**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a recent meeting in Inuvik, the BDRC and then at a follow-up meeting with the Gwich'in, they were told that an office for the socio-economic impact fund was going to be established possibly in Calgary. We are talking Mackenzie Valley, not wild rose country. I would like to ask the Premier if he is aware of a final location being decided on that office. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 407-15(5): Location Of Socio-Economic Impact Fund Office**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did raise this matter with Minister Prentice and he clarified that the office will not be in the South anywhere but will be in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 407-15(5): Location Of Socio-Economic Impact Fund Office**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you very much. We are talking north of the Arctic Circle, right? Has a decision been made as to where in the North this office will go?

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

**Further Return To Question 407-15(5): Location Of Socio-Economic Impact Fund Office**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for Minister Prentice, but I made the assumption he was speaking north of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel. He was speaking about it being in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 407-15(5): Location Of Socio-Economic Impact Fund Office**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier if he will be consulted as to the best possible location for this office north of the Arctic Circle. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 407-15(5): Location Of Socio-Economic Impact Fund Office**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have no confirmation that I will be consulted. Mr. Speaker, I know Minister Prentice has been consulted. He has received letters. I have seen copies from some of the leaders in the North about where the office should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 408-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Infrastructure Impacts**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Hay River is going to be a very keen integral place if the Mackenzie gas project proceeds because much material will come in by rail. Much material will leave by barge and also our access to the highway coming to the South. So there is a lot of discussion that needs to take place around infrastructure in anticipation of the Mackenzie gas project. I would like to ask the Minister if he could update for the House any plan or work that has gone into the potential for a gathering in Hay River to bring together the folks from the rail and highway, talk about municipal infrastructure of communities that are going to be impacted, a focus on infrastructure, capacity for barges, tugboats, those sorts of things and projections to prepare industry to respond to the needs that will arise? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 408-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Infrastructure Impacts**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, let me say that I understand this week ITI officials and Imperial Oil have been meeting in Norman Wells. I think they are going to meet in Hay River on Friday to talk about impacts to municipalities. They will be working with the other municipalities. So there is some work going on to better understand the kinds of impacts that we will see municipally. I will be very careful to talk about committee discussions, but we have a Joint Pipeline Committee of AOC, Cabinet members. I do intend to come back and present some options to that committee that relate to infrastructure, conferences, some works and discussions we can have. I will present a variety of options and dates. That committee will make some decisions in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I will defer to my colleagues. Thank you.

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

**Question 409-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue my questions with the Minister of Public Works and Services. While the Minister may have a certain amount of things to be defensive about with Public Works and Services, I don't think necessarily that TSC is one of them. I characterize my concern as an inadvertent occurrence that happened and wasn't anticipated. I would like to ask the Minister again. We have had concerns raised. I have had concerns raised from businesses in my community as well as I am aware of others from other communities about the market disruption and the impact of the TSC. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to try to sit down and ascertain the market disruption. Did it occur? To what extent? Are there any possible remedies? This was not supposed to happen. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 409-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, there weren't going to be some impacts, especially when we decided to make the decision to go to a centralized system. Now, we do have a lot of IT services which are done internally by our department. We have regional staff in the field. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, we still continue to use the private sector when it comes to purchasing hardware, software, computers and looking at upgrades. So, Mr. Speaker, like I mentioned earlier, we do spend roughly about \$1 million a year working with the private sector through our contracting procedures to ensure that we have a competitive process. So we do allow for that to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 409-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the money the Minister references is spent I would think almost exclusively in Yellowknife. This is an issue that affects smaller communities, businesses in smaller communities. The Minister does not know if there was an impact. The businesses are telling us there was a significant impact. I am asking him if he would take the time to take the steps to check through his department and the businesses if there was an impact, what it was and are there possible remedies? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 409-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, yes, I will take it back to the department to see exactly what impacts there

were. I admit there were impacts in regards to how this process goes, but to ensure that the million dollars that we are expending that everyone has a fair opportunity to either bid on the process but also have a competitive process so everyone is able to abide by that, so I will commit to that to the Member.

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

**Supplementary To Question 409-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that commitment. Now I would like to ask him if he could put some timelines on it for me so I could have a sense of what I can tell my constituents that this is being looked at by the government. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 409-15(5): Market Disruptions From Centralized GNWT Information Technology Services**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will take a little time to compile the information and also talk to different service departments and departments we are dealing with. Again, I will possibly make an attempt at getting back to the Member, say, as early as April.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 410-15(5): Impact Of Oil Exploration On Sahtu Winter Road Services**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one question I have is for the Department of Transportation to the Minister. The recent reports of the NWT oil and gas exploration program target Little Chicago out of Fort Good Hope. I want to ask the Minister if he is working with the people in the Gahcho Kue Dene area in terms of the winter road and the types of services that are going to possibly improve by having this oil company come into our region and look at some of the oil exploration find that they may have them in our area. Will the community of Fort Good Hope or Norman Wells see road improvements between those two communities because of the recent announcement by the Kodiak Energy Company? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 410-15(5): Impact Of Oil Exploration On Sahtu Winter Road Services**

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, that is a good news story for the Sahtu region; continued investment into their region. I am not too sure about their actual plans, but if they do use our roads, our agreement is that they do contribute and help maintain and upgrade those roads for easier transportation of their equipment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Time for oral questions has expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 410-15(5): Impact Of Oil Exploration On Sahtu Winter Road Services**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the roads will be used from Norman Wells to Fort Good Hope then further on north to Little Chicago where there are potential billions of oil and gas. Again, I will ask the Minister if he would look at this policy to see if there is a specific policy that would ensure that his department, along with industry, meets with the community members to ensure that future development such as oil and exploration companies coming into our region, that these community meetings happen to ensure the safety of our roads are kept up? Thank you very much.

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

**Further Return To Question 410-15(5): Impact Of Oil Exploration On Sahtu Winter Road Services**

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, opportunities like this are always of great interest to us. We do make contact with communities and industry that is operating and using our infrastructure and do enter into discussions with them to assess the maintenance and upkeep. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 410-15(5): Impact Of Oil Exploration On Sahtu Winter Road Services**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister, in making contact, I hope that he means by coming in, sitting across face to face with our leaders, with contractors, with the oil companies and having a discussion of some of the roads that could be improved. I certainly again applaud the Minister, Mr. Speaker, for creating some bypasses that have now diverted some of the bigger traffic around communities. So this is what I ask for in terms of a consultation. Would the Minister do a face-to-face consultation with our people? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 410-15(5): Impact Of Oil Exploration On Sahtu Winter Road Services**

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and great improvements to our winter road structures. We have always entered into discussions with the communities. I would be pleased to travel to the Member's riding to discuss further priorities that they may have. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Second reading of bills.

Before I go to the next item on the Order Paper, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our Pages. I know a couple of them have to leave a little early today, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Pages that have been working for us all week. They are from William McDonald School and Sir John Franklin School. I would also like to recognize two Pages from my own riding, Ben Squirrel and Justin Boutillier.

---Applause

Thank you very much for the work you have been doing for us. I know all Members appreciate your efforts in the House. I hope you enjoyed your experience. Thanks.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bills 18, 19, 21, Committee Reports 7, 8, 9 and 10, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

**ITEM 16: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. We hope that committee will be able to conclude the Department of Transportation today and get into our consideration of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment under Bill 21, the Appropriation Act, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. We left off yesterday on ferries and we will resume with ferries right after lunch.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Okay, I will call Committee of the Whole back to order, Members. We are on page 8-29 on the Department of Transportation, activity summary, ferries, operations expenditure summary, \$6.42...Oh, you guys let me go that far.

---Laughter

I was trying to move things along here. Mr. Menicoche, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Yes, Madam Chair.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Okay. I'd like to welcome Mr. Auger and Mr. Neudorf back into the Chamber. Again, we are on page 9-29, activity summary, ferries, operations expenditure summary, \$6.429 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Agreed. Thank you. Page 6-35, activity summary, community marine infrastructure, operations expenditure summary, \$120,000.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The marine infrastructure dollars, are those dollars still available to the communities that require them or see a need for boating docks, I'll call them, or wharves? I know it would appear that this money is well received or well supported by our communities that need these boating wharves in our communities and I would ask the Minister, Madam Chair, in terms of maybe not so much detail, but that this funding is available to communities that want to apply for it; if it's the hamlet council or the band council or the Metis council. What kind of council can apply for these fundings and how much is available per year per community and where does it show up in our budget here? Mahsi.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes, the money is available for communities as a grant and it's application based, much like our local access roads program is. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. That begs the question in terms of the grants. It's good news for people who are listening out there and good news for the people or communities that require docks in their communities for boating, recreational boating. These applications, when are the communities notified ahead of time to please send the applications? First-come, first served? Some communities may take a little longer than others in terms of putting together a professional proposal that requires to have a dock in their community. Are the communities given time to put in a good document proposal for funding for this initiative? Thank you.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The access to these funds is done through our regional superintendents. Typically I think we've been doing about, I think, five to seven projects a year and it's based on need and application based as well. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I ask the Minister, could he provide to me in the House a list of these recent, in the last maybe two years, in terms of where these funds were expended in our regions because I believe some regions may be getting more funding in some areas. I ask if he could provide that to the House at a later date. Thank you.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes, we'll be willing to provide more details of past expenditure projects to the Member. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Can the Minister, just off the top of his head with his officials here, advise me if there's any type of docks that were provided to the Sahtu in the last couple years or any other small communities in terms of this type of information? Because I know some of the communities, in Good Hope certainly, Tulita and I know Norman Wells and Deline, have received some funding and it's well received and well supported in terms of the boating docks for their community. Thank you.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The uptake on this particular program is \$50,000 a year that we're looking at and there is another pot of funds that the Coast Guard has. It's \$450,000 a year and I believe that's...I believe that it was the Coast Guard access funding that helped out the community of Deline and Norman Wells to do up those docks, Madam Chair.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the brief information by the Minister. Those two communities in my region certainly appreciate it, but other communities do have a proper dock that's paved, it's good for spring because a lot of people now have boats, very expensive boats, and they certainly have their struggles by putting their boats in during the summer. They're asking if they could look at having this type of dock in their communities. So, Madam Chair, how is it that, I guess for my region...I have seen docks in other communities that are really nice. People are pretty lucky to have those. How is it in my region that Fort Good Hope and maybe in Tulita don't have these docks that we use as a river travel system quite heavily and quite extensively as we don't have an all-season road there yet into our region? Other communities that have an all-weather road have a dock also, a nice dock, but also roads. We're just not playing on an even level of transportation issues here.

So that's been my beef with the department. I think they're doing as much as they can, but I have to continue putting the pressure on the Minister to show that we need to look at some issues that need to be beefed up in the Sahtu, at least our smaller communities that don't have these types of services. Madam Chair, I want to ask the Minister for consideration of communities that don't have an all-weather road be given priority in terms of having docks in their communities. Mahsi.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Absolutely, providing programming and particularly this programming to the smaller communities is certainly a priority. I'm not too sure why there was no uptake by the Member's riding in the past, but it's available to all communities and all they have to do is ask, Madam Chair, and put in their application and work with the regional superintendent of their particular region in developing their proposals. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, sometimes the communication breaks down between the communities and the regional superintendent, and breaks down between headquarters, so it's a human error sometimes and sometimes we overlook and sometimes we don't know why these applications don't get filled out. That's the reason why I urge the Minister in terms of the regional superintendents of marines...I don't know who the regional superintendent of marines is in our region. Who is the head of marine operations in our region? That's why I asked him if he could come into our region or have the superintendent of some government department take on this responsibility and come and sit with us. I know it's a little bit different in other regions and they are more successful than us. So I'm asking the Minister of Transportation, the regional superintendents of marine operations, how do we get them into our region?

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The person responsible for this funding is the superintendent that's located in Fort Simpson. Once again, it's a community-based application. If the community wants it, all they have to do is indicate that they want to and we'll work towards achieving their projects. It's another one of these scenarios where we don't want to be seen coming into a community and saying, here, you built a boat launch and here's the money. They have to want it, and ask for it, and develop the proposal which best fits their community. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. Madam Chair, I'm taking the Minister's advice and I'm saying we need these boat launches in our regions right now. Because I'm talking from Tulita, people from Tulita and saying that they're asking for this. Of course the head office, or regional office, the head of marine offices is in Fort Simpson. That's why I keep asking, let's have some regional people in our region and I don't think their coming into our region and saying here's a boat launch. I think provide the information to us, get us going on the application. Have some presence in our communities. I think that's what I'm asking for. I hope the Minister's not taking my comments as coming in and bullying us and strong-arming us to have a dock. We want a dock. Good Hope wants a dock. I only have two knees. We can't get down any further. Thank you.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I hear the Member's concerns and we'll work towards working with those communities to develop their proposals for their community marine infrastructure. Once again, we're not exactly limited to the \$50,000 that's in this line item. There's the \$439,000 in actuality and that's, I believe it's a flow-through from Canadian Coast Guard to assist with communities. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Next I have Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd just like to follow up on this section here. As you all know, Tuk has been having a really bad problem with erosion on the west side and also on the north side around the sand pit. We've been very lucky for the last few years that the rocks, the...(inaudible)...rocks that's been put on the west side has been working very well. One of the areas that's of concern yet is the sand pit area where when you get a big west wind, especially on the north side of the sand pit where you get a big west wind, they still have problems with the sand pit eroding with the strong winds that come up. So seeing only \$120,000 that's identified for this area here, I'm just wondering if there's emergency funding that would be available from the department should the community need it to better protect the sand pit area? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The Member is, of course, expressing a concern over the protection of his community and the erosion of the waterfront area that's happening there. But in actuality it's in the past our Municipal and Community Affairs department has been addressing those concerns and they're the ones that establish the line there, and I believe it's a rip raft that's on the shores there, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you. I understand; I'm just wondering, though, can the department, would the Department of MACA, you know, provide any funding available if there is a need for that because I'll tell you right now that sandpit is eroding pretty quickly here. I'm just wondering, can you work with the Department of MACA should the need arise? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We'll certainly convey the Member's concerns and do what we can to assist them with that important matter. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Anything further, Mr. Pokiak?

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. It's good to hear that. But can there be any action coming out of it, like I said, if the need arises?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** I'm not too sure what the Member's getting at there, Madam Chair, but, once again, we'll convey the concerns over to MACA and work with them where we can to continue to protect the shore of the community of Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd just like to thank the Minister for that. I'll continue to work with this anyway. I'm just wondering, Madam Chair, if this might fall

into this department, but I'll give it a shot anyway. Madam Chair, we all know that the Canadian sovereignty is a big issue now, both with the federal government and maybe with the territory here. I'm just wondering, the Canadian Coast Guard does have a marine facility in Tuk, plus NTCL, but I'm just wondering if the department can work with the Coast Guard to see if they can promote the Canadian Armed Forces to consider a marine base in Tuk? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. I'm not sure if that would be within the scope of the Minister's knowledge or mandate. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. No, we have conveyed the sovereignty issues in our Connecting Canada documents with our federal counterpart, the Minister of Transportation. Indeed usually one of our arguments to further and increase the presence of us in the North and Tuktoyaktuk will certainly do a lot to establish Canadian sovereignty on our northern waters. I think the Member's kind of referencing the port idea and we continue to discuss it with Transport Canada, and certainly it will be a great project for our northern territories to have such a port, especially in our western territory. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd just like to say thanks to the Minister for that. I think a port located in Tuk would surely address the sovereignty issue, because we have a deep sea port there also that can accommodate. I'll say once again, Madam Chair, that we have an infrastructure available for personnel. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. No, we continue to work with Transport Canada to develop the idea of a port in Tuktoyaktuk. Certainly there is existing infrastructure there. There's still lots of issues to work through to make such a port idea a reality. Certainly we'd like to work on that and work towards a future port in Tuktoyaktuk, that's for sure, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Activity summary, community marine infrastructure, operations expenditure, \$120,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. On page 9-37, activity summary, community marine infrastructure, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions and grants, \$50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 9-39, activity summary, community local access roads, operations expenditure summary, \$323,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Madam Chair, the community local access roads, I'll ask the Minister, Madam Chair, in terms of is this similar based application requirements criteria similar to the marine infrastructure dollars that come to the community in terms of is that in line somewhere that the community again, it's application based, first-come, first served, and there's so much for each community on a specific road; that type of a situation? I want to ask the Minister if that's the same type of program, I guess, like the marine infrastructure. Thank you.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The answer is yes. It is application-based. Typically, we have set a ceiling limit of \$40,000 on projects under this program item per community. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Is this one-time funding? Is this ongoing with the communities?

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The clarification on that, it is an annual contribution, not necessarily one time, so there could be a project spread over several years. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I am going to ask a question in terms of this program being accessed out of our regional superintendent's office. Where is the regional superintendent's office on this one here?

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, the application is filed with the regional superintendent and that is in Fort Simpson. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. That, again, speaks to the need for some type of presence when you see it regional, because I am not too sure how the government sets its boundaries in terms of different regions. When you see region, I make the assumption that you are talking for my region. I would ask the Minister again to continue to take in my consistent appeal request to have a regional presence in my region such as the marine infrastructure, the airports and all this community access roads and these types of funding, because we are getting frustrated by being administered from outside the party. Again, I am going to make that appeal to the department. I know they are listening. They have their reasons not to pursue it any further than we are sympathetic to your causes and we applaud your consistent approach to this. I would like to see where we could see some action in terms of this type of program being administered out of the Sahtu region.

This community local access road, I wonder if this could help us begin building the Mackenzie Valley road in terms of funding. I know that might be another area, but that is something that our regions have talked about. I know, in here, it talks about the specific points of interest, recreational opportunities or renewable resource harvesting areas. Sometimes these locally owned roads or trails are in line with the proposed Mackenzie Valley road. I am going to ask the Minister for a response on my suggestions. Thank you.

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

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Once again, I will note the Member's concern about having the Department of Transportation staff presence in his region. Once again, due to the workload, it is just not doable at this time, Madam Chair, especially since he is talking about filling out these applications. They don't take much effort. So there is really no reason to establish positions to fill out applications in his region, Madam Chair.

In terms of this program loan and this one is not for highway projects. If some of the other communities that have access to these types of interest, access to other scenic places, that is closer to their communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I hope I am not conveying to the Minister or his department that we wanted one specific application filler to fill out certain forms of application to our community. I am hoping I am conveying the message that during these times, we would certainly appreciate the department to have some presence in our region on a temporary basis maybe. This certainly is pushing back on me in terms of not having a real presence. If you are going to wait until the Mackenzie Valley road, well, you might as well wait another 20 or 30 years. I think that is a far off suggestion right as to how we get people into our region from his department.

The point is, Madam Chair, the Sahtu region is being administered by a regional office out of Fort Simpson on community access road programs like this, infrastructure, our highways. Enough is enough in saying that his department wasn't a temporary presence. Certainly they have offices in our region that other departments have done. It doesn't make any sense. I would do the same thing. But we do see a need for this type of person coming into our region, spend a month or two months in the region, then go back to Fort Simpson when he gets homesick. Come back into our region here. Look at some of these things because things are going to be happening in our region that we really need to look closely at these types of issues here. I would certainly appreciate, Madam Chair, the Minister's willingness to listen on this issue. I guess I am pleading now to another level of requirement that his department would consider. You want an application filler. Lots of people in those communities can take on this part-time job to fill out applications.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I didn't really hear a question there or a

comment. Does the Minister want to...There is really no question. Okay. Next on the list I have Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Since I can't get anywhere with the highway, can this money be allocated for annual application for an access road for source 177? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is being very creative in trying to access this source 177 and begin his road to Inuvik. But \$40,000 a year for a \$100 million road is going to take a very long time. The intent is not to build highways, its intent is to assist communities in getting out to the scenic areas, develop their tourism potential and to just develop community infrastructure. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I have been waiting since 1978, so any little money I can use to access will help me a lot. I will talk with my hamlet members back in Tuktoyaktuk to submit an application for this funding, although it is \$40,000 per application. Eventually, I will continue to do that, Madam Chair. It is just more of a comment to the Minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Activity summary, community local access roads, operations expenditure summary, \$323,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Page 9-41, activity summary, community local access roads, grants and contributions, contributions, \$273,000, total grants and contributions, \$273,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. 9-43, activity summary, road licensing and safety, operations expenditure summary, \$3.725 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The department has, in the past four or five years, established a sterling reputation here in the Northwest Territories and I think in a number of places in Canada in its partnership with students, especially with the youth on awareness about drinking and driving and responsible vehicle use. This was something that had very strong unanimous appeal here in the Legislative Assembly and was something that really gave the students, I think, a sense of pride and a sense that they could make a difference for themselves and among their peers. I was looking, with interest, under this section here, Madam Chair, to see if the department was continuing to give profile and resources to continue this kind of campaign. Of course, it is something that is not the kind of thing you can wave a flag on or send a message out once and the job is done. This is something that needs constant repetition and reinforcement among drivers, especially among youth as new drivers enter the field every year. Madam Chair,

where in this area are we seeing resources and effort going into the excellent job that we already started in terms of responsible driving practice among our youth, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Menicoche.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I am glad that the Member brought that up. We certainly are proud to be working with that organization and continue to look for other avenues with which we can work together again to further improve our awareness of drunken driving in the North, indeed. There is really no specific line item here as the Member is asking for, but we have provided contributions and will do so again when we have the opportunity to work together. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I am a little disappointed to hear there is no sort of specific line item that will carry forward this program. As I say, when it was introduced, I had the expectation that we were going to see this continued. It would be like the butthead campaign that has been so successful in the tobacco reduction area. This is something that just has to keep going and going. We should never lose sight of it or let go of the momentum. I don't want to belabour it, but in fact more to celebrate what we have already achieved, encourage the department to revisit this very valuable part of government's job, I believe, and make it known, as the Minister has just said, that if assistance and funds are available on application, then schools and youth groups know that they can approach the government and that we will continue to be a ready partner for them. So as I say, Madam Chair, continue the job that we did such a good job of starting a few years ago and make sure that the youth know that if they had some good ideas, we will be there to help them out, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. I didn't hear a question there, so we will continue on. Page 9-43, activity summary, road licensing and safety, operations expenditure summary, \$3.725 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. We are on to page 9-48, information item, work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** That is continued on page 9-49, work performed on behalf of others for a total of \$835,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. I will now draw your attention back to the department summary on page 9-7. Transportation, operations expenditure summary, expenditure category, \$88.302 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. I will now draw your attention and my attention to page 8-6 in

the CAP infrastructure acquisition plan. We will start on page 8-6, airports, tangible capital assets. That is continued on page 8-7, airports, infrastructure acquisition plan, total tangible capital assets, \$9.063 million, total activity, \$9.063 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. A few weeks ago, there was a media article and since then a request for proposal has been publicized for water and sanitary sewer service for the Yellowknife Airport. Mr. Chair, this was an item that I do not recall seeing on the three-year capital plan before. Maybe I am missing something. Is it on here this year? Could the Minister advise what is the financing projection for this and how is it to be introduced into our planning process, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our department does recognize that there is a need to provide these services out to the airport. We also recognize that we need help to design a project, to bring it out there. Part of the plan is to have the users pay for that. That is how we recover the costs of the project. That is the scope of what we are asking in that newspaper. Is it our fee that you had seen there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** User pay. Could the Minister help me understand, then? How is this financed then if it is going to be paid for by users? Is that sort of like the toll on the proposed Deh Cho Bridge? Okay. Somewhere along the line, we have to put some money up to pay for it and all that other stuff. How is that done? What I am looking for, Mr. Chair, is a sign that the fiscal commitments that this government is responsible for or wants to do, I have some way of knowing when and how they are coming up. What are the financing plans for this project, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think one of the factors that I should point out at this time is that the newspaper article kind of indicated we were further ahead in this project than we actually are. We are still in the design stage. That is why we are going out for a bid to help us design this project. Certainly, there are other partners involved. The City of Yellowknife is the big partner. Development of infrastructure, particularly of this size, we are looking at using a P3 process for delivering such a project. I did indicate user pay, but we are not too sure how it is all going to roll out. That is part of the proposal we are asking to assist us with, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What is the timeline for potentially, or ideally, completing this project?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. We would be pleased to work with the committee, the Governance and Economic Development committee, as this project develops and unfolds. It will take us until at least the summer months to have more detail that we can actually share with committee. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

**MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, again, I want to signal my support in principle for establishing water and sewer services at the Yellowknife Airport but, on the other hand, I do need to know, as a Yellowknife MLA, if there is cash available for bricks and mortar for capital investment in some areas. I have to be able to know what's on the government's list of proposals so that I can help make a good decision on behalf of my community. I want to know that there will be close and complete involvement and disclosure with Yellowknife MLAs, as the Minister has indicated, with the City of Yellowknife potentially as a partner, so that we can all see developing and approving this project in a prudent way, Mr. Chairman. By that I mean in comparison and in relation to other infrastructure needs that we need in this city, as well. One final question that I would have on this, is there any kind of ballpark estimate, Mr. Chairman, of what the total investment might be in this project?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'm absolutely keeping MLAs and our committees informed of every step of the way on a project of this significance and importance. It is very warranted. Back in, I think, 2003, preliminary estimates were about \$10 million for such a project and that's why we do realize that it will have to be a P3, so that's federal, territorial and municipal government, in order to deliver a project of this magnitude. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** That's all. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chairman, the question I want to ask the Minister is in terms of the way they assess their needs for capital assets in the communities such as equipment, the need to, on this specific budget item here in terms of the airports, are small communities like Colville Lake really looked at terms of what's feasible to have in there? I know the chief was asking for a terminal or a small building where they can house people in the community when they're coming from the other communities and have their meetings in Colville Lake. Mr. Chairman, I haven't been to Colville Lake for a while so I just wanted to ask the Minister that question in terms of has the community received any support from this department to put a small building in Colville Lake to look after the passengers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. It's my understanding that Colville Lake did once have a small building and, for whatever reason, it is no longer useable. As we continue to work and develop the airport in Colville Lake, we'll certainly look at addressing that need for a shelter there, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I've spoken to the leadership in Colville Lake and they have given me the reasons why that building is no longer in Colville Lake. They have stepped up to the plate in terms of taking on some ownership and acknowledged some of the difficulties they have with some of their youth. However, Mr. Chairman, the community has suffered long enough and there is no unit they are building that the department could see that could maybe be used for the airport. Mr. Chairman, I guess that's where it burns me a little when another Member is talking about sewer and water in one building and Colville Lake doesn't even have a building.

That's where I get a little bit frustrated, Mr. Chair, in terms of the various needs and different levels we have in the Northwest Territories. We proclaim that we should all be treated equal and have the same level and standards of service, but that's not the case in the Northwest Territories as far as airports. Colville Lake does not have an airport. What is this government doing that stops people from freezing? Certainly, Mr. Chair, Colville Lake has a little granny from Nahanni in that area, too. Where are you going to keep these old people? They're freezing in airports, to get to the airport, and they freeze when they're leaving. Ministers know that when they visit Colville Lake. There's no building there in the spring, the summer or the winter. They just chuckle to themselves and kind of just laugh. That's not funny when you ask the people in Colville Lake to go to the airport. No other community in the North would put up with this. They would be screaming bloody murder in terms of this issue here, Mr. Chair. I apologize for my language, because I'm really frustrated as to what does it take for a little community like Colville Lake to get an airport terminal or building so that people don't have to wait outside in minus 40, 30 weather, blowing? They have to do their passenger list right outside on the skidoos.

I just don't know what the priority of this government is. There are levels of classes that we just don't fit in this government and it's just the reality of it. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister again, would he consider strongly within the life of this government to look at Colville Lake? Do a P3 if you have to. You have the money. Do it. I know they wanted one. They can build a new one for you guys if you have no money in this department. Look at other solutions that could help this government. They can build it and they can own it and they can lease it back to this department if they have no money. They have partners in Colville Lake. They have a lot of gas in Colville Lake that they want be brought out through the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. There are a lot of operations that go on there. I'm not too sure how they do their assessments. Maybe their regional superintendents stay too long in the community and don't come out to our region. I'm giving the Minister a hard time in this department because I just don't see any other small communities. I don't know about the other communities, like the granny from Nahanni, or someone from

Tsiigehtchic, or Whati or Gameti having terminals like that. If we had this in Yellowknife, Hay River or Inuvik, you know, it would certainly be a different story. What's so different about my people in Colville Lake than in Yellowknife that they can't have a terminal building?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** About 20,000 people.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Besides the population of 20,000.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** A \$5,000 tax bill.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** My understanding is people are people. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I would just like to say that I don't think our government plays favourites with anybody. We assess everything based on needs, Mr. Chair. He mentions particularly Colville Lake not having a passenger terminal building. They did at one point and I would just like to say that in other communities, they don't have a passenger terminal building either and so that means that he's not alone in that request either. Right now in Colville Lake we do have on the books a project to relocate the apron. We can begin discussing the need for a passenger terminal building with the community after that's concluded. Right now there's just no room for any building at all. As well, the Member has to realize that as oil and gas companies utilize their community, there will be more and more increases for use of that airport and even a passenger terminal building. So that's something that I would urge him and his community to look at, as well, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I will certainly take the Minister's suggestion and that's what the community is saying, is to look at industry in terms of how they could help. We're not shy and I'm telling the Minister. Industry has done a lot of good for Colville Lake, in some sense, in terms of helping them out with the high cost of living. But it's also the responsibility...I mean, look at the Yellowknife Airport; it keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger. Look at the small communities. Look at the calculation of this acquisition in terms of capital expenditures, \$8 million going into Yellowknife. The total acquisition is \$9 million. So you tell me where the fairness is. You tell me where the fairness is in that in terms of the capital acquisitions. I'm asking for this year, next year, for Colville Lake and other small communities. We will think about it when we're standing outside in Colville Lake and freezing...(inaudible)...We'll think about it; what this government and this department in terms of a building that needs to be done in Colville Lake. It's mind boggling again. They certainly will go to the industry and ask about a building unit and of the runway. Again, I'm frustrated and venting to the department in terms of the way Colville Lake is being looked at or any other small community. Mr. Chairman, I think I've conveyed as much as I can to the department on this issue here. There's no fairness, that's all I have to say. It breaks my heart and it's a crying shame in this day and age that millions and billions of dollars spent in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. I didn't hear a question there. We are on page 8-7, infrastructure acquisition plan, airports, total tangible capital assets, \$9.063 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. Onto page 8-9, infrastructure acquisition plan, highways. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Motion 44-15(5): Highway No. 3 Safety Issues, Carried**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the department supply the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development with the projection of future repairs and the costs that will be required to make Highway No. 3 safe to drive. The committee would also like a report on all of the challenges encountered in building and repairing Highway No. 3. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order, committee. We're going to be distributing the motion out. We'll just take one second for that.

Thank you, committee. The motion has been distributed. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Thank you, committee. We're on page 8-9, infrastructure acquisition plan, highways. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have some questions about the Mackenzie Valley winter road bridge program. It's budgeted for a big pot of money there.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** It's about time.

**MS. LEE:** Thirteen million dollars.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** More money for the Sahtu.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** The mighty Sahtu.

**MS. LEE:** Oh, are we talking a motion?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** No.

**MS. LEE:** Okay. Sorry. Thank you. I would just like the breakdown from the Minister on this budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. For the Mackenzie Valley bridge programming money of \$13 million for this year, we have \$1 million slated for grading improvements on the Mackenzie Valley highway. For this year there's, of course, been re-scoping of the Great Bear River Bridge so that's not being done, but the rest of the money is being spent on Little Smith Creek, Big Smith Creek, Bob's Canyon Creek, Blackwater

River and Strawberry Creek bridges as the remaining \$12 million. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya. Or, Ms. Lee; sorry. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** I must say I am not familiar with all of those beautiful names that just got listed, but I should try to go visit those places. I just want to put on record that I believe the bridge program -- and I think this is to facilitate winter roads -- is an excellent program. It's something that started, I think, on a small scale. I used to sit on GED in the last Assembly and I believe they were, you know, a very small amount of money that started and I really do believe that this is... You know, there's a saying you build roads and they will come. I'm sure they will eventually turn into all-weather roads. I know that in my opening statement I spoke about the how important it is for us to get those roads in the Mackenzie Valley built and to have all the communities accessible. I know that in this House there is a lot of discussion about how much Yellowknife gets versus others and I guess that is a good position to take when you're coming from out of the communities and that everybody's doing their job. However, I think it's also important to recognize when there is money being spent in small communities that Yellowknife Members support such projects.

I'd like to know, you know, honestly, it's very important to say that. There's a lot of money going here for small communities and if the outsiders listen to us, because Yellowknife Members don't get up and talk about how money is going to communities. I don't want there to be an impression that all money goes to Yellowknife and not anywhere else. Thirteen million dollars is not a small amount of money. Highway No. 3 every year, I think, was about \$10 million. This is a great start and I want to encourage the department to keep on working on that.

There are other various bridge programs; there's about \$950,000 being spent there and, of course, you need these bridges to extend the winter road. I just want to ask, I always believed that Highway No. 3, because it was such a high traffic area, I mean, money was going there not because it was Yellowknife or anywhere near Yellowknife, but that's where the highway was and it is and it always has been the highest traffic highway in the Territories and the money had to be spent accordingly. I would like to ask if it's a safe assumption to say that having finished Highway No. 3 has given the department the capacity to take care of projects like this. Is there any kind of direct correlation to that or the department has... I guess my question is, do you still have the same level of capital funding and now you're able to move your priorities elsewhere such as the winter bridge program?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple comments maybe. The first one was that, absolutely, the Mackenzie Valley bridge program is one of our huge expenditures that we are certainly spending outside of Yellowknife. Members consistently bring up the point that let's build our Mackenzie Valley road and we are working towards that. It's not that it's not happening. Just between Wrigley and Fort Good Hope, up to date we'll be constructing 37 of the 40 bridges required to get up to Good Hope, as well as there's lots of many factors. I'm glad that we're having bridges up there

because it is extending our highway season, especially with the pressures of climate changes. It's very, very good timing that we can and we're able to do that. Of course, it's with the assistance of our federal infrastructure programming that that's being done, as well as Highway No. 3. Our federal infrastructure programming is going to end in two years and certainly the Member is right. Once all the construction that's necessary for Highway No. 3 is expected to be completed within two years and certainly once we get another infrastructure pot of money, either sets of three or highway boards infrastructure fund we can look at reallocating other priorities that's in our beautiful Northwest Territories. We'll continue to work towards that and continue to improve our infrastructure. All our infrastructure is a priority, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that too. Let me just say, it was my understanding that most of the money that was spent on Highway No. 3 came from the federal government because of the fact that it is a stretch of national Canada. What is it? No, there's a name for it. The Trans-Canada Highway, I think that's what I mean to say. Is there any way to lobby the federal government to recognize the Mackenzie Valley highway as, what is it? Trans... I'm just... I'm lost for words today. But you know what I mean. That would help us get some funding from the federal government that we need. I want to get a clarification from the Minister, because it's my understanding that the bridge programs and the work that we're doing in the Mackenzie Valley highway is mostly territorial responsibility at the moment. What is the cost-sharing arrangement with the federal government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, Highway No. 3 is considered a road under the national highway system and is certainly recognized as that. The cease of funding, it's all 50/50 funding, so half of the money is actually GNWT own source funds that's going towards our infrastructure program in the North. We have brought it up in the past and included in our documents that the Mackenzie Valley highway be considered as part of the national highway system, but in fact they are considering it, I believe the term is northern feeder route. It's a start of recognizing it in our national highway system, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything further, Ms. Lee? No. Next on the list I have Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick, I think more information in regard to the chipseal overlay program, 3.5. Where are these? What communities are involved? Also with regard to the culvert replacement for 1.5. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Member's comment with regard to chipseal overlay program, it is based on need and it is for all our highway systems and that's how we allocate it: based on needs. As well as the culvert system, so that's in our budget for this fiscal year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Anything further, Mr. Pokiak?

**MR. POKIAK:** No, that's good. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Next on the list I've got Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The highways that I want to ask the Minister of Transportation in terms of when can he expect to have a completion of the bridges that he listed just recently? I know the three bridges that are, when you look at the districts in terms of the boundaries for Blackwater, Strawberry, and Bob's Canyon, they're in the south end of my riding in the Sahtu. I think they're in the Nahendeh riding. Little Smith and Big Smith are in my riding. I know they started some work last year, Mr. Chairman, on the Little Smith Bridge and they had some difficulties on that bridge and they're re-examining that bridge. They're looking at Big Smith this year. So I'm not going to belabour the Minister of the department on those bridges, it's just the completion of those bridges that he listed previously in his comments to another Member. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Out of the five bridges that we had discussed earlier, they will begin this year and be completed by the end of next fiscal year. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to let the Minister know that over the last several past months I have driven on the winter road and driven on the road. I certainly appreciate some of the work that's been done on the winter road there and the bridgework. Certainly appreciation being made by a lot of people. This winter road helps a lot of people. It helps us bring down our prices of the food that we buy outside. We go to Yellowknife and Hay River and Simpson even we do our grocery shopping there. People really appreciate it. It also helps with family vacations, because we each have family and they bring their families out. I guess for myself, Mr. Chairman, that we're progressing as we continue on with our road structure. Again, I ask the Minister in terms of having some real meaningful contact with our people in terms of planning. Which areas need to be looked at from his regional office to come into our region and talk? You know, the work that's going to be done on Big Smith Bridge, the work that's going to be done north of Norman Wells in the Fort Good Hope area. I know Deline's asking for some bridge in the future. So just have some real discussion with us to this work here. It's important to us. The Minister realizes that, because there are other communities that do have winter roads also and into their ridings. I say that cautiously that our region is being actively explored by various oil companies and mining companies to look in the region here as opposed to other regions. So I'm not really speaking too much of those areas because we have that additional oil and gas exploration going on in mining exploration, and we need a little more additional attention to it. So, Mr. Chairman, again I would ask the Minister if his department would consider coming into our region to look at how we could create some safer roads, I guess. They're doing some

good work there, but we want to look more closely as to having that consultation for us to take part in our region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Certainly I have committed already to work with his communities and identify their priorities that they do have. Indications are that we have done so in the past, worked with the communities, identified their priority areas that they want to work on, because we do provide the operating and maintenance of the highways that run in and around his communities. Pressures of resource development are another big factor for him and his constituents as they travel around. They have been contributing to the maintenance of the roads, so that's one of the other ways that help us maintain those roads. But the main thing, I think, for the Member, Mr. Chairman, is that once again we continue to work with his communities and his regions in developing priorities and to improve his roads in his region. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister in terms of cost comparison, I guess? I want to ask the Minister if he could provide for me at a later date the comparison in terms of the amount of money that's gone into the winter roads, into our region at least, and to other roads such as Highway No. 3 or the Ingraham Trail or the other highways that's been listed? What's some of the cost comparisons in terms of the expenditures into our roads even for the last 20 years? Or even 10 years? I just want to see some comparisons in terms of the expenditures. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We'd be glad to provide as much information as we can to the Member to provide dollar per kilometre breakdown, but he's just going to have to realize that of course some of them are all-weather roads, some of them are paved roads, et cetera. But we'll be pleased to provide whatever we can to the Member, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Anything further, Mr. Yakeleya?

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I would look forward to that. Get the information and look forward to asking further questions upon that information. Mr. Chairman, one more last comment I want to make and when I ended up with a question to the Minister in terms of our bridge work in terms of I asked him at another forum here in the House in terms of working with the contractors who put bridges in our communities, who are working, who have contracts, who are from outside the community, who bid and were successful in receiving these contracts to put the bridges up. Could the Minister somehow communicate or let me know if these workers that do come up, they are using local workers and local supplies and equipment as much as they can when they're needed in our communities? If there are specialities that they can have in the communities or region, I can see them going out at other

areas and picking it up. But some of the materials could be utilized in our region that can be supplied by our own communities. I would ask the Minister if that's something that is considered when they award contracts to outside contractors. I want to leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Certainly awarding of contracts, not only in this department but in all the departments, are governed by our business incentive policy, and one of them is that as many companies say and do negotiate with local communities that they will use as much local and hire as much local as they can and that's their obligation and we do, as a department, monitor that and check on them. We do evaluate that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's where they underbid, sometimes, our workers. That's where they drive our costs down and drive our businesses out. We get under bid by outside contractors. They bring in their own fuel, they don't buy food off of people, they use their own equipment. They use their own skidoos to bring it in. They don't even rent skidoos off our own people. Simple little things like that that make a difference from outside contractors coming into our community or into our regions. That's what we're asking. Is that how they're going to do business in the future? These contractors could drive our business. We might as well pack up our bags and go home. But we're asking that our people pay taxes in our communities, they want to work and stay there and put people to work. We don't want another company coming in and driving our business out of our community or region. That's not the incentive of this government, I hope. But you do want a fair value for fair pricing, but sometimes you're basing southern prices on northern work and our people stay in our region and work there. They pay the taxes. They have their children growing up there. So I guess that's what I'm asking. I think, Mr. Chairman, I think I've said enough to the Minister. In closing, I want to say people do appreciate the winter roads.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. No question there. Next on the list I have Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8-9, Mr. Chairman, is quite a bit of detail about the, oh gosh, there's probably 15 or 18 projects for the \$37 million projected for highway projects this year. Mr. Chairman, if we look at the three-year budget projections plus future years, these projects combine for a breathtaking \$183 million in projected spending. We look forward to every penny, Mr. Chairman, being well spent. The specific question that I have, and I know that other Members have asked this or have asked questions about the Mackenzie Valley winter road bridge program, and I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, if I'm going to be repeating a line of questioning here.

But I did want to see if we could look at the aspect of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline and the continuance of that whole project. Much of the impetus behind the winter road

bridge program is to be prepared for that project and the, not just building the main big pipeline, but the continuance of exploration and things that we know or that we hope will happen afterward. Mr. Chairman, this year alone we're looking at spending \$13 million on Mackenzie winter bridge projects. The combined total for this after 2010 is \$31 million.

Mr. Chairman, my question is if at some point in the near or far future we learn that the Mackenzie Valley pipeline is not to be committed to, are we still going to continue with these expenditures even though the main economic reason for putting them in is no longer going to be on the table?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Member brings up a valid point, but it's like a hypothetical situation of what's going to happen if this happens or how are we going to spend money if that happens. That's one of the reasons why we vote on money every year to be flexible and re-identify priorities. However, I think in this case we are working towards establishing our infrastructure and the government is supportive of it through the strategic infrastructure fund that's there. All indications are that they'll continue to fund it in the new infrastructure funding that should be forthcoming, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Yes, okay. The value of it certainly does not escape me. The Minister said, well, it's hypothetical if the project doesn't go. It's hypothetical if the project is going to go, Mr. Minister. So we are making very optimistic and forward-looking investments that I support, but what I wanted to explore...I know the Minister understands this. If we get a definite decision that says no, the project cannot or will not happen, what then? Are we going to continue making these multi-million dollar expenditures, Mr. Chairman, if there is no likelihood of a return? That's what I wanted to know. Not that there aren't other economic reasons in the Mackenzie Valley to make these kind of bridge programs worthwhile, but I am wondering what is the linkage to the gas project itself and the viability of this bridge project if the gas project is not to be?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This infrastructure funding we are receiving is because of resource pressure, development, the argument we made to the federal government, and they agreed it was impacting us and provided funding in which to better accommodate our roads, in particular our Mackenzie Valley highway system. One of the best strategic ways to do it was to develop bridges and that's what we continue to do. It's not just for that one particular project, Mr. Chairman.

The bridge program connects our northern communities in order to reduce our costs of living. That's one of our biggest strategies that we do have. Unfortunately, we are doing these bridges because we are now able to lengthen the amount of days that we have access to our remote communities, and the pressures of climate change is a

reality and it just works out really well that we are able to provide this infrastructure and drive some of our cost of living pressures down in our remote communities, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you. I think I have my answer. It's a good one. The way I heard this, Mr. Chairman, is this expenditure is not linked to the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. They are going ahead with it regardless. Okay.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Good answer!

**MR. BRADEN:** I just wanted to see where or what the potential linkage was. Detail, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Before we go to our next speaker, I just wanted to draw Members' attention to the gallery. Today with us we have 22 exchange students from around the world. They are hosted here in Yellowknife by the Yellowknife Rotary Club. They are rotary exchange students, most of which are hosted by families in Alberta. There is one hosted by a family in Hay River. They are on the road in northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories for the next week and I just wanted to take a moment to recognize you all and wish you safe travels and welcome to our proceedings this afternoon.

---Applause

Thank you, committee. Next on the list I have Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short request here. To the commitment that was asked by the Member for Sahtu to the Minister for information on money spent on all the highways. I just want to put it on record that for the first time in I don't know how long, there is not one item here for Highway No. 3, for the next five years.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Awww.

**MS. LEE:** You know, to the point, I am glad to see there will be lots of resources for other communities. In the Minister's response when he is giving an itemized account on highways and the money spent on them, I would like to ask him to add future year spending too, because there are a lot of items here for other parts and I think that is only fair I just want to add that. Obviously the Member for Sahtu is working hard and he's doing it all. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I think the Minister has noted that concern. Thank you, committee. Again, I will draw your attention to page 8-9, infrastructure acquisition plan, highways, tangible capital assets, total tangible capital assets, \$37.110 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Total activity, \$37.110 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Now onto page 8-12, infrastructure acquisition plan, ferries, tangible capital assets, total tangible capital assets, \$370,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Total activity, \$370,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Onto page 8-15, infrastructure acquisition plan, road licensing and safety, tangible capital assets, total tangible capital assets, \$500,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Total activity, \$500,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Total department, \$47.043 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. I would like to ask now if the committee considers the Department of Transportation's main estimates concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. I will rise and report progress. I would like to thank Mr. Minister, Mr. Auge and Mr. Neudorf for being with us. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ramsay.

#### ITEM 17: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 21, Appropriation Act 2007-2008, and Committee Report 8-15(5) and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

#### ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schuerte):** Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Monday, March 5, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.:

- 
1. Prayer
  2. Ministers' Statements
  3. Members' Statements
  4. Returns to Oral Questions
  5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
  6. Oral Questions
  7. Written Questions
  8. Returns to Written Questions
  9. Replies to Opening Address
  10. Petitions
  11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
  12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
  13. Tabling of documents
  14. Notices of Motion
  15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
  16. Motions
  17. First Reading of Bills
    - Bill 9, Write-off of Assets Act, 2006-2007
    - Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007
  18. Second Reading of Bills
  19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Education Act
    - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Archives Act
    - Bill 21, Appropriation Act, 2007-2008
    - Committee Report 7-15(5), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the 2007-2008 Pre-Budget Review Process
    - Committee Report 8-15(5), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the 2007-2008 Pre-Budget Review Process
    - Committee Report 9-15(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the 2007-2008 Pre-Budget Review Process
  
    - Committee Report 10-15(5), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner
  20. Report of Committee of the Whole
  21. Third Reading of Bills
  22. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 5, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT
- The House adjourned at 14:49.

