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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Members Present

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 83-15(5): Making Communities Safer

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, community safety is a shared responsibility. We all have a role to play in this; the RCMP, governments at all levels, and residents.

During the community policing consultations in 2004 and 2005, the department heard from people in every community. Every session, participants talked about property crimes, alcohol abuse, drug trafficking, illegal drug use, domestic violence, sexual assault and dangerous driving. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the final report on these consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank NWT residents for participating in these consultations. This government heard their concerns and intends to respond to them.

Over the last three years, this government has created 28 new RCMP positions in communities, including a police dog and handler. Government has also secured the funding to establish a new detachment in Sachs Harbour and worked with the RCMP to create new ways of responding to community needs, like the Gameti winter road project.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, the most recent example is the command restructuring in the Tlicho region. Behchoko is now coordinating policing activities for the entire region as a piloted approach to improving police services.

---Applause

But, Mr. Speaker, as we know, the RCMP can't do this alone. Communities have developed their own alternative justice systems and they are active in crime prevention, on-the-land activities and diversions from the courts to community justice committees. I am pleased to say that victim support services have recently been expanded to Fort Simpson and additional funding for victims have been included in our 2007-08 budget.

Residents are taking action by developing neighbourhood watch programs. In Yellowknife, this has expanded to the Citizens on Patrol program where volunteers tour the city

and report illegal behaviour to the RCMP. Residents of Inuvik have also expressed interest in setting up a similar program, Mr. Speaker.

This government is also hard at work on a variety of initiatives designed to help victims. The Protection Against Family Violence Act has been in effect for almost two years now and it has provided protection for almost 200 families who are suffering from violence in their own homes. The department has toured the territory giving presentations to community groups and providing information about this law in eight of the NWT's official languages.

As Members know, we have also been exploring new ways of making communities safer through safer communities and neighbourhoods legislation. This proposed legislation gives residents a way to take back their communities from bootlegging, drug dealing and other illegal activities that are habitually disturbing the neighbourhood. We've all heard stories about bootleggers who take over elders' homes or drug houses that make young families fear for their safety. Mr. Speaker, this government believes this behaviour is unacceptable. We cannot let illegal activities consume our communities.

In January, the department completed preliminary consultations on proposed safer communities legislation for the NWT. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the results of those consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I have also asked the department to investigate the possibility of developing involuntary detoxification legislation similar to laws that are in place in Saskatchewan and Alberta. This legislation is a last resort for teenagers with severe drug or alcohol addictions who need to be detained in a safe place to ensure their own safety or the safety of someone else. It allows the teen to undergo medical detox to prepare for addictions treatment and could be an effective way to help young people. Mr. Speaker, given our full legislative agenda, I am planning to provide options for consideration of the next Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, all of these efforts are being made with the primary goal of making our communities safer and healthier for ourselves, our children and our elders. Strong, vibrant communities are the cornerstones of our territory's self-reliance and a goal that is fundamental to the vision this Assembly has been working towards since we all took office nearly four years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations**

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of resource revenue sharing has taken up a considerable amount of time in this House and the sense of frustration is clear. It's almost palpable at times. The circumstances we have in the three terms I have been here is that we are still negotiating. Ottawa gets the gravy and, as the Premier said in this House a couple of days ago, we get shafted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shafted!

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of unresolved concern. It's clear now that the issue isn't going to be addressed in the budget, that we are going to have to continue to negotiate. But as we negotiate, one of the flaws has been we continue to have billions of dollars of revenue extracted through resource development and the results, the goods, going south, and that continued to happen. There is no incentive for the federal government to resolve or come to a deal with us because we keep approving development projects. So we are in a situation where we talk about this, we complain about it, we have all sorts of heartburn and angst. We vent our spleens in this House. We pound the table. But millions keep going south and we stand by in our own land as humble mendicants, tugging our forelock and shuffling our feet, asking for a piece of the pie; so far unsuccessfully.

The other great concern, Mr. Speaker, is these are all non-renewable resources. Every carat, every barrel of oil, every cubic foot of gas, every ounce of gold, once it's gone it's gone. The people of the Northwest Territories will never get the long-term benefit. This is a very difficult situation and not sustainable.

We talk about a heritage fund. The concern will be that by the time we get a deal, there won't be enough left to create a heritage fund for those northerners who are yet unborn who we're planning for.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that as we move into the 16th Assembly that it is time for us to look very clearly at what should we do as a plan B to try to improve the negotiations. To me, what we should be clearly considering is that, in the 16th Assembly, any new resource development be put on hold, that there be a moratorium. Those projects currently underway in the development process application process, fine. But we should not continue to give away our resources...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Miltenberger, your time for Member's statement has expired.

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

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, we should be looking at, as we move into the 16th Assembly, a moratorium on any new resource development to help until we can conclude this deal and

give enough incentive for all parties to actually make this deal, once and for all, finally, for future generations of northerners yet unborn. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

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

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about post-secondary education in my region. As we have talked about in the House on a number of occasions, there have been great successes in the Monfwi region over the past decade related to education. From 20 years ago when a few people graduated high school education from our region, our Tlicho Community Services Agency have implemented great extensions in two of our communities: Behchoko and Whati. It's been a great success to date, Mr. Speaker.

Today, as a region, we are graduating more aboriginal graduates than any other regions in the Northwest Territories. Our high school, the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School, has recently been chosen as one of the 10 best aboriginal schools in Canada.

---Applause

We'll shortly be celebrating a book about these schools and segments on APTN, Mr. Speaker. Our agency, too, has won an award this past year; the National Innovation in Management Award for Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

Our Tlicho Government has also contributed a great deal to this process as well, pleased with the number of graduates coming through our school system. A number of years ago they implemented a post-secondary scholarship program delivered through agency; in intervening years have given millions of dollars to our graduates who have gone on to post-secondary education. Indeed, this year we have over 120 students attending post-secondary education across Canada and receiving thousands of dollars from each of the Tlicho Governments. We're proud to see their achievement, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, colleagues. Aurora College and the Department of Education have helped where they could and have worked hard to implement special programming in the communities, such as teacher education programming.

---Applause

However, Mr. Speaker, it is not enough. On a regional basis, in our four communities we have only one full-time permanent college instructor. One, Mr. Speaker. We used to have more, but over the years these resources have been cut. Other instructors in the communities are on a short-term basis. However, we still have many, many adults in the communities who want to finish their high school education so they can go on to further, training and post-secondary education. Mr. Speaker, however, I understand that Minister has plans to remove the funding for the attendance of these 22 years of age adult students in our schools. Those are the questions that I will have for the Minister at a later point. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just today I want to use my Member's statement to talk about the federal government socio-economic impact funding of \$500 million, which does not include the Akaitcho territory or the Tlicho territory. Mr. Speaker, in the socio-economic baseline study, the area, and I quote, in the study it says "includes all the communities in the NWT in which the direct or indirect effects of gas production and pipeline construction may affect permanent residents." Also, Mr. Speaker, this study even included north-western Alberta. Mr. Speaker, the exclusion of the Akaitcho territory and the Tlicho territory in the ability to access this large funding source from the federal government is just another blatant display of disrespect and disassociation of fairness and unity towards many northerners by the federal government and Mackenzie gas proponents, and especially by this government, the government of our people, for not being the first ones to raise the red flag on this type of injustice.

We have all heard many times in this House and many other forums that on this Mackenzie gas project that this ripple effect of such a massive development will be felt by all communities in the NWT and others beyond our borders, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although the Mackenzie gas development impacts may vary in severity depending on where you're living, does not exclude the fact that this socio-economic impact funding should be distributed amongst all communities in the NWT. Implore that this government should negotiate a similar socio-economic impact fund for communities that were left out of this agreement and raise the seriousness to the federal government of this issue and let them know that we cannot, and will not, take this kind of treatment lying down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Devolution Of Federal Government Public Service Positions

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been a couple of media accounts in

the last couple of days about ongoing discussions and negotiations for devolution and moving northern programs now vested in Ottawa actually into the North. What a radical concept, Mr. Speaker. But it seems that, as in past attempts to transfer these programs, we are again running into the issue of the transfer of employees now based in southern Canada into the North and coming into the family here with the GNWT's workforce.

Mr. Speaker, that stalemate is quite understandable. These are people who have lives, and careers, and families, and investments, and homes in other parts of Canada and it is not something to be taken for granted, or taken lightly, that they would simply pick up and move. But it's been characterized that we have this I think 20 percent differential in our pay packet that we have to resolve.

Mr. Speaker, we're talking about a landmark evolution in the future of the Northwest Territories and yet, as we have experienced and seen in the past, we are hung up at least in part on the situation involving, we understand, about 170 federal employees. I want to sympathize with their concerns, but I also think, Mr. Speaker, that this is about more than money. It's about the challenge, perhaps, and the fear of moving to a new part of Canada.

When my family moved here from Saskatchewan in 1964, I know that our relatives and neighbours in the small town that we came from figured that we were going to fall off the edge of the earth. Well, we're still here. I also remember, Mr. Speaker, in 1967 being at the airport here in Yellowknife and watching a chartered plane from Ottawa filled with federal southern bureaucrats who were ready to take on the job of helping to build the North. That, I think, is where we should go today.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to issue a personal invitation to the people who are considering or having this option to move North to think about...

MR. SPEAKER: Your time for Member's statement has expired, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the NWT is an exceptionally terrific place to raise a family. I think we can all attest to that. Offices and jobs can be created here in Yellowknife, but also in many of the other communities of the NWT -- Fort Smith, Hay River, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Inuvik -- all of which we know we want to create these positions, see these jobs, these very valuable jobs, come. I'd like to extend that invitation to any of those employees and their families in Ottawa who might be just a little bit worried about coming North. I understand. Call us. We have a 1-800 number. Get in touch with us. We'd like you to come up here and we'd like you to help us continue to build the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Resource Royalty Trust Fund

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to discuss the issue of our relationship with the federal government and how we continue to just go along with being taken advantage of. We only have six months left in the life of this government and judging by the atmosphere and comments in this Legislature, both the government and Members of this House are beginning to feel the pressure that once again another government will come and go with absolutely nothing to show for its efforts in Ottawa.

We are extremely fortunate as a territory to have so much opportunity before us in the area of resource development. It has brought many jobs to our people. However, as a government, we continue to pay the price for developing these resources. The costs, Mr. Speaker, are undeniable. We continue to pay without any guarantee of a return. We pay for road infrastructure, for health care, education, and other services, all the while watching millions and millions of dollars leaving our territory each and every year.

Mr. Speaker, when will we have surety on our future? When will the federal government understand that they must share the resources that they are taking from us? When?

Mr. Speaker, one of the very first topics I raised in this House three and a half years ago was the establishment of a permanent trust fund for our residents which would pay dividends for future generations of northerners. Obviously today the government has not been successful in convincing anyone in Ottawa that this is the proper and right thing to do. There is no doubt, if you ask anyone who is aware of our situation, they will tell you that a dispute is at hand. Then why can't the Government of the Northwest Territories demand that the Government of Canada put aside the disputed monies?

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. The pressure is mounting. In fact, our Premier was in the press earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, saying that if he did not get a deal with Ottawa, he would seek re-election. Well, Mr. Premier, you better dust off the election signs. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Passing Of John Carroll

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week we attended the funeral of John Carroll in Hay River. Born in Newfoundland in 1925, John had a very interesting life. At age 16 he left Newfoundland, which was still a British colony at that time. He became a school teacher and a monk with the Irish-Christian Brotherhood in Harlem, New York; a very unique way of starting a teaching career.

After seven years, he took a break from teaching, moved to Montreal, becoming a Canadian citizen when Newfoundland became a part of Canada in 1949. In Montreal, John worked in the scientific research department of Canadair Bombardier helping to design and build airplanes.

In 1963 he thought it was time for a change and arrived in Fort Simpson to resume his teaching career. If Montreal to Fort Simpson wasn't drastic enough, in 1964 John taught for one year in Jean Marie River before returning to Fort Simpson in 1965. That's where he met and married his wife, Marilyn, and their first child, Sharla, was born.

John had broken his thumb as a child and some of his students in the Deh Cho didn't speak English. He taught math and so used his thumb and fingers to convey mathematical theory. His students called him Melachie, a South Slavey word for crooked thumb. A few weeks ago one of his students from 40 years ago walked into the Stanton Hospital. It was late at night and the lights were dim, but as they passed by they said, "Hey, Melachie." That lifted John's spirits and brought a smile to his face.

John was a guidance counsellor for many years at the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River. An inordinate number of students sought guidance counselling in his office. It was later found out that John allowed his students to smoke in his office.

John will be greatly missed by his wife, Marilyn, who was an educator in Hay River for many years as well; his daughter, Sharla, who many will know through her work in our government with Health and Social Services; his son, J.J., and J.J.'s wife, Maureen, and his grandson, Alex.

John Carroll was a man of extraordinary kindness, patience and courage. He faced numerous hardships with his health in recent years, but took each challenge with a cheerful heart. He didn't let his confinement to a wheelchair stop him, as he would be often seen going about his day in his motorized scooter. He was a cherished member of the ROT Society in Hay River -- the Retired Old Teachers Society -- a society that which non-members only wonder about, but seems to have a large following.

Today I want to recognize John Carroll's commitment to Hay River, to the North, and to the many students that he helped along the way. The North was blessed to know him. His family, friends and neighbours will greatly miss him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Acknowledgement Of The Achievements Of Nunakput Residents

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Parents and teachers play an important part in encouraging our children to attend and stay in school because we, as parents, know getting an education today will play an important part in today's society.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the Inuvik Regional Science Fair was held on February 25th in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. I would like to report that students from Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk did very well at the regional science fair. Of important note is the senior category, Ryland Anderson and Ryan Walker won first place in their project called "Meatless for a Month." Maybe this project had to do with the decline of the caribou herd in the Beaufort-Delta region. These two students became vegetarians for one

month, which is rare in our culture because we need the wild meat to survive in today's society. Mr. Walker and Mr. Anderson will be travelling to a regional competition in Truro, Nova Scotia, in May of this year.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, Bradley Felix and Morris Nogasak, Jr., won third place in the seniors category for their science project by inventing an ultra-simple hovercraft, which, I understand, was of interest to all students.

And finally, Allan Hillier and James Pokiak won first place in the juniors category for their project "Sticky Science."

Mr. Speaker, I might add that I'm an uncle to two of the students and it makes me proud to see these students excel and do well in school.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, teachers also play an important role in our education system. I am proud to say that Mary Kathleen Connelly, principal of Inualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour, has won the Outstanding Principal Award. This award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of principals who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students. Mr. Speaker, during our pre-budget consultations in Sachs Harbour, I understand that Ms. Sandy Lee of Range Lake was a student of Ms. Mary Kathleen Connelly.

---Applause

Oh, how time flies.

In closing, once again I would like to congratulate all the students, their parents and teachers to keep up the good work. And to the students: Stay in school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, lately I've been looking through the newspapers and I look at the job ads. There are some ads that I see in there, Mr. Speaker, that cause me a great deal of concern. I'm not looking for a job.

---Laughter

I'm trying to find jobs for you guys.

---Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Ohhh! Way to go. Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. MCLEOD: Some job ads in there, Mr. Speaker, cause me a great deal of concern. I was looking at one there where they were looking for apprentices in one of the communities. I am one of the biggest supporters of apprentices in the Northwest Territories and I do think we have probably one of the strongest apprenticeship

programs in Canada. But there were a couple of things that made me look twice at it; it's the rate of pay that we pay these apprenticeships. I was looking at one where they get \$16.67 an hour and one they get \$17 an hour, and I know they are first year apprentices, but I can remember back in the early '80s being an apprentice and we were getting almost as much as they're getting now. We have to be able to compete with the private industry to recruit and retain good quality employees. I know the apprentices are working towards the end product, which is becoming a journeyman and, hopefully, getting a journeyman wage, but then I also saw another ad where a journeyman was getting \$27 an hour, a journeyman electrician getting \$27 an hour in the government system. Mr. Speaker, they go to private industry and they get a lot more than that. There are so many ads I see in there, Mr. Speaker.

Another one that always caused me a great deal of concern was the money that we paid for our nurses. I see one for \$34.52 for an acute care nurse and I see other ads where they're paying a lot more money than that. Mr. Speaker, I'm not disputing and I've never disputed the importance of the work that people do, but we ask a lot of people to go out, get the training, especially with the nurses where they work long hours, we ask them to go and get the education and then we don't pay them accordingly and then we sit here and we wonder why they're all moving South and coming back as agency nurses or finding better paying jobs. Mr. Speaker, I think it's time we have to have a close look at this and start paying people what we think they're worth. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On Acknowledgement Of The Achievements Of Sahtu Residents

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories recognizes several people a year, sometimes throughout the month. We recognize people for their accomplishments and last night I was privy to an award given to a number of my constituents, the Status of Women of Council, Native Women's Council, of an award, a wise woman from my community, from the Sahtu region, as other Members from their constituencies also had this honour to recognize their wise women in the North here.

The Arctic Energy Alliance also recognized contributions that had been made in the North in terms of the awareness and their contributions to eliminate the high cost of fuel consumption being used and the methods they use...

---Applause

...and also some Members spoke in terms of what they're doing personally. So this North is full of action and people who are doing creative things. I want to say that we're not shy of what we can do to do our part in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, also I received a newsletter from ITI listing a young man of 81 in my region who has been awarded for his way of life, which is trapping. It's Mr. David Yallee, who's 81 years old. He's still traps today, as many people do in our small communities. They still go out and do it;

they just do what they have to do. It also talks about a young man here in Colville Lake who was awarded for his high sales in trapping.

So, Mr. Speaker, the future is in our hands so all these types of things that we do, we do it for our own good. I want to suggest a challenge to our Premier here that maybe we should drop another award here, an award for handling competition. Maybe we should have the Premier and his staff and Members here, maybe Members...(inaudible)...a hand game competition with the federal government and really, really have a good day to say the future is really in our hands in terms of what we want to do. Let's have a hand game with the federal government and I think then we can truly say the future is in our hands, and we will win.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Concerns Regarding The Workers' Compensation Board

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you are very well aware, we had quite an extensive debate in this House on Wednesday this week on the WCB's response, or inadequate response, to the AOC report and motions directing WCB to take some actions on very specific issues for the injured workers. This was an unusual appearance of WCB witnesses here made necessary in order for the Legislature to express, once again, to WCB that they have much room to improve and that they must do it now and if they don't, we will legislate the necessary improvements ourselves with the upcoming bill.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in my inbox I received an e-mail from one of the staff who was witness, asking me to give names of the individuals involved at WCB I was talking about, and by extension, the workers, so that he could investigate and take necessary disciplinary actions. Ironically, in my same inbox I received an e-mail from an injured worker asking me why WCB is saying he's only entitled to 50 percent when if he's entitled to benefits he should get 100 percent of what he's entitled to.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that if our past experience was different from what it has been, I may be willing to give this e-mail the benefit of doubt that WCB have a goodwill and workers' interests at heart, but I regret to say I cannot; not when I have seen myself e-mails where workers were punished for speaking to MLAs and seeking assistance; not when we have to call on the office of the Auditor General of Canada to force the WCB to understand something very basic, that they are a legislated public institution accountable to the public, the workers and the ratepayers in the larger communities. Mr. Speaker, not when they literally write to us that in order for them to lessen the fortress-like build-up and mentality they need a new physical door. I'm serious, Mr. Speaker. ...(inaudible)...they told us it is hard to have an open-door policy when you have no door, unquote. Mr. Speaker, and apparently they need an entire new building in order to have a door so that they can...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, your time for Member's statement has expired.

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to finish my statement?

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

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you this is beyond contempt. Mr. Speaker, further, not when they tell us that they don't see any need to work on the timeline for reviews and appeals, and not when they were asked through a motion in this House that they direct the worker's advisor to draw up a proposal to provide assistance to workers who need expert medical and/or legal advice, they tell us that they choose not to do it because they tell us it's not necessary. Well, Mr. Speaker, I say this is absolutely necessary and the duly elected Members of this House will legislate to make it happen if needed. So I would like to give last advice to the WCB: We continue to seek your cooperation and profound understanding that you are a public institution working for all of the people. Understand that or you will be legislated to this understanding. 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 Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much of the situation we are facing in Yellowknife with the two school boards can be attributed, to some extent, to the way in which we fund the boards. The more students the board has enrolled, the more funding the board will receive to deliver programs. ECE continues to think of students as commodities. Mr. Speaker, I do not agree. However, if it's the only way to get a message to the Minister, then so be it. Then if ogres can be like onions, students can be like commodities, Mr. Speaker. So students need investment just like commodities and they need stability to make sense. To illustrate my point, Mr. Speaker, I could draw comparisons to the stock market. Every once in a while there is market disruption, like a fire or school falling off its piles. Until this disruption is dealt with, all other schools will not see any new investment. Every once in a while a new product, or school, comes on the market. Everyone wants one; it has shiny bells and all the whistles. It doesn't matter that there is a perfectly good product or school just down the road; everyone wants the new product until the next one comes along. Every once in a while a new concept or an idea comes along and soon everyone is copying it or modifying it until the great idea or concept comes along. Every once in a while the government decides it needs to meddle in the market, also known as market disruption, Mr. Speaker. The usual consequences of this is one sector of the market will suffer at the expense of the other. You know, Mr. Speaker, although the stock market has good and bad days, in the long run it is stable and usually corrects itself. The problem with the Minister's solution is that it does not allow the market to correct itself.

We have two strong, excellent school boards, Mr. Speaker, here in Yellowknife. That's a wonderful thing.

What I worry about is the ability of the public system to stay competitive and relevant if it loses one-sixth of its programming space. I'm also concerned with the inability of the Minister to clearly articulate his expectations to both the public and Catholic school board. If his mind was made up that the only situation for the public school board to lease one of their schools to the Catholic school board, he should have told somebody in September; certainly instead of spreading his letter here recently and creating such drama and hysteria as he has done as of late. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Major Glenda MacKenzie with the Salvation Army and also a resident of Weledeh. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize the three folks in the gallery with the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition: Dennis Marchiori, who works for the city of Yellowknife, and Members will remember his days here helping us in this building; Dayle Handy, who's the homelessness coordinator; and, of course, as Mr. Handley has already indicated, Glenda MacKenzie, with the Salvation. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a former classmate, from the class of 1988. There were only 26 of us from St. Pat's that year and it's always nice to see a classmate in the building, in the gallery; and Dennis is also the director of public safety with the City of Yellowknife. Welcome, Dennis, and welcome to the other guests, as well. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize our two Pages from Whati, Sarah Koe-Simpson and Freda Flunkie, who have been patiently working with us and they've done some hard work for us. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to recognize the Pages from Hay River South who have been helping us and working in the Legislature this week; they've done a great job and we really appreciate them: Amy Carroll and Ilona Gyapay.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I also would like to recognize Dennis Marchiori in the gallery. Dennis is a former employee of the Legislative Assembly and responsible for the implementation of the Human Rights Act. Welcome to the Assembly.

---Applause

Oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my questions to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. I understand, through a news report last week, that the Minister is actively considering funding a university in the North. Would the Minister please tell us why he is considering a university in the North when the current college system is underfunded by this government and currently unable to do the work in the regions, especially those isolated communities, that it is mandated to perform? Mahsi.

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

Return To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make it clear I never said that we were going to fund a university in the North. I would dearly love to see a university in the North, but if it happens it's going to be sometime down the road. What I did say was that I thought it made sense for us to see if we could get access to the millions and millions of dollars the federal government puts into research for universities by building on what we have through the college system here, not only in the Northwest Territories but in the Yukon and in Nunavut. I think that, perhaps, by building on those institutions across the three territories, we might have a way to look at accessing some of that federal money to help improve the work that the colleges do.

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

Supplementary To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have high hopes and big dreams that eventually we will

have a university here in the North, but at the same time I, personally, would like to focus on the small communities. The isolated communities are always left out. Will the Minister commit to working to increase the college budgets to ensure that all adults in the Northwest Territories who do not have post-secondary or secondary education, have the ability to attend a college program and obtain their high school education, especially in those isolated communities? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a goal for this government already. It is clearly articulated in the plans that have been stated publicly by Education, Culture and Employment. Our strategic plan sets out the way in which we hope to get there and the college is clearly an important player. I have said many times in this House that I would like to be able to find ways to increase the funding so that we can ensure that in each community there's broader opportunity for post-secondary education than what we have right now. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, focusing on the small communities, will the Minister commit to ensuring that where college options do not presently exist in the communities, that adults over 22 years of age will continue to have the option to acquire their secondary schooling by attending local high schools? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In one of the initiatives that we were recently approached with by divisional education councils, they asked if ECE would start to fund full-time kindergarten. We discussed how we could find the funding to do that. One of the options that we put forward was to reduce the funding that we offer school boards for those who are 22 years of age and older by half of the amount that we would normally fund the student. The school boards, at the time, agreed that that would be an acceptable way in which to find the monies, in part, to fund kindergarten. We have found there are some DEC's who have asked for some flexibility in implementing that change, and through the 2007-08 school year DEC's still have the option of taking the funding for half-day kindergarten or full funding for 22 year olds. We're prepared, if that situation continues, I'm sure, to have discussions in the future about whether or not the DEC's would like to continue with that flexibility.

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

Supplementary To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister. Would the Minister commit to working with myself, the Tlicho Government, Tlicho Community Services Agency and Aurora College to develop a stronger permanent Aurora College presence in our communities, including a regular ongoing delivery of trades programming suitable to prepare people for the work in the resource industries of the North Slave? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 463-15(5): Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities In Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government and the college are always interested in expanding our program offerings into the communities, so I'd be pleased to work with the Member and the communities in his region to see what we can do to strengthen the college. One of the areas in which -- and this ties into the Member's questions -- is that one of the areas that we would like to strengthen, in particular, is the ties between school and college. I'm looking at, in the future, appointing a member to the board of Aurora College who would come from the ranks of the divisional education council chairs to try and ensure that we have a better linkage between schools and the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier and it goes back to the monies that leave the territory each and every year. I shudder to think the millions and millions of dollars, and probably somewhere in the neighbourhood of five or six hundred million, that have left the territory since this government has been in office. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier, there is no doubt that there is a dispute between Ottawa and the Government of the Northwest on resource revenue. Why can't this money be put aside until this dispute is resolved?

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

Return To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been there on that one and really haven't gotten a positive response at all. The federal government's position is wait until we have resources transferred to us. Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is a dispute with the federal government over resource revenue sharing. In fact, it's very clear from the Expert Panel the federal government set up that recommends 50 percent come to us. What there is, is a lack of clarity from the Prime Minister and his Cabinet about what they are going to do with that report, their own report that recommends 50 percent come to us.

We are not hearing anything. We are not hearing a counteroffer of any sort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier this question and I have asked questions previously with regard to using some of the resource revenue monies to establish a permanent trust fund in the Northwest Territories so future generations can get a dividend off our vast resource riches we have here in our territory. The State of Alaska has one. Each and every year, \$900 to \$2,200 is paid to each and every person that lives in Alaska. Has the Premier asked the federal government why we can't look at establishment of a permanent trust fund here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, we have proposed that to the federal government and directly to the Prime Minister, as well as to Minister Prentice. I can't recall exactly, but I believe I had the same discussion with the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, our long-term interest and our short-term interests are...(inaudible)...with the federal government. It really baffles me why we aren't able to come to some kind of agreement with the federal government on this instead of this silence we are hearing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we should start singing O Canada before our proceedings each and every day. That might be another message to the federal government that this is part of Canada and they should give us a fair deal. I would like to ask the Premier if he could, and I know these discussions have taken place, but for Regular Members on this side of the House we just don't have the evidence. What is the government doing? We are six months away from the end of the life of this government and we want some evidence that these hard questions have been asked to the federal government. I think the Premier should supply the Regular Members of this House with that evidence. Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot done on our side. Let me say that going back to 2001, as I mentioned yesterday, the non-renewable resource development strategy. That one laid out the costs of developing non-renewable resources, where the benefits should be and our whole plan of how we would spend the money. Mr. Speaker, that has been given to Members and so on. Mr. Speaker, there

are also infrastructure plans put together on transportation coast to coast and a northern transportation strategy. We have a number of these with other provinces and ourselves. There is the bridge program. We have a number of years saying to the federal government we are going to be responsible with this. If responsibility is any doubt in their minds, then the Minister of Finance has the work to get the fiscal responsibility policy in place saying people, look, we are responsible, we are big people here, we will look after our money properly.

So there has been a lot that has been done that has been provided to Members. Mr. Speaker, some days I am at a loss what more we can do. Why are we not getting this message through to the federal government in spite of our efforts on all the fronts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's virtually important that we do get that message out. This government has had three and a half years to get the message out to Ottawa. We have been standing up in this House since the day I got elected, asking questions about resource revenue sharing and devolution. Like I said, six months from now there is going to be a new government and we are no further ahead in Ottawa. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the Premier's strategy in the next six months to try to deliver on some of the promises that this government has made to northerners? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 464-15(5): Resource Royalty Trust Fund

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I have already said on several occasions, negotiations are continuing. Negotiations are happening almost on a weekly basis now. The federal negotiator, as I said, is a tough negotiator but we are going to continue with that.

Mr. Speaker, I have also offered to work with the Members. I hope to hear from you. I will work with committee chairs. Mr. Speaker, I am also in contact with other people who have been, in recent history, through similar kinds of challenges that we face right now to get their expert advice as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I spoke about schools. Schools are about children, Mr. Speaker. Now when I have expectations for my own children, Mr. Speaker, I communicate the consequences of the actions immediately in a timely way. For example, I asked one monster to stop beating on the other one then and there, rather than wait. So can the Minister explain to me why he took so long to express and communicate his expectations and the consequences of them to the Yellowknife school board at the end of February as

opposed to explaining them in September? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In meetings with the facilities committee, I started telling them what I thought they should be looking at as early as May and June. That continued through the summer and into August. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this decision or this type of discussion certainly is two years overdue. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister be picking up the extra cost if YK 1 decides to lease the school? Will they be picking up the extra costs associated with the bussing, the money spent to date for the planning of the next school year that we have now rendered useless and, further, will they be picking up the cost of the severance packages if staff have to be laid off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not convinced that there would necessarily be cost for laying off a number of staff. I think that the amount of money that YK 1 could use could be put into programming if they were to reduce some of the duplication in overhead that they have in keeping an extra school open. It's stated in the letter and I have always said to YK 1 that we are prepared to look at reasonable transition costs. We are obviously going to be willing to discuss those. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now the new formula defines school boards is to choke one by his new design of funding arrangement. Now, Mr. Speaker, if YK 1 does not give in to the new funding arrangement he has decreed on one school board, not equally across the Northwest Territories, what is the next plan?

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

Further Return To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Member talked about consistency across the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife has a unique situation. We have two public boards in Yellowknife that collect taxes from the public. Most jurisdictions across

Canada have gotten away from that. Alberta doesn't allow local boards to collect taxes anymore, nor does Ontario. If we are going to talk about a consistent approach here, maybe we have to talk about removing local taxation ability and funding all boards across the Territories in the same manner. I am willing to take a look at that. That would, however, have some impact here because the local boards have been using local taxation as a means to improve the services over and above what can be delivered in other communities. In fact, they have to spend the equivalent of somewhere between 103 and 105 percent of what they would have through the typical formula. So if it's a consistent approach we want for Yellowknife, we can take a look at that. Right now, I agree, Yellowknife is treated differently in our system.

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

Supplementary To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the Minister not answering the question, Mr. Speaker. This question really was about the fact that if YK 1 decides not to lease or give up a school, he has no school. I would like to hear what happens now. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 465-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the letter having gone to YK 1 only last week, it's my intention to leave some time to find out where the situation moves from here. I am quite prepared to meet with parties and have discussions, but I am not going to negotiate here in the House. Thank you.

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

Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are to the Premier about the socio-economic impact fund that the federal government had promised to corridor communities along the Mackenzie gas project. In a letter that was addressed to our Premier from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation about the Akaitcho territory, which I will be tabling in the House later. Mr. Speaker, I know the territorial government did offer the non-corridor communities, I think two years ago, about \$30,000 per community to do some socio-economic impact assessments in these communities. Even though I didn't really feel that the \$30,000 was really near enough to do any kind of socio-economic work in any communities, especially to do a comprehensive report which is required for the Mackenzie gas project, I want to ask if this government was aware while the socio-economic funding negotiations were going on, why this government didn't advocate for all the regions to be covered under this impact fund accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think every day we are advocating on behalf of all communities and that's what resource revenue sharing talks are all about, is getting a share that can be divided in a fair way amongst all our communities and people so that everybody benefits. That's what resource revenue sharing is, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not talking about the resource revenue sharing negotiations; I am talking about the \$500 million that the federal government has offered to corridor communities. None of that money is available to non-corridor communities. That includes Tlicho and Akaitcho. If we are not going to get any of that money, I know we are well aware that the \$500 million is contingent upon pipeline approval, but if the pipeline does go through, what kind of contingency funding do the non-corridor communities have to access to mitigate socio-economic impacts that they are going to feel just as hard as any other community in the NWT? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done a lot of work on the impacts. We did give money, as the Member mentioned, to communities to look at the impacts. Mr. Speaker, every community, every band council, is free to go and negotiate their own agreement if they want to. They don't have to work it through us, Mr. Speaker. Our focus has been getting a fair share of resource revenues. I think it's time for us to look at a share of the benefits rather than looking at compensation for something that will only take us so far. We are never going to become wealthy looking at compensation. We have to look at our fair share of the benefits from development. I hope all the leaders across the Territories will work with us on that one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the GNWT was at the table to talk about this \$500 million to corridor communities to mitigate socio-economic impacts of the pipeline which they were successful in negotiating and this provides a nice cushion of comfort for these corridor communities, I don't dispute the fact that they are going to need it when the pipeline goes through. What do the non-corridor communities have that either this government can present to the federal government...I am sure we all negotiated as one unit to get this \$500 million, but unfortunately Akaitcho and Tlicho were excluded. What do they have? If these corridor communities have \$500 million, what do we have?

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

Further Return To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the answer is very clear. Those other communities, particularly the ones in this area here have IBAs. They have impact benefit agreements from the diamond mines. I didn't hear up and down the valley complaining that they weren't getting benefit agreements from the pipelines. They cheered for those who got those impact benefit agreements. We are happy with it and would hope they would be able to achieve the same thing when resource development came to their area. Mr. Speaker, everybody has the right to negotiate those kinds of agreements in resource development in their area. On top of that, we are negotiating resource revenue sharing and that's money to be spread out equitably for everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure where the Premier is going with this, but I just want to make it clear when we are talking about a \$600 to \$800 million project in one region as opposed to a \$10 billion project here in the NWT, I think the impacts...There is a big difference in how the impact is going to be. The diamond mines don't impact the whole NWT in their development, construction and operation, but the Mackenzie gas project is going through five regions and 1,200 kilometres, Mr. Speaker. We aren't talking about just a diamond mine here. The ripple effect of the Mackenzie gas project is going to be felt right through to Nunavut, I am sure. We don't have any contingency funding for the small communities which people are going to be moving to, living and working and maybe have a social impact there. What do those communities have and what can this government offer to those communities to mitigate those effects? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 466-15(5): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Impact Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ripple effect of the pipeline happening or not happening is going to affect I would guess all of Canada where they have this extra source of gas. Everybody across Canada, in one way or other, benefits a little bit. But, Mr. Speaker, those along the valley are going to be the most impacted. It's going to impact their social system, it's going to impact their wages, it's going to impact the number of issues they have to deal with, it will impact their schools, training their people. It has a direct impact. It will impact other people as well, but, Mr. Speaker, we can argue for compensation for everybody throughout the Territories and that will, in my view, only get us so far. We will get a little bit of compensation and it will be something that ends up being almost token for some people. The big win for us is on resource revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker. We need to keep a fair share of that in the North. Most of the resource revenues right now come from the diamond mines. It doesn't come from the proposed pipeline, it comes from

the diamond mines. We need a bit of that to spread out for everybody. The IBAs that were negotiated with the people in the impacted area, it's their money to deal with their socio-economic impact as well as employment and contracting opportunities. That is the way it should be. Mr. Speaker, it is resource revenue sharing that is going to result in everybody benefiting from this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 467-15(5): Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have is for the Premier of the Northwest Territories and has to do with resource revenue sharing. In 2004-2005, Government of Canada northern mineral and oil and gas figures they gave on return of investments just for Norman Wells Esso Limited, the Norman Wells projects, the profits were \$144 million. Mr. Speaker, these types of dollars have been coming out of the North for so many years it's not funny. Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Premier in terms of this issue here, it's a big ticket issue with resource revenue negotiations. As northern people, we have heard people talk about what we should be doing. I have asked the Premier in terms of the life of this government, what concrete plans can he muster up in terms of telling the government this is our position, enough is enough and this is what we are going to do in terms of getting resource revenue sharing benefits for the people in the North. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 467-15(5): Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, how the revenues from Norman Wells have been treated is a longstanding issue. The federal government takes the position that they have an equity share in the Norman Wells project, the pipeline and so on, therefore it's their revenue and it shouldn't be considered as part of the package of resource revenues. Our view has been that it is. What they have is an equity position in lieu of taxes. Therefore, it's the same as taxes. We have gone and gotten legal opinions on it that tell us that we are right. The federal government has gone and gotten opinions that say they're right. We are currently negotiating. The Norman Wells revenue is one of the six items that are being negotiated weekly as I speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 467-15(5): Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard some of our Members talk about moratorium in this issue here. It's a huge word in terms of how the impact is going to be in the Northwest Territories. So we need to have some very careful discussions. I guess my point then, Mr. Speaker, is asking would the Premier, in terms of a strong action plan that would go so far as Danny Williams demonstrated in terms of taking the flags down or Mrs. Groenewegen talked about taking a bus

across the country to, in terms of even my suggestion of having a hand games tournament with the federal government over the resource revenue sharing. I guess I'm looking for the Premier's leadership and his time within this government that we can do in terms of getting the attention of the federal government that this is a life and death issue here. We're talking about our people here. We're talking about our land, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 467-15(5): Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, my focus is on our negotiations. As long as we're negotiating, as long as we feel we're making some progress, then I want negotiations to be the focus. If we begin to pull other avenues here and then we may jeopardize the negotiations and I don't think that will get us anything in the short term.

Mr. Speaker, we're pretty small in the Northwest Territories compared to issues across Canada. One MLA, one Senator...or, sorry; one MP, one Senator. We're not big on the federal scheme of things, so we need to have a lot of partners. Mr. Speaker, what we do here is watch very closely. It's watched by industry, it's watched by the federal government much more closely than we realize most days. Everything we say is heard. If we start talking moratoriums, Mr. Speaker, that's heard all through the industry and in Calgary and it's a scary word. It adds to their view of us as being less than credible as we want to be. So we have to, I think, stick to a course, stay focused, negotiate in good faith, and if that doesn't work, then we've got to do other things, whether it's hand games or an old van down the highway or whatever it may be. But we have to maintain our credibility as a responsible government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 467-15(5): Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the \$114 million leaving the Northwest Territories in terms of return on investment to the federal government in 2004-2005, the time we finish negotiations we're going to have nothing left. So I'm saying, what is it we need to do that gets an ally such as industry, those allies such as the aboriginal governments? We need to put something in place that shows us that we're getting a return. Members talk about a trust, a heritage trust fund. We have to get something. Again, it's a matter of life or death. This is our land. These are our people. Let's stop being beggars in our own land.

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't hear a question there, Mr. Yakeleya. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, thank you. My questions this morning are for the Premier and it relates to the negotiations underway with Ottawa for the devolution of resource management from Ottawa to the NWT. Mr.

Speaker, there are, of course, many jobs involved; we understand about 170. These people need to be dealt with, of course, professionally and ethically and, naturally, in accordance to the collective agreements that are in place. But the bottom line is we need to see those positions transferred.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask, are the jobs now under discussion strictly connected with the resource management and resource devolution file, or are we also looking at the broader scope of the whole northern programs side of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While it is primarily land and resources, it does consider all of the positions within the Northern Affairs program that deliver services in the Northwest Territories or for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, what is our readiness in terms of policy, budget and implementation plan to actually see these jobs located in the Northwest Territories and put to work for our future?

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

Further Return To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most of the jobs are already located in the Northwest Territories, and they are jobs where people are working for Indian Affairs in the land resources northern program side. So most of them are here already. The biggest issue we have is with salary and benefits, where there is a difference, and that is a subject of negotiation right now. Mr. Speaker, there are some that will be moving from Ottawa, but not a big, large number of employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the ones who are in Ottawa or in other southern locations right now, I guess I'd just like to get a better idea of just how many are we talking about, Mr. Speaker, and have we had the chance to talk directly with them about the opportunities and the things that they want to know about in terms of moving North, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not had the opportunity to sit down with a group of employees whose positions would be considered for moving North. We have been working through a negotiator. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we are still negotiating the exact positions. Which ones? Because again, Ottawa says, well, a lot of positions provide services right across the North, so those would have to stay in Ottawa. These ones provide services specifically for the North. If I remember correctly, the number that we are looking at is somewhere between 15 and 50 people, roughly in that range that would be people who are designated as providing services directly to the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

MR. BRADEN: I appreciate the information, Mr. Speaker. Finally I would like to ask if the end of March, which is the deadline that the Premier said was his target and our target, is not going to happen now for devolution. We do need some points in time that we have to work toward. What is the new deadline for achieving this negotiation, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 468-15(5): Devolution Of Federal Government Civil Service Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I never did say we would complete all our negotiations and resource revenue sharing agreement by the end of March. I think the media may have taken it that way, but what I said is I want to achieve an agreement-in-principle by the end of March, recognizing that the final details would have to be worked out probably over a year or so. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that we're down now with the federal government, first time in history of negotiations, we're down to negotiating some very specific items between ourselves and the federal government. We're not going to leave a lot of these loose ends hanging out there to be dealt with somewhere in the future. We want to know that this deal is going to be a good deal. We can't just accept it for nothing. Mr. Speaker, but on principles we're still on target. We've got agreement with the aboriginal governments, the majority of them on that and I hope we can conclude that with aboriginal governments. I hope to see the same thing with the federal government. I don't know that we'll have employees moved very quickly, but I hope to agree on how many and how we might deal with the issues like salaries. I see that the federal negotiator in an article said that he wants to make sure that those people are treated fairly, that they don't make a financial sacrifice. I hope the federal government keeps that in mind as well when they negotiate or when we negotiate self-government. We have to keep the same principle in place. There are some principles we can agree on, though, and I haven't given up on the end of March for an agreement-in-principle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. We've been talking a lot about fair deals in this House. Mr. Speaker, just like the NWT wants a fair deal from Ottawa and sometimes the type of funding formulas that they offer to us as the Northwest Territories don't really work out for us, I have to tell you that the communities in the Northwest Territories expect a fair deal from this government, and the formula that has come up under the New Deal for water and sewer subsidy for Hay River is not a fair deal. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that in our consensus form of government we support each other. We support each other's ridings, we support each others regions, and we try to do what's fair. The only communities that suffered a setback in this area as a result of the New Deal was Hay River and Yellowknife, and Hay River is obviously the community that I want to talk about. Just like if Ottawa was to say to the Northwest Territories, here, take over this responsibility, and then a number of years in said we're going to cut your funding to do that in half. There was a reason why Hay River had more support for water subsidy. It had to do with the corridor. The corridor used to be the GNWT responsibility. Hay River took that in, was given funding that was reflective of that, and I'd like to ask the Minister, has he been able to confirm that that's why Hay River was getting more support financially through MACA was because of the corridor? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I can confirm that there was a special arrangement made with Hay River that no other community got that we're not longer willing to fund. We have now calculated a deal for all the communities that is simple, that's fair, it can be calculated and understood by all parties. We have worked very hard in the last while through the New Deal process to review all the funding streams and I'm very proud to say that all communities have received an increase. As a result of that, some communities have taken monies that are allocated and they've been able to reduce some of their fees, been able to reduce some of their water rates. Now some communities have seen a decrease in the water and sewer program. Other communities have seen a decrease in the operations and maintenance. However, Mr. Speaker, what we tried to do here is remove the stovepipe approach for funding. Every community has seen, overall, an increase. In the case of Hay River, we compared the last year of the 14th Assembly to the funding that's being provided now. There's been a 91 percent increase and I don't understand why the \$200,000 is still being considered as a cutback when there's been such an extreme increase in our funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let's narrow the conversation down here. I don't want to talk about other communities; I want to talk about Hay River. I want to talk about the money that was given to Hay River to support the corridor when we took it over and the justification for that additional funding is still there. You can't not take a cookie-cutter approach to this. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the...and we don't want to spend our capital on water/sewer subsidy. Yes, we got more capital. Thank you. And yes, we got more money for O and M. Thank you for that. But we're given that for a reason, and we don't want to spend our capital on water/sewer subsidy. So I would like to ask the Minister, what kind of fairness is there in not giving a municipal corporation forewarning of such a drastic cut that would allow them to prepare for it? Could there not have been a phase-in of this reduction? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think part of the problem is, with the town...Let's focus on Hay River. Part of the problem with Hay River is they're refusing to take the capital out of the water and sewer program. They still have a budget line that is dedicated to capital. If they took that out and put it under capital, the dollars would balance out. Mr. Speaker, we make special consideration for a number of communities when we looked at the budget and there's a variable component to this when we start looking at trucked water and the distance that they have to haul. Fort McPherson is in that situation, Hay River's in that situation. Behchoko, for example, has two water plants. We have to take that under consideration. We made allowance for those things, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, for the particular activity of water/sewer services in Hay River, is there an escalation clause that is built into the New Deal arrangement? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we have a formula that is brought into place that looks at standard costs of operating a facility, and there is also a portion that's dedicated or calculated as part of the variable costs or flexible costs. The water and sewer program is not

reviewed in terms of an escalator cost. It's reviewed, I think, every three years and that's what we've done. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has the authority to do so, I would like to ask him, would he consider with his department bringing a proposal to Cabinet that would allow this \$200,000 reduction to be phased in over a five-year period? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 469-15(5): Community Funding Under The Water And Sewage Services Policy

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the notice for the new budgets were brought forward at the AGM last year. Communities were given notification. The people from all over the Territories, the leadership, the councils, were there. Everybody was aware that there were new formulas out there. Everybody was made aware that there were new reviews going on with the different streams of funding. I think there was adequate notice provided. We've also provided it in the MACA update. I don't see anywhere where it would be required that we give a phased-in approach. Every community has received more money. In some cases, some communities have doubled their money. In the case of Hay River, they've practically doubled their budget in the last four years. I don't see why we would have to phase it in. There really is no hardship case here, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pose my questions today to Minister Dent and it's in regards to the Minister's letter to YK 1 school board. I was also at the meeting and I do expect that there will be a lot more questions and statements, from my point of view, in the coming days, at least for the remainder of session. The first question that I would like to ask the Minister is that in listening to the parents that were in attendance at the meeting, I think it's very clear that the parents and staff and the board of YK 1 do not see really any upside in this scenario where the school will be leased rather than their proposal, which is to have YK 1 and YK 2 share. They share existing facilities throughout the city. The parents really feel that in order to accommodate YK 2, that YK 1 is put into a position where they seem to be in a losing position. So could the Minister indicate why this proposal is beneficial to YK 1? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that whether YK 1 were to lease a school to YCS or not, it would improve the opportunities for education in Yellowknife if they were to consolidate one school. So that's the first point that I've been trying to make, is that whether YK 1 should consider consolidating schools in any case. I think that one of their schools should be shut. That would allow them to flow the extra money that they're spending now on duplicated administration to important programs that they may have to offer kids, whether it's immersion, cultural programs. There would be an opportunity for more support for students with special needs, or perhaps enrichment programming. So right now they're spending money keeping a school open and that's all it's doing is paying to keep that school open rather than actually being used to improve education for kids. So that's the first thing that I've said in my letter, is that they need to consider closing a school in order to improve education in the system for kids in Yellowknife. If that school is then closed, why not lease it during the construction period to the other school system so that they can place their kids in there? Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously the possibility of any closure of a school is very emotional and hard on the children and we heard a lot about that and I would like to pose further questions on that. But another question that I want to follow up on at this time is there are lots of questions that were raised in the meeting about the utilization rates that ECE is proposing. The parents feel that ECE's counting a lot of public areas that are essential for delivery of programs as one that needs to be filled or that Catholic school uses. For example, one of their schools has the Four Plus Program that should be counted, or that St. Joe's portables are not being counted. So could the Minister explain more about how ECE counts the utilization rate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The same standards are used across the Northwest Territories as are applied to YK 1 and YCS. For instance, the program like the Four Plus is not counted in the utilization rate at Weledeh. So that is not included. If they have children in a program there like that, it is not counted as students using space in that school. So that doesn't count in the rate. We are using the same rates across the Territories. For instance, when we are increasing the numbers of or decreasing the pupil-teacher ratio with the funding we have added this year for physical activity or trades, we don't think that is going to increase the need for extra classrooms. That is specialized space, so it doesn't cause a situation where there is going to be a shortage of classrooms.

YK 1 doesn't disagree that they have the equivalent of over 400 vacant seats using an 85 percent occupancy rate. The Government of the Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment says that schools shouldn't operate over approximately 85 percent full. Using that number, YK 1 still has in excess of 400 spaces available, the equivalent of a 22-person classroom of 20 classrooms. So there is a lot of flexibility that is in the system right now. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the YK 1 parents continue to feel that the Minister wrote this letter because he is under pressure from the other school board to do so and that there is not an upside for YK 1 in doing that. They want to know why the two boards cannot be asked to come to an agreement and why the Minister is making the suggestions. I would like to know how he would answer to that. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a number of years now, we have been working -- the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and I - with both YCS and YK 1 to try and facilitate some kind of discussion or agreement on how we could resolve the space issues in Yellowknife. There was the facilities committee which provided me with the report. Following that, I had a facilitator come in to work with just the two boards. After that, I tried to work with the two boards. I have not been successful at negotiating any resolution to this. The situation now is that, this fall, we have a construction project that needs to get started. We need some resolution and some finality. What I have proposed is a method that I see that we can move forward during the process of construction. It is not as if this is going to satisfy YCS. It is not getting them any additional space at the end of the day. That has always been their concern. We are not offering to increase space. Our government has said that we are looking at Yellowknife as one community. Until the whole community is at 85 percent occupancy in the schools, we are not going to build another school. So we are not increasing the amount of space. What we are doing, though, is saying that there is a lot of room for realignment of space. Because of the amount of space that is out there, there should be no reason for us to pay an increased cost to rent space for YCS students during the construction, or to have to pay for the increased cost of administering students in several different locations. We think that, since the Government of the Northwest Territories paid for the facilities, during the construction project we should be able to take advantage of all of the facilities that are here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there were lots of questions from parents who are very concerned about the changes and disruption that would incur for the students should an entire school be transferred. They couldn't understand why in order to address one school's needs, everybody else has to be disrupted. If there was -- and I say a big "if" because this is an ongoing question -- what measures would be expected to be taken to minimize disruption on all parties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 470-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the letter I sent to YK 1 makes clear, we are prepared to discuss reasonable transition costs as part of doing business. That is to be expected. But I understand that there are concerns from the parents who aren't certain which school might be impacted if YK 1 were to follow through on closing a school. But it is not uncommon in education today to see schools specialized. Parents all across Canada tend to move their kids to schools through a town that is farther away but within the same town. Parents move kids to different schools depending on the programs that are offered. I say that if YK 1 were to consolidate their programming, they could offer more and better programming. I would expect that if they had a discussion with parents about what that programming would be, they might find that some parents are willing to consider moving their kids. Thank you.

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

Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I spoke of the inequities facing our apprentices employed by the GNWT. Our current pay regime doesn't recognize market forces and the rate of pay in private industry sectors. Mr. Speaker, like the situation with our nurses, the HAY plan doesn't provide the flexibility to meet the pay factor requirements to retain our journeypersons. My question is to the Minister of Human Resources. Is there a way to increase the wages for journeypersons to recognize the market forces that have or will impact the ability of the GNWT to retain qualified tradespeople? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is some ability to react to the market forces, but it is fairly limited. We are bound by the provisions of equal pay for work of equal value, which means that each job has to be evaluated in comparison to all of the other jobs in the public service and that the rates of pay are set according to those evaluations. But it does allow for some minor

period of time adjustments based on market forces. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a scary thought -- equal pay -- that the value we put on some of the work that is provided by the GNWT employees. Another good situation again is the nurses. I would like to ask the Minister if he would look at developing a solution over the next six months to ensure we have a chance of retaining some of our employees? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to look at what we can do to retain employees. We want to keep our employees here with the government. We think that we have a fairly competitive system right now. Our nurses are, if not the best paid in all positions across the board in Canada, very close to the best paid in Canada. So compensation is not always the only thing we need to look at. There are other factors. The quality of life and the cost of living in the North are obviously issues with our employees. I want to make sure that the Member understands that some time in the next six months, we are not going to be able to change our legislation that requires us to follow a system of equal pay for work of equal value. We are going to be looking at what we can do or continue to look at what we can do within that legislation.

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

Supplementary To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that explanation. Again, I say equal pay does scare me. It is just not the value we put on the services provided. That being said, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister how did they come up with the rates for a journeyman electrician at \$27 an hour compared to what? How do they come up with those rates? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an evaluation committee that looks at each of the positions. They take a look at the responsibilities, education, training that is required, and then they evaluate the positions. By that evaluation, a point score, the point score is then translated into a salary. If employees feel that their classification is incorrect, there is a process whereby the evaluations can be appealed. Those appeals will go to a three-person committee. They will be walked through the process with a mediator. The union would be involved. We would use that committee to have a look at

whether or not the job evaluation is right. Oftentimes, evaluations are changed as a result of that process.

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

Supplementary To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was glad to hear that there was an evaluation committee looking at and doing a point score system. That is a great way to figure out a person's value to the GNWT. But how often does this evaluation committee review the wages of employees? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 471-15(5): Compensation For GNWT Public Servants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is pretty much an ongoing process, particularly when employees come forward with an appeal with the evaluation for their position. I think it is important to remember that this is a system of work of equal pay for work of equal value, is a system that we were working under when the federal government still had responsibility. We have assumed responsibility under the same conditions. One of the biggest reasons for adopting that process was to ensure that there wasn't a difference in pay for people who were in a minority. For instance, typically in governments, it has been found over the years that women have been paid less than men and people in minorities like aboriginal people have been paid less than others. So this system is set up to ensure that there can't be that kind of inconsistency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. My question is on the socio-economic agreements in the Northwest Territories. I want to be very clear for my people in the Mackenzie Valley in terms of the socio-economic agreements, Mr. Speaker, in terms of when the diamond mines were opened down at this end of the country here, were the Mackenzie Valley communities invited to sit down and ask for a portion of the impact benefit agreements that have been negotiated as so much being enjoyed by the communities who rightly deserve them? I want to ask that. Do we have a chance to tap into the diamond mines as the request has been from some of the Members to tap into the Mackenzie gas pipeline economic funds?

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

Return To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, and I wasn't involved directly in all of them at the time, but the impact benefit agreements were negotiated with those people on whose traditional lands that economic activity was taking place. The GNWT, our government, did a broad umbrella socio-economic agreement as well with

each of the mines. In those cases, we represented the interests of the people in the Territories as broadly as we could on employment opportunities, travel to work, contracting, purchasing and so on. But communities were not asked to all come in and have input into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, for my people back home in the Sahtu region, in terms of the benefits that our impact agreements in terms of the GNWT, what type of support and tools have been given to outside the region that these diamond mines that have an impact? I really don't see the number of people from my region at those diamond mines that it should be, and outside of the Sahtu communities further north. Do we have anything, as a region, that says these are our diamonds? We also want to be beneficiaries to these diamonds in terms of employment, business. What are the numbers here for us for, the Sahtu, Gwich'in, or Beaufort-Delta? I would like to ask the Premier. Are we somehow involved in this in terms of opening up this agreement here? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, in terms of the agreement with BHP or Ekati mine, there is a provision for travel assistance, I believe, in hiring that goes way beyond the traditional boundaries for people whose traditional land the activity is taking place on. So there are provisions of points of hire from communities as far away as Inuvik and further, I believe. I am not so sure about the Diavik agreement. I believe it does give northerners preference, but it doesn't provide the same level of assistance as the Ekati mine provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I asked the government in terms of this socio-economic agreement with Diavik, BHP and Ekati, what type of programs are given to support the people in the Sahtu, the Beaufort-Delta, the Gwich'in, taking part in this work that is happening in the diamond mines. My people have been asking, how come we are not at that mine working? How come there is no type of support for us to get to those mines to work? How come, just recently, Diavik has been coming to our community and saying, where are your guys to work? Why haven't we been involved right at the forefront with the rest of our people who want a benefit from the Mackenzie gas pipeline? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the impact benefit agreements are with people on whose traditional lands the activity is taking place. The socio-economic agreements were broader umbrella agreements that provided for training, employment opportunities, contracting and purchasing. It was all done right across the Territories for everybody. Mr. Speaker, it was impossible to bring everybody into the room to help negotiate these things, so, as a government, we negotiated on behalf of all people, aboriginal and non-aboriginal. Mr. Speaker, I might also add, though, that those who settled claims have not been cut out completely from the benefit of economic development, the mines for example. They do get a share, revenues through their claim, from the economic activity. The situation we have now is in the Sahtu or the Gwich'in area, they do get benefit through their land claims already even though the activity is far away from their lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Premier if he would work with his officials to ensure that the numbers are increasing in terms of employment for people in the Sahtu and other regions that may not see much employment in the areas of working in the diamond mines. Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This one is getting pretty specific in terms of our plans, so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer it to the Minister of ITI.

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

Further Return To Question 472-15(5): Diamond Mines Impact Benefit Agreements

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. We have had a number of recent discussions. Some of the committee members have been involved in presentations from the mines, but the mines are struggling and will continue to struggle to meet northern targets. We have approached them and suggested that one of the best ideas or ways to deal with this is to go out into the other regions like the Sahtu and up in the Beaufort-Delta, hold trade fairs and be involved in trying to recruit people because we know, in the Beaufort-Delta, for instance, that there has been a bit of a slide in terms of oil and gas activity. We think there are some people on the ground who would be interested in mining jobs, so we have encouraged the mines to do this. They have been very receptive, all three mines, to the idea. We are talking with them about joint efforts between the GNWT and the three mines in how we get out to the other regions to encourage people to come to work in those mines. Thank you.

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

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 54-15(5): Funding For Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Displacing one group to accommodate another group

1. Why does everyone at YK 1 have to move aside and be dispersed to allow a group of students from a different board to move in?
2. If it is not okay for St. Joe's students to be separated, what makes it okay for YK 1 students to be? Who will be paying to bus these students?
3. Why are YK 1 schools not good enough to share but are good enough to have?
4. Why has an agreement not been reached; YK 1 wants to share space but YCS does not, is this where the deadlock is or is it at the government level?
5. Why do people think that 250 YCS students being displaced is made better by displacing 250 YK 1 students?
6. According to Minister Dent's figures, between 100 and 280 students need to be accommodated over a two-year period. Does this mean all students for two complete years, or various numbers at various times of the year, or all students at different times over the two years?

Financial - Fairness

7. What is the cost of putting all the YK 1 students into different schools compared to putting 100 St. Joe's students into shared space at YK 1?
8. Why does ECE want parents to put more money into YK 1 programs that they are already happy with?
9. In light of this new funding for YK 1, losing \$300,000 because it is now being funded based on enrolment/utilization as opposed to capacity, how will all NWT school boards be funded?
10. What does ECE need parents to do so YK 1 will be funded in the same manner as all other boards in the NWT?
11. Page 16 in the facilities report recommends that the GNWT find a better calculation for determining capacity. Will there be a review by ECE based on this recommendation?
12. Minister Dent's letter states that reasoning for not having St. Joe's students housed in multiple schools is because of increased costs for administration and transportation of YCS students. What are the predicted costs for administration and transportation? How do these costs compare to the costs of YK 1 giving a school to YCS for two years?

Two Boards Sharing One School/One Board For Yellowknife

13. Has a shared arrangement for a French immersion school been considered, similar to Alberta, where the Catholic and public systems share?
14. What about one district sharing schools with two administrations; one Catholic and one non-Catholic?
15. Why can't YCS students benefit from YK 1 programs?
16. Is there another school district in Canada with two public school boards in one community?
17. Would one school board be better than giving up one school to save money?

Shared Space - Well Received

18. YK 1 opened their school to YCS after the fire, why can't this cooperation continue?
19. What sense does it make to move all the students out of one school so another group of students can move in?
20. Why is YCS opposed to sharing space?
21. Why are YK 1 kids going to be shuffled? No parents want to save tax dollars at the expense of a child's education.
22. This is a divisive situation, one that can cause ripples and reach far into the future, shouldn't shared space be the only option?
23. What date is this decision being made?
24. Shared space offers a perfect example of tolerance and unity, which both schools promote and teach. How does this situation reflect our values and what does it show the students of both boards?
25. Is the Minister willing to openly listen to the concept of shared space? The wording of Mr. Dent's letter to YK 1 sounds like a decision has been made. Has it?

Parents' Handwritten Questions Left For Minister After The Public Meeting

26. Disabled students need consistency. ECE is suggesting disrupting their education by moving; it will take a considerable amount of time to re-adjust. How do you explain to a child who doesn't understand why this is happening?
27. What has been done to consider the effect of moving the students to different facilities?
28. How can parents explain this situation to their children if ECE is not explaining their decision adequately to the parents of the affected students?
29. Will there be space in YK 1 for the Montessori program to exist and expand?

Additional Comments Made By Parents And Other Stakeholders

We Chose To Live By Our School Of Choice

30. What about those parents who chose their housing location based on proximity to their children's school? Are those people expected to adjust and make up any costs in transportation et cetera as a result of this decision?

Dealing With Renovations

31. Why isn't YCS being forced to deal with the impact of their choice to renovate, as YK 1 was during Mildred Hall renovations?

Other

32. If a school is taken away, where are the guarantees construction will only take two years?
33. What precipitated the letter? I did read it as a directive. What discussions have taken place?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Aurora College Students Housing 55-15(5): Aurora College Students Housing

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have three questions for the Minister...

AN HON. MEMBER: Three!

MR. YAKELEYA: ...of Education, Culture and Employment. Three.

1. I would like to know how many students from Yellowknife are being housed to take courses at the college, and how many students are from the outlying communities.
2. How many of these students have applied from the outlying communities, and how many of them have been turned down due to lack of housing?
3. I would also like to know the percentage of students housed in Aurora College that are from Yellowknife.

Thank you.

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

Written Question 56-15(5): Location Of New Public Service Positions

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one written question today. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Can the Minister provide a breakdown by community where the 1,608 new positions were established in the Government of the Northwest Territories since 1999?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go to item 5 on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We'll return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Menicoche.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great honour to recognize in the gallery my son, Keone, and his spouse, Theresa, and my grandson, Kayleb.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. We welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 11-15(5): Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Final Progress Report On Priorities And Objectives

Introduction

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in April 2004, soon after the beginning of the 15th Legislative Assembly's term of office, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight set its priorities and objectives. These plans were shared with our colleagues and the public in our first Report on Priorities and Objectives on June 1, 2004. The committee followed with progress reports in June 2005 and June 2006.

This will be our final progress report. It is our intention to also present a transition report later this year in order to highlight those areas we believe will require the continued attention of our successor committee in the 16th Assembly.

Background

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight includes all 11 Regular Members. Its mandate as set out in the rules of the Legislative Assembly is to:

1. review issues which have government-wide implications, including the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
2. review multi-year business plans, budgets and bills of the Department of the Executive, including the executive offices, the Financial Management Board Secretariat, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, and the Department of

- Human Resources, as well as the Department of Finance;
3. consider the budgets and financial management of any other boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any standing committee;
 4. examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the report of the Auditor General;
 5. review government reports on financial and performance results on program and policy evaluations to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
 6. review, as necessary or appropriate, the annual and other reports of statutory offices of the Legislative Assembly, including the
 7. Commissioner of Official Languages, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Equal Pay Commissioner and the Human Rights Commissioner;
 8. coordinate House business, scheduling and planning in cooperation with appropriate Cabinet representatives; and,
 9. consider any other matters referred by the House.

Mr. Speaker, the vision adopted by the committee in April 2004 is:

a strong, effective consensus government that has the confidence of the people of the NWT.

Our mission is:

to take purposeful and unified action, where appropriate, to support, question or oppose government initiatives and to hold government accountable. We will also use our collective power to influence government to take action and/or to change its policies when in the public interest.

Progress On Committee Priorities

As we stated in our June 2004 Report on Priorities and Objectives, our key priority is:

holding government accountable to our collective 15th Assembly vision and goals.

The standing committee accomplishes this through a number of regular activities, and in particular the annual review of the government's draft business plans. In the fall of 2005, the committee implemented the first ever pre-budget consultations, which added a new aspect to the committee's role and allowed it to exercise its mandate in a way the public could see and participate in. The committee held a second round of pre-budget consultations in the fall of 2006, bringing the total number of communities visited to 16 in the Northwest Territories.

The committee also holds government accountable through its input on policy, program and legislative initiatives, by organizing theme days on various topics and formal motions in the Assembly directing the government to take specific actions.

The committee continues to see our constitutional evolution and the negotiation of a fair devolution and resource revenue sharing deal for our territory, as key to achieving our collective vision that the people of the Northwest Territories should be the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

In this context, the committee initiated a motion, carried on October 25, 2006, strongly recommending that the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Northwest Territories aboriginal governments reach a fair and equitable devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement-in-principle before the next federal budget. It further called on all northern leaders to set aside their differences and work together for the sake of future generations to achieve an agreement that will stop the flood of resource revenues leaving the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I'll pass it on to Mr. Braden. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Consensus Protocols

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work of standing committees is essential to the performance of all parliamentary governments. In the NWT's consensus style, the minority government and the majority committee must work together to achieve good government. The public's expectation is that all Members will work collegially and constructively and, in large measure, the NWT's consensus Assemblies of the past 30 years have satisfied this expectation.

Trust and transparency are vital in the communications and relations between the government and committees. Our Assembly has developed conventions, protocols and some rules that guide us. However, when these are not followed, the ability of committees to do their jobs is compromised.

In the course of its work in the 15th Assembly, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has observed that on several occasions, Ministers and the Premier have ignored or avoided their responsibility to include committees in the development and/or announcement of various initiatives.

These have included:

- the relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre from Yellowknife to Hay River;
- the surprise announcement of the "letter of comfort" to the Mackenzie gas project parties;
- the Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-economic Agreement;
- the disbanding of the Diamond Strategy Group;
- the development of the Housing Corporation mandate;
- appointments to key boards such as the NWT Power Corporation ; and

- planning for allocation of the \$35 million community capacity fund.

Ministers have repeatedly been asked by Members and Committee to adhere to the spirit and intent of consensus. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the committee forced Cabinet to rewrite a directive of the Financial Administration Manual to tighten up the government's requirement to consult on changes to capital projects.

The consequence of continuing to selectively ignore or avoid committees and Members is that trust and confidence among MLAs is lost, and the integrity of the Assembly is eroded.

The committee's vision is: "a strong, effective consensus government that has the confidence of the people of the NWT." The public's confidence in our government can only be assured if Cabinet and the committees honour the protocols required of our consensus approach.

Mr. Speaker, the following summarizes progress on our other priorities:

Human Resources

Effective April 1, 2006, a new Department of Human Resources was created, with the committee's support. The committee will continue to monitor the new department closely to ensure that it does result in a more efficient and responsive system of staffing and developing our government workforce.

The committee is disappointed that the re-examination of the affirmative action policy remains outstanding. The committee has recommended that the government release a public discussion paper and/or draft policy before the end of the 15th Assembly to give the next Assembly a head start on this important issue.

A Review Of All GNWT Boards And Agencies

Mr. Speaker, an early objective of the 15th Assembly was better coordination of the government's 112 assorted boards and agencies. A Joint Cabinet/AOC Working Group concluded its mandate and advanced a great deal of work on data gathering and preparing a new governance framework for boards and agencies, including a policy on boards and agencies. Further progress on this initiative stalled because the government chose not to allocate the recommended resources, Mr. Speaker.

A Review Of The Operations And Mandate Of The NWT Housing Corporation, Including The Rent Scales For Social Housing

Committee members have raised a number of serious concerns with the NWT Housing Corporation to which we have not received satisfactory responses from the Minister and government. This led us to bring forward a formal motion on March 2, 2006, requesting a performance audit of the corporation by the Auditor General of Canada. The committee expects to see the audit report before the end of our term.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs is continuing to address critical policy and operational issues, such as the rent scales for social housing, improving the condition of existing housing stock, and proposed involvement with the Mackenzie gas project/Novell Housing opportunity.

An Operational Review Of The Workers' Compensation Board And Completion Of The Amendments To The Legislation

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report on the performance audit of the Workers' Compensation Board was tabled in June 2006. The committee held three full days and one evening of public hearings on the audit, and presented its report, including eight substantive recommendations, in October 2006.

The committee looks forward to the introduction and consideration of a new Workers' Compensation Act in the near future, and, Mr. Speaker, to working with the Nunavut Legislature on concurrent passage.

I would now like to ask my colleague, the Member for Kam Lake, to continue with the committee's report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Consideration Of New Legislation To Protect Whistle-Blowers

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Braden. Committee members continue to believe consideration of such legislation is needed because of increased accountability expectations of government. Consequently, there is need to shield those who expose or challenge breaches of conduct or impropriety in government. The committee has repeatedly asked the current government to start the consultation process by releasing a public discussion paper on whistle-blower legislation.

Review Of The Liquor Act

This was another early objective of the 15th Assembly, and is an issue that has eluded several previous Assemblies. The committee looks forward to introduction and consideration of a new Liquor Act later this year.

Reduction Of The Infrastructure Deficit

Years of fiscal restraint have left the NWT seriously behind in renewing and expanding our system of housing, roads, buildings, technology and other public infrastructure. Many communities are lacking facilities, while many existing public buildings are in serious disrepair. The committee has looked into capital investment needs at all levels and is pleased to see the amount of both GNWT resources and new federal funding directed to capital projects during the 15th Assembly. Housing, community infrastructure, specialized medical facilities such as dementia care, and modern court facilities remain high priorities.

Support For Front-Line Organizations

During its 2005 and 2006 pre-budget consultations, the committee received presentations from front-line organizations in several communities raising concerns about the level of support they are receiving from government. Staffing is an especially acute problem for non-governmental organizations and will rise to crisis level if they continue to lack the resources to offer competitive wages and benefits in order to recruit and retain qualified staff.

The committee understands that the government is developing and implementing new funding criteria and approaches for frontline organizations. Given the urgency of the situation, we believe the government needs to move faster, and we will continue to push for them to do so.

Energy And Cost Of Living

Although northerners have long struggled with a high cost of living, we saw the pressure on residents, businesses, organizations and government increase substantially during the 15th Assembly, as energy prices continued their dramatic climb.

Not surprisingly, the cost of living was one of the most frequently mentioned topics during our 2005 pre-budget consultations. At our request, the government provided detailed presentations on energy and cost of living measures to the committee in public meetings in late 2005 and early 2006. We made the cost of living the theme of our 2006 pre-budget consultations. Our report on those consultations, presented in October 2006, included a specific recommendation for the GNWT to bring forward a proposal for an energy efficiency loan program to provide interest-free loans to assist homeowners to finance upgrades that will reduce their overall energy consumption costs.

We look forward to the government's response to our recommendation for an energy efficiency loan program, and to seeing the results of the government's continued work on an Energy Strategy and the cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to pass this on to my colleague from Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Northern Residents Tax Deduction

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The committee supported a motion, carried on February 9, 2006, calling for the Premier and Minister of Finance to begin working with their counterparts to lobby the federal government to increase the northern residents tax deduction, and to index it annually in the future to keep pace with the cost of living. The committee continues to support this concept and urges the Premier and Finance Minister to pursue it with their federal and provincial counterparts.

Residential Tenancies Act Review

Increased Investment In Early Childhood Development Programs

Increased Programming For Drug And Alcohol Addictions Rehabilitation And Treatment

Adequate Resources For Transition Houses For Victims Of Domestic Violence

These priorities will be pursued by the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Analysis Of Business Incentive Policy

Construction Of An All-Weather Road Between Tuktoyaktuk And Inuvik

Improvements To The Land Transfer Process

These priorities will be pursued by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development.

Other Activities

Over the course of the last year, the standing committee has continued to move its priorities forward through theme days. A theme day is when Regular Members decide to collectively focus on a particular issue in the House through Members' statements, oral questions, and/or debate on motions. This provides an opportunity to raise the profile of a given issue with the government and with the public.

Mr. Speaker, a motion during the formal session of the Legislative Assembly is a proposal for the Assembly to do something, order something to be done or express an opinion on an issue that is presented to the Assembly for a decision. Following the introduction of the motion there is an opportunity to debate it, and then a vote.

In addition to the motions mentioned in earlier sections of this report, the committee supported the following:

Designated Budget For Art In GNWT Buildings

This motion, carried on June 5, 2006, called on the GNWT to establish a policy by April 1, 2007, requiring it to spend the equivalent of up to 1 percent of the budget of each new GNWT building or major renovation on northern art to be displayed or integrated into the design of that building.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pass the report on to my colleague, Mr. McLeod.

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

Restoration Of Funding For Federal Programs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Pokiak. This motion, carried on October 31, 2006, recommended the GNWT convey to the federal government its strong objection to the recent cuts to literacy and other programs in the NWT, and to any further cuts to federal programs in the NWT in advance of a resource revenue sharing agreement.

Reducing Maximum Percentage Of Income Chargeable For Social Housing

This motion, carried on October 31, 2006, recommended reductions to the maximum percentage of income that can be charged as rent for social housing, a re-examination of rental rates for units in poor condition, and a review of the policy of free rent for all seniors. It also recommended improvements in how the homeownership program is designed and explained to potential clients. Finally, the motion recommended the Department of Justice consider expanding the presence of the rental office in the regions.

Transfer Of Responsibility For Social Housing

This motion, carried on November 1, 2006, recommended that the responsibility for the administration of social housing be returned to the NWT Housing Corporation, with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment retaining the responsibility for setting social housing subsidies.

Support For Victims Of Sexual Abuse

This motion, carried on November 1, 2006, recommended that the GNWT bring forward a policy on how it will handle allegations of sexual abuse consistent with zero-tolerance toward violence, and showing support to survivors. It further recommended that the government bring forward proposals to address gaps in assistance and services for survivors of sexual abuse, and develop a mandatory training program for front-line workers who assist survivors of sexual abuse.

Health Care Professionals

This motion, carried on November 2, 2006, recommended that the GNWT re-examine the pay, benefits and working conditions of its full-time health care professionals to ensure equitable treatment as compared with temporary contract workers, and continue to focus efforts on developing an NWT-based pool of locum health care professionals.

Conclusion

Before dissolution of this Assembly, the committee still hopes to see significant progress on devolution, resource revenue sharing and formula financing, as well as the completion of several important initiatives, including new liquor and workers' compensation legislation. In the meantime, the committee will strive to deliver on its key role: holding government accountable.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pass it on to my colleague Mr. Lafferty for conclusion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, committee members. Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Final Progress Report on Priorities and Objectives of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 11-15(5), Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that the Final Progress Report on Priorities and Objectives of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight be received and adopted. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Final Report on Progress and Objectives Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has been received and adopted.

---Applause

Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. Honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 109-15(5): Policing In The Territories: Report On A Public Consultation Process, March 2006

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Policing in the Territories: Report on a Public Consultation Process, March 2006.

Tabled Document 110-15(5): Proposed Safer Communities And Neighbourhoods Act Public Consultation Results

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the document entitled Proposed Safer Communities and Neighbours Act Public Consultation Results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 22, Committee Report 10-15(5), with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the committee wishes to consider Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. We will do that after a recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): The motion is in order. It's not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. I will rise and report progress.

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. There is a motion on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

By the authority given the Speaker by Motion 22-15(5), Committee of the Whole may sit beyond the hour of adjournment until it is prepared to report, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay, committee. We are going to deal with Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007, and we are going to defer the bill and we are going to go to the detail of the bill. I would please ask you to turn to page 5. I would like to ask Minister Roland if he would like to be joined by witnesses in the Chamber. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses in?

For the record, we welcome Mr. Mark Cleveland, secretary to the Financial Management Board Secretariat. We have already had our opening comments and we are now ready for any general comments from committee members. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: I have a general comment and it's one that has been put on the record here on several occasions. It's worth repeating. It's in the area of our capital planning and forecasting and budgeting for construction projects or renovations for major investment in new infrastructure. This can include things like computer and information systems, Madam Chair.

There is again evidence in this supplementary appropriation that we are being asked to come up with additional monies, in some cases substantial amounts of money of a third, a half or multiples of the original opening cost that we may have voted for earlier in the year when the budget year started in 2006.

So my concern, Madam Chair, for the record, is that our forecasting and assessment and budgeting methodologies are very, very incomplete, Madam Chair, in the sense that we are seeing too many of them come back to us for additional increments. I believe that we could be doing a much better job in terms of the front-end assessment, what is needed, of what the actual costs are going to be and when we are presented with a project here in the

Legislative Assembly for approval, we are not just starting an opening bid to get something going and then picking up the pieces and the additional costs later on. That's not acceptable. That is not a good way to manage millions of dollars of money, Madam Chair, and so this is another plea.

As has already been stated, our entire assessment, budgeting and approval system for capital projects is wanting. We could be doing a much better job of it. As I said, there are some instances in this supp that I believe is coming back to haunt us. I will point them out at the time. Madam Chair, I am not going to be moving to delete any projects. I am simply bringing to his attention that we could be doing a much better job, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. General comments. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a number of areas I want to make some general comments on before I ask some specific questions on the supp that is before us today.

I will start with Stanton Territorial Hospital. I am just actually speechless that the Minister and the Department of Finance could bring forward in this supp a deficit recovery program for that hospital. In my estimation, Madam Chair, that hospital is at least \$7 million in deficit and this is the first that this House, the first that I, as a Regular Member of this House, have heard of this. It's either one of two things, Madam Chair. That hospital has been grossly mismanaged or it's grossly underfunded. I am almost speechless with the way this has been presented. I certainly do have questions about how the government is planning to recover some of this deficit at the hospital.

What I have seen is the Department of Health and Social Services having their hands around the neck of that hospital and choking it off. I believe it's been underfunded, continues to be underfunded and I haven't been shown any proof to the contrary, Madam Chair. That is one area in this supp that I will pay particular attention to.

Another major cause of concern for me is how the Human Resources budget in the 2005-06 revised mains, including both supps 1 and 2, goes from \$19.6 million to the proposed main estimates this year, 2007-08, to \$31.5 million. That's an incredible increase and one that I don't believe is justifiable. The Minister of Human Resources was in this House yesterday during Committee of the Whole defending the department's main estimates. He said there were reductions in staffing there. I think there were 17 reductions. Why, then, are we continuing to see these increases in transition costs to the tune of \$2.1 million in this supp? Madam Chair, in my belief, this bears more scrutiny. I do have a number of questions certainly in that area of the supp as well. I just really do find it hard to believe that Members of this House have been misinformed about the status. It's Stanton this time, but are there other health authorities out there that are in a similar position? What are we doing about it, Madam Chair? What are we doing about it? We're coming back through this process hoping to put a band-aid on it to stop the bleeding. Well, that's not good enough, Madam Chair. It's definitely not good enough, especially when we're talking about the flagship of our health care service here in the Northwest Territories. This is the pinnacle, it's the flagship, Stanton. and we're letting it die. We're choking it.

That shouldn't be continued to be allowed to happen, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Any further general comments? No? If not, then would Members please turn to page 5 of the bill. Executive, operations expenditures. Executive, executive offices not previously authorized, \$409,000. Regional operations, not previously authorized, negative \$71,000. Total Executive, \$338,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Human Resources, operations expenditures, Human Resources, directorate, not previously authorized, \$2.118 million. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Could I request a breakdown from the Minister on that money, the \$2.118 million? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the \$2.1 million is made up of salary and wages for \$682,000, as well as other one-time transitional costs of \$220,000, computer hardware and software costs of \$252,000, and as well we have employee-related benefits of medical travel assistance, \$750,000, and then contracts, \$214,000. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Are the contracts related to the Northstar program? We provide a service to both our employees as well as the education districts, board, YCS as well as YK 1. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is the employee program that we have in place, so it is open to all employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. That's an increase, if I understand that correctly, and the Minister can verify that of course. Who is doing that contract at this time? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Madam Chair, the increase here was for the existing contract and that was driven by increased utilization of employees through that program. That contract has just recently gone out through an RFP and has been awarded to a new contractor. But this cost is not for the new contract. This cost is driven up from the old contract because of increased utilization. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Is the new contractor northern or southern? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, again, this amount is for the old contract that was in place. It has no impact on the new contract. This is for 2006-2007 costs. The new contract in place is a southern contractor tied to, as well, northern partners. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. The Minister's being very helpful on this. Maybe I'll ask one last question. Can I get some details to be sent to me -- that is, we probably don't need them today -- as to who was awarded the contract and some evaluation of why a southern contractor got it as opposed to a northern contractor? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, that contract doesn't take place until April 1st. This money allocated here is for the existing one in place. I'm aware that the Minister of Human Resources will provide that information. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, I've got a number of questions in this area. I'll start with this one. Can the Minister of Finance explain to me why from 2005-2006 the estimates were at \$19.6 million and today they're at \$31.6 million? That's an unprecedented increase in this area of our operation. I'd like the Minister to offer up some type of explanation on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, before I go to responding to the Member's question, I must for the record state, as he stated in the House in a fairly serious allegation as I would put it, that I misled the House by saying we've provided misleading information on some of the numbers, and that's not appropriate. The fact is, in this case, the numbers -- again he's quoted \$19 million over to \$31 million -- and that's not an accurate reflection of what happened or the type of growth. The actual Human Resources budget, when you take in the initial costs from FMBS, because this money was carved out of FMBS' shop as well as each and every department that had human resources staff. So when you take all of that together, it was more in the \$30 million range and we can provide that breakdown. It didn't start out at \$19 million on April 1st, 2006, and then grow to \$31 million April 1st, 2007. That's not an accurate reflection. But we will provide the actual breakdown of how that number is put together. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't want the Minister to think I'm saying that they're misleading us,

but I'd like an explanation, Madam Chair, on how it is that one day the Minister of Human Resources can come before this House and extol the virtues or accolades or get accolades on a reduction in staffing when this transition money that you're talking about here has a component in it for salaries and benefits to employees. So what is it? Are you reducing numbers or are you not reducing numbers? Is this going to be an ongoing issue inside the Department of Human Resources? Are they going to have to keep hiring all these employees to do the work there that obviously needs to get done? You can't have the Minister coming in here one day and telling us things are one way and then the next day we get a supp telling us things are different. So what is it? I think that's the question that I have, Madam Chair. What is it?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, what the Minister presented to you yesterday under the Department of Human Resources was the 2007-2008 budget. As you see throughout this document, a supplementary document, whenever a department runs into problems and does not have the available funding within its appropriation made by this House, it has to come back to this House for further appropriation. So the existing money is for operating under the 2006-2007 year, not for the 2007-2008 year. So what he presented to you for the 2007-2008 year shows a reduction in staff. The breakdown of the costs as provided earlier for Human Resources falls into a couple of areas and the big area is the transition cost. I've given a breakdown of that number and a number of things have occurred throughout the year to cause Human Resources to make a number of shifts and hire some extra staff or, as well, deal with the benefits of staff that were in place at the time this was going forward. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's just, it seems to me that things there are fairly bizarre. Because last summer, between FMBS and the Department of Human Resources, they could go back inside their own operation and find over \$500,000 to get a study done by the Hackett Group out of the United States, out of Florida. How can they do this? This is a question I have for the Minister. Is any of this transition money related in any way to the Hackett Group? The work that the Hackett Group did, is this transition cost in any way related to that, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The cost projections here provided are the funding requested from the Department of Human Resources that went through into this document breaks down into three areas. As I laid it out, the transition costs and within those transition costs there's a breakdown of salaries and wages. The second piece of that is a one-time transition cost. As provided from the information, there are a number of areas that fell into that one. Establishing some of the offices is a one-time cost there in the regions, as well as severance costs associated with some of the human resources amalgamation processes that went on. There's some computer hardware and software costs of

\$252,000, and that could be related to that work because there were recommendations made by that review that told the Department of Human Resources how it could better utilize parts of the program. That required further software licences that were not being used or parts of the program that were not being used. I'm told new licence support fees were in the area of \$69,000 and the expansion support fees were \$33,000. So some of those could be related to recommendations made out of that review. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just wondering, with the review going on and the ability of the department to just all of a sudden find \$500,000, did they borrow from one aspect of their organization to pay to get the work done by the Hackett Group and now are any of these dollars going back to replace the money that they borrowed from themselves? Does the Minister know that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, departments do have flexibility of moving around, as the Member has stated, funds from different allocations to areas that they see some unforeseen costs or feel that they need to make those investments. I don't have the detail if in fact that caused the shortage. In fact, I'm thinking the \$500,000 was for the Hackett review, but I'm not sure if that actually came forward through a supplementary process as well. It may have been a previous year's cycle. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. They found that money within, to my recollection, and between FMBS and Human Resources they found that \$500,000 and what I'm having trouble trying to piece together here is how they could find \$500,000 last summer and now all of a sudden they need another \$2.1 million, Madam Chair. That does not make any sense to me how this has transpired. Madam Chair, I'll let the Minister respond, but at that time I'll have a motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as stated, departments do have the flexibility of moving funds around internally. In fact, an example would be the medical-related benefits and medical travel part. Throughout the year, we encourage departments through FMB and FMBS to use the money internally before they come to us for further requests. When they can substantiate, in fact, that they don't have that availability to them anymore, then they make the formal request, it is reviewed by FMBS, and then a recommendation made to FMB and either approved or disapproved at that stage. So the flexibility is there. I believe that amount that was initially found was in a previous year's budget and we'd have to get the timeline up to that amount and ask the Minister of HR to give a breakdown as to how that was allocated. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Have you got any further speakers on your list, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Ramsay, no I don't.

Committee Motion 51-15(5): To Delete \$682,000 From Human Resources, Operations Expenditures In Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007, Defeated

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Then I would move that \$682,000 be deleted from the activity directorate under the Department of Human Resources, operations expenditures, not previously authorized on page 6 for the increased costs associated with the amalgamation of Human Resources. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. I will wait until the motion has been circulated before we ask for anyone to speak to the motion.

Okay. The motion has been circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank committee for its indulgence on this motion. I want to start off by saying that this to me is a principle and last year the Minister will remember quite clearly, when the issue came up about Human Resources and why there were so many problems there and issues there, and the fact that they had to go out and hire the Hackett Group from the United States to come in and do some business process type of work inside the department. I told them last year and I'll tell them again today, the government knows where those problems came from. If there were problem departments that weren't doing the work previously, the government knows which departments those are. Human Resources knows which departments those are. Why couldn't the government go back to the various departments where these boxes and boxes, as the Minister says, of files that weren't actioned over the years go back and get the money back from the departments? Somebody has to be responsible here. I said this last year and I'll say it again today, somebody has to be responsible. There's a responsibility factor here. I'm not quite sure if I'm getting my point across, but I'm trying the best I can, Madam Chair, to do that today.

Now, in this supp, HR is coming back looking for another \$2.1 million. A component of that is \$682,000 that's going to salaries and benefits for their employees. It doesn't make much sense to me when the Minister again says it's the problems that we inherited from the departments. So we let the departments get away with not doing their work and now the supp comes forward and we're just supposed to sit here and accept it and rubberstamp it and say, okay, Human Resources, you keep doing the work that you're doing and we'll keep receiving the phone calls from our constituents that things haven't gotten any better there. They haven't. I still get phone calls from people whose pay is messed up, benefits are messed up. We have to do better.

I know it's still in its infancy, I know we're working on the problems, but somebody has to take responsibility. Just coming and trying to get the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to fork over more money for mistakes without pointing fingers and getting some people to take responsibility...If there are DMs out there, if there are managers of HR, former managers of HR in the departments that never did their job, you know what? I want to know about it. We should concern ourselves with that. Because you know what? They're probably still working for us. That's why we should be responsible. That's why I hope my colleagues would see to it that we delete this money, we send a message to the government, we're not going to accept that. We can't continue to accept that type of activity to take place, Madam Chair. It's that simple. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to outline that it's unfortunate I didn't get questions referred to me during the previous question and answer period because I think I could have answered some of the questions that have been posed by committee members. Of the amount of money that's being requested in the transition costs, a big portion of the money, or some of that money, about \$167,000 of the portion that Mr. Ramsay is talking about, or the motion talks about, is a result of the decision to move all impacted human resources staff from departments into the amalgamated structure. That meant that a significant number of staff who were taken on by the department were above the salary level for the positions that we had. So we've been in a situation where nearly 20 percent of our staff are above the salary grid than what we have allowed for those positions in the structures when the department was set up. So because of that, we are in the process of reducing people, have been reducing people through attrition over the course of this year. It is an ongoing problem when you're required to take on staff who are paid at higher levels than what the budget allows you for those positions.

The other and the major portion or the balance of the money in this is for what's called an employee leave and termination balance. This is a line item that every department is required to have; it's an accrual for severance that you need to have in place and for the regular costs associated with increased years of service. This line, or this item, should have been incorporated as part of the department's budget when it was first set up, but the amounts have only now been calculated so it took a while to get this number calculated, so that's why it's being brought in at this point in time. So this isn't extra money; it's something that was going to have to be in there at some point.

Was all the accounting work done before the department was set up? I guess apparently not. I'm not sure if it was possible to get it done beforehand or if they had to wait and see who all was being transferred in from departments in order to figure out these accruals. They do relate to accruals, for instance, for retirement costs and for annual experience costs, or the increments that employees get throughout the course of the year. So it's not something that's unusual, but they are benefits that, at some point, will have to be paid and departments all have to accrue them. This line, unfortunately, wasn't included in the budget when it was passed for the beginning of this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion. Next I have Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this circumstance was about 10 years in the making when they disbanded Personnel and after 10 years decided to put it back together when it was finally recognized the fragmented, uncoordinated, inefficient services that we were trying to maintain as a government across every department. It is a Herculean task that's been required, not to mention the PeopleSoft system which was watered down and fiddled with to the point that it was barely operational. So I'm not going to be supporting this motion.

I know that in my constituency and in the South Slave there's many hundreds of employees, and while I get many concerns as an MLA from my constituency, complaints about this particular service area is not one that consumes a lot of time for myself as an MLA. I know that there's work underway and that this money is helping to improve services in all the regions so I won't be supporting this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought I, too, would put my course of action on public record; I'll be voting against this motion. I feel that I was part of the group that advocated very strongly for the creation of a new Human Resources department. I personally felt that we should go so far as a public service, take it out of government, but the wisdom of the Assembly felt that it shouldn't and this is the course of action that it chose. I was very grateful that this government, the 15th Assembly, chose a new direction and, as far as I'm concerned, the transition of going from multi-autonomies, in other words, every department and corporation having their own human resource system and function and independently implementing policies as they saw fit, moving to this structure, I think we're putting better value to the system now. I had more concerns, to be quite honest, with human resources when they were in the department and I'm sorry to sort of put it that way but because of the way people implemented the policies on their own and as they interpreted it. The great function of this is we've worked to develop consistent policies and it requires growth in the transition and the fact is it was meant to be created as a seamless growth so we could create some stability -- sorry, a seamless transition, my apologies -- to create stability and I think that it's working in the task that we sought for. In the long run I, too, would like to see some efficiencies fall out of this and I think that it will take a couple more years before that happens.

Now the complaints that other people may have may be very valid and I wouldn't want to say that they aren't, but I underscore, once again, my constituency work has not been tied up with a lot of complaints under the human resource system and most certainly it's received very few calls and complaints since they've amalgamated. I don't say that without saying that there weren't some difficulties with the actual transition phase, but I do say that consistency of processing paper, people getting their records of employment, et cetera, all these processes have improved. So I support the money being left in, in order to, again, maintain stability and so we can move forward. I certainly believe that the streamlining of the

system will happen over time and it will happen when it's ready. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to also offer a few comments on this motion. I was here in the 14th Assembly where one of the big issues was the interest of this Legislature to create a public service commission. That was a huge election issue because a lot of people felt that having human resources functions spread out in different departments as a result of dissolution of the Department of Personnel had resulted in situations where there was lack of consistency on how the policies were implemented and applied; a lack of consistency in the timing and delivery of all sorts of, whether it's hiring or disciplining or not disciplining as much, but adjusting pension benefits and records of employment. I mean especially in the area of pensions, that's a highly complicated area and I think the decentralization suffered from the fact that there's not enough people with enough consistent workload that they needed to have to develop that sort of highly technical expertise that would minimize errors and increase the level of consistency. So there was a huge debate about that and a lot of studies, and out of that came not a public service commission but a separate section for human resources. This section started as a smaller unit under FMBS, now it's moving into a bigger section as a department.

Now I do appreciate and I do understand and I do agree that there have been a lot of growing pains. I think Members, as well as the government and the department officials, found all sorts of issues when the files and people moved into one place and were in a position to review lots of problematic files. I've had some of them. I think a lot of them are going through the process and are in the process of being resolved.

I have to say that I've supported this initiative of amalgamating because I'd like to see a time -- and I think we're getting there -- where a human resource section could address the outstanding issues but also move forward to develop a comprehensive and consistent human resource plan for the government, because the government has to take its place back as the number one employer of the North and be able to attract and retain the people that we need to deliver our government programs. I don't think that the department has been able to do that as much because they've had to address and clean up the issues that arose from the time when it was decentralized. I think I could say that I could see that that work is being conducted.

That's my general position on the amalgamation of human resources that I think is relevant to this motion but secondly, more specifically to this motion, based on what the Minister is saying, if this motion was to go through, the cuts will be impacted on the benefits of employees. This is not a situation where the Legislature finds that a section of government is inefficient, ineffective or redundant, so that we lay off the people and move on with that; this is additional money required to pay the people who are entitled to these benefits, because they are at the higher pay scale or extended leave and termination packages, all those. It's something that we cannot do without and if we do this it would really impact the individuals involved. I'm sympathetic to Mr. Ramsay's concerns here about

responsible spending and making sure that all departments, and this department specifically, use their money as efficiently and productively as possible. However, I don't agree that cutting this money will achieve that end. I'm prepared to work with Mr. Ramsay if there are other proposals to improve the situation or come to a solution for problems that we identify, but cutting the benefits and salaries for employees I don't think is going to result in that solution. For those two reasons, general and specific, I will not be supporting this motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The motion here, and I want to say to Mr. Ramsay and Members of this House here that, Madam Chair, we have the privilege to bring issues forward even to the point of bringing motions forward, and, as Members, we have the ability to speak on it. So I wanted to thank Mr. Ramsay in terms of giving us this opportunity this afternoon and to bring a motion forward to the House here.

Madam Chair, I agree with Mr. Ramsay on the principle of what he's saying, however, I think there's other means, as Ms. Lee talked about, in terms of achieving those principles by working with the departments and sending a clear message out there. By having this motion come forward, I think that's going to, myself, because I talk about my region, especially about the human resource offices and people I talk to until I'm blue in the face, you know, how our region wants to be on its own and how the region wants to obtain some autonomy in terms of how we work with our own people and the challenge there for us. Madam Chair, I'm afraid that the consequences, more so in terms of it might cost us more in terms of moving this motion forward with our support. I'm a big advocate in terms of our region receiving human resource opportunities and career advancement for our own people in our region and having this come close to our home and having it come close to our people where they have an opportunity. So I'm in the position right now to not support this motion. I'm going to continue working with the department and look at what can be done. I'm hoping that we can work to a place where all regions are treated equally in terms of how the benefits are and the careers, and the departments are working with human resources for their own region and as much as any other region. Certainly the Sahtu would like to see a department that is treating its employees in a respectful manner in terms of the type of work that they're going to do in government. Madam Chair, the human resource office, when I first understood how it's going to be affected in our region, I had a number of inquiries from my region and over the years the inquiries have gotten a lot quieter and the office seems to be doing some things that are improving. So, Madam Chair, I just wanted to thank Mr. Ramsay for bringing this motion forward, but I will not support this motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank my colleagues for their comments on this and I do appreciate their concerns. However, getting back to the motion, I think, for me it's a matter of principle and I think some of my colleagues may have been missing the point on that. I think the government is missing the point, as well. What I'm saying, and the reason this motion is in front of us

today, is because somebody forgot to be responsible; somebody, and you can look across the room here, there's a number of Cabinet Ministers there with portfolios. When the departments had the HR function, who was responsible for it? The Ministers; the deputy ministers. When we amalgamated it, the first thing that the Minister says when there's problems, well, they came from the departments. Well here we are, we're still bleeding as a result of these problems that were coming from the departments. My concern, Madam Chair, is that we didn't address it at the front end. We didn't go back, identify where the problems came from and rectify that with money from the departments to fix the problems that they created in the first place. That's why this is here. This money is already spent. I mean this is just principle. It's on principle, Madam Chair, that I move this motion.

Again, I respect my colleagues. Madam Chair, I'll go on the record again and say I was fully in support of the amalgamation of human resources. Don't get me wrong; I was. I think it's definitely a step in the right direction. There are some growing pains that are going on there today, but the message should and has to be sent to the government that we are paying attention. That's the bottom line, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Defeated

Page 6, Human Resources, operations expenditures, human resources, not previously authorized, directorate, \$2.118 million, total human resources, \$2.118 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 7, Financial Management Board Secretariat, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, \$38.281 million. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. One of the items under this item for Financial Management Board Secretariat is an increment to the Territorial Power Subsidy Program, Madam Chair, and the amount requested is \$487,000. I wanted to see if the Minister could provide us with a running tally. What is the anticipated annual cost of the TPSP this current year, Madam Chair? Also, what kind of an increase is that from the previous year, Madam Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we're anticipating that the Territorial Power Support Program will, once fully calculated, we'll be looking at \$8.7, almost \$8.8, million. For the 2005-06 year end, the actuals were \$7.5 million. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Gosh, that's a pretty big increase there in percentage. Oh, help me out here. What's that? About 15 percent? This has been something of concern to committee, Madam Chair, is the rate of increase in the cost of this program. I think we're probably at, what, the half-way point, or maybe a little less than half of this is collected from the dividend that we get through the Power Corporation. However, the balance, Madam Chair -- and I suppose we should anticipate that it's going to be in excess of \$4 million -- comes from general revenue; comes from other programs or takes the option away for us to spend money somewhere else. So while we cannot, I don't think we can deny this, Madam Chair, I'm not going to be voting against it, and again, I'm going to be flagging the alarming rate of increase, the affordability and the sustainability of this program as long as we continue to allow it to go under its current criteria. I think that's it. I really don't have a question, Madam Chair, unless the Minister would care to comment and potentially address the previous motion of the House from October 2004, when we asked the government to assess the Power Subsidy Program and look at options for keeping in mind its affordability to the government as well as the need for assisting with an essential service. This was a motion of a committee from 2004, Madam Chair, that I believe has not yet been addressed by the government in relation to the soaring costs of the Power Subsidy Program. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the work was done on that motion looking at the costs and some of the cost drivers of it, but it wasn't finalized as to options of making any changes. There wasn't a decision to proceed beyond that point. The big drivers that we see from the 2005-06 numbers to the 2006-07 numbers are the fuel rate riders that were in place. For example, \$700,000 of that is directly related to fuel rate riders that came into effect on February 1, 2006, I believe. That was up almost four cents over and above the previous one. Three hundred ninety thousand dollars is another rate rider that fell in the communities of Inuvik and Norman Wells, and then \$121,000 was another fuel rate rider that affected other diesel fuel communities. So those are some of the impacts. We expect actually with the work that is ongoing now on rate riders or the actual general rate application, there is a potential for an increase further to that because, as the Territorial Power Support Program is in place, we pay the full cost up to the first 700 kilowatt hours matching the Yellowknife rate. As these rate riders come into place in those communities, that is taken up within that cost. The people only feel the impacts of those rate riders once they go above the 700 kilowatt hours. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Do you have anything further, Mr. Braden? Financial Management Board Secretariat, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$38.281 million. Government accounting, \$487,000. Total Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$38.768 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$41,224 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations

expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$741,000. Community operations, not previously authorized, negative \$5.032 million. Lands administration, not previously authorized, \$342,000. Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$610,000. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$3.339 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Reflecting my concern from earlier comments about budgeting and forecasting, there are a couple of projects on this page that I think call attention to some of this or this concern is related to it. In the first line, Madam Chair, this is under MACA, and we are providing contributions to five community governments under MACA's extraordinary funding policy. Madam Chair, one of these is \$100,000 to Tuktoyaktuk to I think it has something to do with the relocation and upgrade of the water intake system. We also see that further down that same page, Madam Chair, under a different program is another \$110,000 for the identical project. So we have something here for \$210,000 but taking from two different pots. That is sort of one question there. Perhaps it is a little on the administrative side, but I think I would like to seek some clarification there, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will try to handle this one. If I can't get all the detail, maybe the Minister would be prepared to answer some of it, but the first portion that it falls under, the amount is a contribution to the community directly as part of their costs for that work. The second portion of the regional operations, the Tuktoyaktuk pump house relocation, is an infrastructure contribution that does go to the community but it still is under a different program. That is why you see it that way. One was to help actually refill their water lake, as they call it, because of problems they had with the existing operation. The second piece is to actually do some work to rectify that going forward.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Is it a case of one or the other pot of money might have been overspent or tacked up and we had to get a little creative with where to find the other money, Madam Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, no, the first part was the actual difficulty with the water lake level being lower than anticipated and having problems, then trying to get it up to the levels before freeze-up occurred. The second piece is now infrastructure where we have to do the repairs so that we don't find ourselves in the same situation next year. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I accept the explanation for the costs related to restoring water levels. Perhaps more about the actual pump house relocation or whatever upgrades were performed, why is it booked here, Madam Chair, as an operations expense and not a capital asset increment, Madam Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is one more of a technical nature of transfers. Because this asset will belong to the community when the project is done, it is transferred in this manner. Whereas, if we were to own the asset, it would show up under our capital acquisition plan. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate those explanations. Another project that is defined here, Madam Chair, is the additional funding related to the costs associated with repairing the floor of the new Whati community hall. Three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars is requested for this repair, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this is a new building or at least one that has been under construction and was started within the last couple of years. Why is the department coming back to the Assembly for repair costs for a brand new building? The logical question to ask first is who made the mistake? Obviously a mistake was made. As I say, this is a new building. Why aren't they being held accountable for the cost of this repair or this error of this \$375,000 repair bill, Madam Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this project delivered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs was also worked on by the Department of Public Works and Services under a negotiated contract with the Lac La Martre Development Corporation. The project started in 2001 through to final completion around 2004-05. There were problems with the flooring shortly after January 2005. Public Works and the Lac La Martre Development Corporation started work on rectifying that. Part of the floor was removed and work was looked at on how to rectify that. There was some further work done. That did not work. As well, during this time, Lac La Martre Development Corporation became non-existent as the Tlicho Government took over operations of that nature, so that became a further problematic area. Ultimately, that is why now you see the department coming forward for the final piece of this. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: So the error or the problem occurred under the operations of the Lac La Martre Development Corporation. I am seeing them now there, Madam Chair. Don't we have things like bonding or insurance or some kind of liability protection in place for this type of circumstance? In this day and age when the government has historically taken a lot of hits for similar situations, why, in this case, did we not have some back-up for us, Madam Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the contracting processes do allow, for example, the tendering process would allow for a holdback that we could deal with that. In fact, there were some areas here where that were done. Back in January, a special warrant for the work to repair the flooring came up, it was done but FMB directed MACA to recover those costs through the warranty repairs from the Lac La Martre Development Corporation. That didn't happen. They needed to step in, so different steps were taken at that point. There was some funding initially that was used through that contract to try to do some of the initial repairs that failed. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Madam Chair, I am not going to belabour the point other than to, again, try to bring to the attention of the committee and the Assembly that, when things go wrong, there is a tendency if not a practice around here just to come back to the taxpayers' pocket and cover over mistakes, errors or flaws that should be covered by somebody else in the due process of getting this work finished. This floor repair here along with information that the Minister has provided, we have a floor repair now of half a million dollars against a building that was originally projected to cost just over \$2 million. So 25 percent of it has gone into fixing floor. These are proportions. I understand that things will go a little bit off the page here and there, but this is just another example of how we are not paying attention to what is going on. I hope the signal is getting very clear here that, at least my appetite, if not committee's appetite, for accepting these kinds of things and just reaching into the taxpayers' pocket and paying off another set of mistakes when we could be using that money for other things much more valid and appropriate than correcting mistakes. It is probably where I will be going when and if I see more of this kind of downloading where other people and other mechanisms should be in place to take the responsibility. My time is up, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I should, as well, for the record, state that the work that was done by MACA and Public Works, they are also now working with Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations and the Tlicho Investment Corporation that took over the Lac La Martre Development Corporation and work is still ongoing as to actually come up with who was at fault with this. Was it design or contractor related? So that end of it hasn't shut as of yet. We are still working in that area of potential recovery of some of the costs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. We are on page 8. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Madam Chair, thank you. Part of the request under this is in community operations and \$1.16 million requested to provide funding for road repairs and disaster assistance claims due to the spring flooding in Aklavik. Madam Chair, in a committee tour, I had the opportunity to visit Aklavik during the summer. I can

certainly understand the impact of the flood on the community. I wish the folks in Aklavik all the best in recovering from that. Madam Chair, the notes to this \$1.16 million request say that up to 85 percent of the costs will be recovered through the federal government's Disaster Assistance Program. Madam Chair, on a previous supplementary, we have already put \$1.7 million, I understand, into Aklavik flood recovery, I think, under the same circumstances. My question, Madam Chair, is have we invoiced the federal government for the first \$1.7 million? Has any of that money come back yet? I just want to be certain that we will be seeing hopefully up to 85 percent or very close to it that the department is claiming we will get back, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is right; this has gone through a couple of different supplementary appropriations. The total amount as we have identified to date is \$3.6 million. We expect, after the 85 percent reimbursement, a net cost for ourselves will be \$551,000. We haven't received the funding yet, a portion back, but we believe that it will be coming back at some point here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Page 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I have to read it again. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures. Directorate, not previously authorized, \$741,000. Community operations, not previously authorized, negative \$5.032 million. Lands administration, not previously authorized, \$342,000. Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$610,000. Total department not previously authorized, negative \$3.339 negative.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 9, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures. Asset management, not previously authorized, \$140,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$140,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 10, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures. Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$9.860 million. Supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$1 million. Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$623,000. Total department not previously authorized, \$11.483 million. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I really don't know where to start with this one. This is one of the worst things I have seen happen here since the time I came here three and a half years ago. I don't know when the government was planning on telling us. In terms of what the Stanton Hospital is in deficit, these are from 2005-06. When was the government going to tell the House that this was the case or this was the issue at Stanton? I would like to know if they are in contravention of the FAA or the FAM by not advising Members of this House that

the hospital was in the financial status or state that it was in. Madam Chair, like I said earlier in my general comments, it is like the government, the Department of Health and Social Services is putting its hands around the neck of the Stanton Hospital and choking it to death. I would like to know how many times the hospital came to the Department of Health and Social Services with requests for funding and got denied time after time. How many times did the Stanton Territorial Hospital go to the department looking for funding? Does the Minister have any of that type of information? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. First off, let me state that, no, FAM or the FAA were not contravened. The budget planning and facilities is allocated here and announcements get made and accounting is done so the records are there. The amount of times the department or the Stanton health authority would have made a request, I don't have that specific detail. I do know that the department has made requests on behalf of Stanton, as well as other health authorities, for additional funding and at times were told to go back to the drawing board to re-evaluate and come back with more substantiation. At times, as has been with a number of other departments when requests come in, if we feel there isn't solid substantiation we'll tell departments or, in this case, it would have been the Department of Health and Social Services because they carried forward the request to work a whole year through the program to come up with a solid number, not just come with some estimates. As we've worked through this as it is now and we are now in the position that it's going to have to be dealt with and the target is that Stanton are dealing with 50 percent of the deficit and they're going to have to come up with a deficit recovery plan for the other amount.

Further to that, we are going through an exercise at Stanton to see if in fact there may have been some underfunding or ongoing underfunding. That falls in a number of areas, whether its patient services, different acute care programs, or other O and M, regular services that occurred. But that work is ongoing now in cooperation with Stanton and the Department of Health and Social Services, as well as the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll try to be as clear as I can here. This hospital is in all kinds of financial trouble. It was two years ago. This only covers, the \$2.9 million, Madam Chair, only covers half of that deficit. That's half. That's almost \$6 million, \$5.8 million. Also on this page, Madam Chair, there's provision for \$732,000 for increased costs resulting from the job re-evaluations. There's also \$563,000 anticipated utilization of maternity and paternity leave. I'd like to ask the Minister, why are those two numbers not rolled into the debt? Why don't we get a clear picture of where we're at and what is the current deficit at this flagship of our health care system? What is the deficit today? I think the Minister should provide that information to the House immediately so we can make plans to correct things there. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is correct that this money is for 50 percent of the 2005-2006 numbers, both the accumulated side and the ongoing deficit. Stanton is projecting a \$6.9 million deficit for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. As I stated, we are working with them around that, as we do with other health authorities. The reason you see these other numbers broken out as they are, they are over and above the normal processes that are used and are not part of, well, the first one, the \$732,000 the Member has identified is a result of a re-evaluation that resulted from a number of appeals and that's why it's outside the normal process and budgeting that we would do. As well as the 563. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess if I heard the Finance Minister correctly, the hospital is currently today in about \$13 million of red ink. I think that alone sends shivers down my spine. I just want to know what the game plan is from the government to address the deficit at Stanton. Why is the big question, are we here today dealing in a supplementary appropriation trying to get half of one year's accumulated deficit at that facility? I think it's shameful. Actually, I think it's shameful too that Members of this House didn't know. I don't know why it wasn't in the mains last year. Why wasn't that information in the mains last year? Can the Minister answer that question? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, when health authorities bring their budget plans forward to the Department of Health and Social Services, there's work that's done at that level and then the Department of Health and Social Services will bring in their requests for additional funding and FMB would review those and agree or disagree with some of that, all based on the numbers we have available over the total government. We've allowed a process over a number of years that, surpluses that were there, health boards could keep their surpluses, but we expected at the same time if they were in a deficit position that they would have to manage their way out of it. That's where the negotiations process or discussions go on between the authority and the health or the department and then the department to FMB. So some of the increase that you would see in the business plan process, some of that could be allocated to the fact that there was agreement on some of the numbers, but not all of the numbers. Again, that's the process that is used to date. The number that I used is the number for 2006-2007 is an estimate. Again, when they were asked to put this together they had to do some calculations of what might be seen at the end of the fiscal year. I state, there is a good working relationship now in coming to a better grip with this between Stanton, the Department of Health and Social Services and our involvement from the FMBS. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The time that this deficit was rung up there was a public administrator in place at Stanton hospital. There was a direct line between that hospital and the Department of Health and Social Services. It wasn't like an authority. Why wasn't that information contained in the business plans last year or the mains last year? Why is it here today? That's the fundamental question, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as I stated, through our business planning process each department would bring their requests for additional funding and the Department of Health and Social Services would have brought its request to the table. It would have been evaluated on the same criteria as any other department and just because a health board has a deficit, doesn't mean it's going to automatically get its full amount put back into the budget. As I stated, the program that's been put in place, if a health board has or authority has a surplus we allow them to keep that surplus for ongoing potential growth pressures that they may feel. That is also coffered in areas where they can't just move that money all the way around. But it's also understood that if there is a deficit, that they're going to have to work their way through that deficit. The government overall in the past has got involved in other health authorities and facilities in the past when it was substantiated, that there was an ongoing growth pressure that wasn't just a blip in one year. That's part of why you see things delayed as they are. We expect again that a review that's going on will help us determine whether in fact there may be some ongoing underfunding of some areas or if in fact there need to be some changes in the way program delivery is happening. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think the big thing, the fear factor for me in all of this is now the department is going to go back to that hospital and as a result of the chronic underfunding that's taken place there over the past few years, it's going to go back there and demand that they make some tough decisions because of that underfunding, which is going to put even more pressure and more strain on the employees that work there and also on the public who use that facility. I think it's just an appalling thing to allow to happen, Madam Chair. Again, I'm not sure, I'm going to go back and double check on the recording or the reporting of numbers because personally I'm not 100 percent sure on which FAM directive it is or which part of the FAA it is, but given the fact that Stanton was operated with a public administrator, I do believe there is a responsibility of Department of Health and Social Services to report that deficit to this House. Not two years later, but in the year that the deficit was accrued and that happened in 2005-2006. Madam Chair, I am going to double check on that just to make sure that everything is aboveboard. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I didn't really hear a question there. Does the Minister want to respond to that?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the process is laid out, departments can come forward

requesting more funding for their operations and its reviewed. At times things are approved, at times they're sent back or told to come back after they've had a full year of operations to substantiate fully their cost areas. This process would be used for any health authority, not just the Stanton facility. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Before I go on to Mr. Braden and Ms. Lee, I would like to draw Members' attention in the visitors gallery to Mr. Darrell Beaulieu, who is the chair of the Business Development Investment Corporation, and also Pawan Chugh, who is the CEO for the BDIC. Welcome to the Chamber.

---Applause

Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't think I'm going to bring anything new to the debate our colleague from Kam Lake has not already put on the table other than to underscore and emphasize my concern. As a member of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Madam Chair, this kind of situation was not brought to our attention. Not to ask for the approval to fill in the gaps, but in the sense of keeping us appraised and advised of what is going on out there in these organizations that are under the watch of the department and are included in the oversight that our standing committees have. That is what is missing from this component. Madam Chair, when we are not informed of something, how can we deal with it in an informed manner? How can we set the priorities and decide on where efforts and energy and resources should go? Now we are presented, as Mr. Ramsay has pointed out, at least a \$6 million problem here depending on... Oh, \$13 million now, \$13 million depending on how you do the math. This is not really how our relationship should work between departments, between the government, between committees, between MLAs. I again just want to underscore that we're taken by surprise with this and it limits the scope and ability of me to do my job when I'm not at least advised of what is going on. It's a big job here. The department, the administrators and the new advisory committee that's been put together for the Stanton organization have got a big job ahead of them. I hope that they can find some ways around it that won't impact the type of service that we've come to expect from Stanton. I would certainly hope that committees and MLAs will be kept advised and able to assist with getting out from under this situation. I don't have a question, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Next I have Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have to say that I too am very concerned about the Stanton deficit situation and I think that we have a responsibility here to find out what is going on and try to fix the situation. Madam Chair, I have to say that as chair of Standing Committee on Social Programs we were not aware of the deficit that has been accruing with respect to this operation. It appears that from the information given to us, that deficit has been mounting for a number of years, since 1996, with the last year being the worst. I would think they're probably accumulating a deficit as we speak. We have no way of knowing whether it's because their demands for service are larger than the money that we are paying, and if that is the case then we need to address that.

We also have information that suggests that the supplies and purchased service costs were underfunded and I'd like to know why that was the case. Given all the issues that we're hearing in terms of the moral issues and the hiring issues, whether they be new nurses or experienced nurses, medical staff, it really breaks my heart that the Stanton hospital, which I believe is such an important hospital and one that has been a leader in the health care delivery here in the Territories, that it is under constant pressure. It's obviously under financial pressure and it's under human resource pressure, for whatever reason, and I'm not convinced that this government and the department and the Minister have a handle on what's going on. This has been going on a very long time.

I could tell you that I'm surmising from the information here that we are somehow underfunding that, but on the other side I have to tell you that I have had former staff of the hospital that come to tell me that there is money probably not being used as efficiently as possible in terms of acquiring equipment. The entire maintenance section have had issues brought about that.

I see that financial review of the hospital was done, but I'm wondering if it's not time for us to do an operational review of that hospital. Because you know, with respect to human resource management, we minimized that inquiry to the human resource management review alone. But I'm saying this not to target anyone and I know that the CEO at the hospital is new and all of these issues were occurring way before her time there. So I want to make it clear that when I'm speaking here about the issues and problems that we must face head on, I'm not attributing that to her at all. But I think for the government, this is an important health care facility and we must find out what is going on and we must address that. If it's about underfunding, we need to find a way to fund it. If it's misuse of money, not misuse of money, but mismanagement of resources there, we need to know and we need to know why. I don't think that's out of the question based on some of what I've heard. I'm not going to be able to verify that because I don't know the insides of that. The only way I could know that is to have somebody go in there and find out what's going on. This is a huge issue and I'm interested in hearing from the Minister how we could address this in a positive way so that we don't have this happening years in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as we've seen across the country, funding a health care is not an exact science of what different issues have come up from time to time. Stanton isn't the only authority that's under pressure from human resources or cost drivers. We've seen provinces and other Territories, as well as our territory over the years have to do some significant adjustments to the way funding flows and what gets funded to what level. I believe committee was provided information of the history from 1995-1996 right up to 2005-2006, and Stanton has gone through a number of cycles of surplus and deficit situations as things occurred. The main contributor to where we are today and dealing with the amount established today are in six main areas. That would be the underfunding or unfunded increases in supplies and purchased services, medical and surgical supplies, drugs, laundry, housekeeping, the relief staff funding deficiency, employee benefits funding

deficiency, physicians program funding deficiency, and the Nunavut billing recovery gap, and that's the timeliness of when we get paid back for services provided to Nunavut residents. As well as pointed out the one issue of unfunded high utilization of the maternity issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the same information that the Minister just read out, but none of that tells us how that happened. It's just a one-time overuse or one-time underfunding. Is there an assurance, if that's the case, that this is not going to repeat next year? We went from \$508,000 or almost \$509,000 surplus in 2004-05 to \$2.7 million deficit this year. There is quite a substantial accumulated deficit. Rather than just limiting it to the number we had in front of us and just approving the supplementary appropriation, I would be more interested in finding out more about how it happened and how we go about making sure it doesn't happen again. I would be interested in any information the Minister could provide as to how that is so. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, FMBS is now directly involved with the Department of Health and Social Services along with Stanton coming up with reasons as to why and what the numbers are looking like and where there are trends that are more than trends and reality of cost over drivers that have to be addressed. As I stated earlier, some of it can be possibly attributed to underfunding of certain sectors and that's some of the fix we are looking at. As well, as Minister of Health and Social Services, I am doing a zero-based review of a number of our facilities and the way they provide services as well. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the information FMBS is looking into, would that be made available to us and what's the time frame for that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to sit down and work with committee as we go through this process. I don't have a timeline as of yet, but as we proceed I would be prepared to sit down with committee and keep them informed. I have been informed that information was passed along as things progressed in the past is what I have been informed as well. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get more specific, could I ask the Minister if we could expect to see that before the next session in May? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as Members have stated, this is an issue that is very big. To the details we are getting involved with and the work that was happening, I am not sure if we can have that before next session, but I will keep Members apprised of where we are in the timelines and how far we are along with the work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Before we proceed, maybe I can draw your attention to the gallery. I would like to recognize Caroline Koe-Simpson from Whati. I understand she's the mother of one of the Pages here.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): We are on page 10, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to pick up where Ms. Lee left off and that is in terms of consultation with the committee. I am not a member of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, but I haven't seen anything that would lead me to think that the hospital was anywhere near the deficit situation that it finds itself in today. As I mentioned earlier, the big fear is for me that the department is going to force the hospital to make some tough decisions in order to recover this deficit. If the Minister does have a deficit recovery plan, will he come back to this House to talk to Members before any of that recovery plan is proceeded upon?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would be prepared to sit down with committee and inform them of the necessary steps that needed to be taken. As I stated, there is a policy in place that deals with a surplus or deficit recovery issues and all health board are aware of it. If we find areas where appropriations were made that don't fall into normal programming, we would find each one of our facilities or authorities ready to deal with the issue and usually it means tough decisions. I would be more than happy to sit down with committee once we come up with a plan as to how this is going to be. If we find that, in fact, there's been a chronic underfunding of certain areas, that would come forward in another supplementary appropriation piece. If we find that we need to go through a recovery plan, once I have worked with the appropriate bodies, I would be happy to come back to committee and say here is what the plan is looking like. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting back to the underfunding, I would like to know if the Minister could share with us, and it doesn't have to be today, but in that time frame from 2005-2006 to today, what funding request was put forward by the hospital to the Department of Health and Social Services and why were they refused? I think that's an important piece to this and Ms. Lee alluded to it a little bit earlier. Let's find out what they asked for. I want to know why the Department of Health and Social Services continually turned them down.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ramsay continues to say the department has turned them down. That may have been true in a number of cases. It may have been the FMB that turned down the request because it felt it didn't have accurate information to substantiate an increase in spending. It's not going to be that every time an authority or a facility makes a request for increased spending that they are going to get it approved as we have known across the board. Each department makes requests and not all of them get approved, but I will prepare that information and prepare, as I stated, to sit down with committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this topic, I think it's important to get this out, in terms of other health authorities that are out there, I think we need to come up with a comprehensive plan to fund our health authorities. If they are chronically underfunded and I am not just talking about Stanton in this case, but across the territory. If some of them are in dire straits like Stanton is, what are we going to do about it? I think that's a big question. This is a big issue, Mr. Chairman, and I know that the Finance Minister, Health Minister, knows that it is a big issue. It's a huge issue, especially if that hospital hasn't gotten funding requests approved over the past three years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, the policy has been in place. A surplus/deficit policy has been in place for quite some time. Again, I would gladly share that with Members in committee. We can go through a full briefing on this and we will have the necessary information. As I state again for the record, even though authorities or boards make a request for additional funding, they don't always get that and that happens on a yearly basis when departments are asked to prepare for the business plan cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: That's good, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. We are on page 10, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$9.860 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$1 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$623,000. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the residential requirements for elders and persons outside the NWT. Is that not contracted out and if it is, why do we have to pay extra for these added costs? Usually you would find that the contractor knows he is going to incur those costs. Why are they only incurred now? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, they are a contract and each one is an individual contract. When we went to individual contracts, it could be to a number of different facilities, not just one. So there are a number of contracts and we have more people out there. That's why you see the costs going up. As well, the contracts, I don't have the particulars of each contract, but the contracts can have factors in there that would be required for hiring expenditures, as well as if there's an extension to that contract or a new contract signed there could be an increase in that area, as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell Members here what the percentage increase is for this \$623,000 in relation to the overall dollars that we spend on accommodating elders and persons with disabilities outside the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the amount that was budgeted for 2006-2007 was \$3.8 million, almost \$3.9 million and the cost of to date and the reason why this is coming forward is \$4.495 million. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the \$3.9 million that these contractors submit their tenders under, are they, are all these, is this basically like a blanket tender for any contractor? Are they pretty much a generic tender based on, are they based on a per client basis or based on a yearly accommodation basis on a year based on averages? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, they are individual contracts that are per individual because again they go to different facilities throughout other jurisdictions. The majority of them are within Alberta, but there are a number, for example Saskatchewan, B.C. or a couple of other places, that people are sent to depending on the types of conditions or the needs that need to be met. So it's their individual contracts and they change substantially if we have one more client go or move to a program or move to an alternate facility that changes the contract as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess maybe if I could ask the Minister, what does Saskatchewan or B.C. offer that we can't find in Alberta? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm not, I'm hesitant to get into each particular case here because they're individual contracts, but sometimes it's availability of space as well. If Alberta is full up in their particular spots, then we would go further afield, as they say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: I don't want to get into detail and that, but we'll pursue that on a different avenue. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$623,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$11.483 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 11, Justice, operations expenditures, legal aid services, not previously authorized, \$315,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Courts, not previously authorized, \$395,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$443,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.153 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 12, NWT Housing Corporation, operations expenditures, NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, negative \$38.139 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, negative \$38.139 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 13, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, negative \$43,000. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This again is another project that I wanted to cover off in respect of how we're I believe presented with a project at a certain expense and a certain scope and then as the project evolves or develops it changes considerably in nature and increases considerably in cost. Even though the actual dollar amount that we're dealing with here, Mr. Chairman, is a negative, sorry, \$153,000? Negative \$153,000? Okay, \$43,000. Thank you. The actual scope of the project looks a little bit like this according to the information we're

provided with, and this is to upgrade the existing firefighting water supply at William McDonald School here in Yellowknife, where to comply with new requirements or something of that nature a plan was submitted for \$240,000 in this current year, but we now learn that the scope of the project has expanded considerably, almost five times, and the new estimate for the cost of this water supply upgrade will be \$1.14 million. So from \$240,000 opening estimate we are now at a project that costs \$1.14 million.

This is the kind of thing exactly, Mr. Chairman, that I draw attention to. Why is it that something seemingly of a relatively straightforward nature is not thoroughly checked against the standards and the requirements of officials or offices like the fire marshal and we're given, like I say, something that is just totally unacceptable when it comes to what we're told is required in terms of the need and the cost and then later on it just, as in this case here, which is extraordinary, is something that is approaching almost five times the original cost.

And we're still not through because the bulk of the new money, \$1.14 million, Mr. Chairman, I think has already been approved in the main budget that we just passed yesterday. So maybe the Minister has some detail that could enlighten me or tell me where I'm not seeing this the right way, but again another project that starts in one place and ends up in a lot different place, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think through all departments and even the Department of Public Works and Services if we once established a number and that number never changed that would be even better. But what we do find from time to time, whether once a project is approved and voted on in this House, either departments themselves request a change in scope of the project, which ultimately has a change in the total value of the project, occurs from time to time. As well, in this case, as the Member pointed out, the office of the Fire Marshal has got involved and we've gone from one facility to fixing two facilities under the same project heading and that's why it's such a substantial increase. Again, because of the involvement of the fire marshal, initially it was felt we could do this in one project at a time, but we're told because of the existing condition of the mains, water mains I believe, that it had to be done at the same time.

So that's why the scope of this work is substantially changed. It is now two facilities, two schools that fall under this one heading. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not going to argue about the validity or the need to do the actual work that we now have before us. Mr. Chair, where the frustration is, is in not knowing about how many other project proposals or requests before us are going to be of a similar nature. We are told and requested one thing, but things happen and it changes. We have a lot of different programs and things to manage here, and I just don't feel that I have the discretion or the scope to continue to accept projects that end up being much larger and of a different scale than originally presented. This is where my

reliance is on our experts, engineers, planners and designers to do the work thoroughly and bring a complete and thorough estimate on project descriptions to me for approval. Again, I bring this to the attention of the committee and the Assembly because of this deficiency.

Mr. Chair, I have one more question related to this project. Again, I think we are talking about the installation of a tangible asset, but yet it is booked under operations. Could the Minister offer an explanation as to why this isn't funded and financed through our capital project rather than out of operating dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't think I can give an accurate response to you. The only thing I can think of similar to municipalities is, if this is an asset that falls not within the Government of the Northwest Territories but it becomes the property of the board and that would be YK 1 I understand, but the Minister of Education may have more information on that, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Government of the Northwest Territories does not own William McDonald. It is owned by YK 1, so capital improvements to YK 1 are shown as an operating grant.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Thank you, Mr. Braden. We are on page 13, Education, Culture and Employment, operation expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, negative \$43,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Income security, not previously authorized, \$696,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department not previously authorized, \$653,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 14, Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$451,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Airports, not previously authorized, \$90,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Highways, not previously authorized, \$522,000. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The highway is always a big topic for us, especially when we travel it every day. I would just like to highlight the \$83,000 that has been earmarked for the Tlicho winter road last year. Are we going to keep subsidizing the contractor that is currently doing the work? What it came down to was the lowest bid. This is the consequence that we are facing

where they are coming back to the government and saying, well, there are additional costs that we need to keep in mind. But at the same time, we said no to the other contractor but now they are coming back for more money. If you times that by three years, it will be a quarter of a million dollars. Are they going to keep coming back every year? I am hoping I don't see them this year again in the supplementary. Mr. Chair, it is a grave concern to me because the contractor made a terrible mistake last year. We have to pay as a government now. Are we going to subsidize even further? Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the information I have is the contract did go out for a public tender. It was for three years. It comes to a close on 2007-08, so this upcoming year, it will have to go out for a re-tender. That is my understanding. Hopefully we don't see another one coming forward, but the Minister of Transportation may have more detail on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The increased cost is one-time only. It is not scheduled to be an ongoing increase. We will be re-tendering it this year and hopefully look for a fixed amount. You have to understand, too, a lot of the forced growth that was associated with this and some extra construction costs as well there, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, yes, I do understand forced growth and a one-time shot deal here, but every time we come to this table, we always hear about a one-time shot. I personally think this whole contract issue seriously needs to be looked at where last time it was awarded, the Tlicho wasn't too happy with the contract awarded. We have contractors in the community that can certainly take on the workload. It is already happening from Whati to the junction area, so we have proven ourselves. I hope the Minister will take that seriously into consideration, that there has been a huge mistake that was made the first year, as the Minister may be aware. The way that it was handled, it wasn't appropriately handled. The department had to go back in March to re-fix the whole road again. That is uncalled for. I was there and witnessed it. There were deep pots that we were getting stuck in. Anyway, Mr. Chair, I just wanted to, for public awareness and the Members here, note that this is not acceptable that the contractor is coming back for more money. If that was the case, they should have put it into their contract where everybody knows about forced growth. We are fully aware of that. There is high cost of fuel that is going up every year. They should have considered it at that time too. Fortunately, we are going out to a new negotiation. That is great. Okay. Just a message to the Minister. Keep that in mind in ongoing discussions with the parties in their jurisdiction. We also have agreements in place with our Tlicho Government so we have to respect that as well. That is just more of a comment to the Minister and also for the Members here. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We are on page 14. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I am going to just support what Mr. Lafferty is saying in terms of the work that needs to be looked at again by the Minister. I have taken out the whip. Now I put it down so I don't want to take out the whip again. It is Friday afternoon and we want to see this through. The Minister knows the sentiments of our people in terms of this type of work that is being done in our region. We certainly have industry pay close attention to the work that we do in our region. I think it is no different than the government. I want to say that to the Minister there. That is all I have to say. It is a comment to the Ministers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We are on page 14, highways, not previously authorized, \$522,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.063 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 15, Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures. Corporate management, not previously authorized, \$11,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Economic development, not previously authorized, \$369,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have just a quick question on the Harvesters Assistance Program. Why was in 2005-06 this program not up and why is it reinstated in this year's budget with a supp? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this program was set up quite a number of years ago, and it was to be with matched dollars. As that money is drawn down and matched up, it shuts down so it is not put in the budget on an annual basis. It only shows up when a party that has room left and has matching dollars shows up. That is why it shows up in this manner, because it is not an ongoing program. At some point, when all parties that were allocated their portions come up with their matching dollars, this program will shut down. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: That is fine. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. We are on page 15, economic development, not previously authorized, \$369,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$380,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 16, Environment and Natural Resources, forest management, not previously authorized, \$92,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$92,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 17, Executive, capital investment expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$71,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total Executive, not previously authorized, \$71,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 18, Human Resources, capital investment expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$558,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chair, again, a project initially presented to committee for one price; in this case the upgrade of the human resource information system, the PeopleSoft operating system. It is to provide funding for the higher than anticipated costs of this upgrade originally presented to us in the 2006-07 budget at a cost of \$2.001 million, just over \$2 million, Mr. Chair, now scoped out at \$2.76 million. Mr. Chair, that is an increase of more than one-third within one year on some computer software. We have been dealing with PeopleSoft program for years and we have gone through numerous changes and upgrades in that. Of course computer systems are designed to, but what is continually frustrating again is that, within the space of one fiscal year, we have a computer upgrade allocation that has ballooned by more than a third, \$2 million to almost \$2.8 million. Mr. Chair, what causes something which, from my perspective, should be relatively straightforward in terms of scoping it out, costing it out and implementing it and actually increase by a third? These are substantial dollars, Mr. Chair. We are talking about three-quarters of a million dollars new money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this project initiated back in 2006-07, as the Member identified, was initially at just over \$2 million. As well, the work that was undergone by the Hackett Group and made recommendations on some of the changes that needed to be done were taken into consideration. The changes as a result of this latest work is a licensing cost for additional modules. That is as a result of, again, the Hackett Group recommendations saying that we should be utilizing what we have available more efficiently and

coming out of what we call a customization of the PeopleSoft program to the original version and going to the 8.9. So the additional licensing cost to have for those additional modules is \$314,000. The Helpdesk software is \$20,000; upgrade costs and customization assessment was \$9,000; hardware, \$20,000; training, \$110,000; and such service pilot was \$85,000 for the \$550,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: You know, Mr. Chair, it seems that the kind of things the Minister just outlined as reasons for the increment are the kinds of things that could easily, and quite properly, have been built into the scoping of this project originally on training, new licensing, a couple of modules or whatever it is. How is it that these things are missed out in the original outline? This, again, Mr. Chair, is where I go back to the reliance that I have on the planners, designers, engineers and builders of our very existence here to bring forward complete and well-thought-out projects or initiatives for me to consider and approve. I have to say that I find the explanation inadequate.

As I indicated at the beginning of our session this afternoon, I am going to be pointing out the projects that I think should really be the department's responsible for bringing them forward should really be looking at why it is they are coming back to the taxpayer to ask for more money when a project has been low-balled or poorly presented in the first place. I don't have any more questions, but I just want to leave that concern very clearly on the table, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Members, we are on page 18, Human Resources, capital investment expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$558,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total Human Resources, not previously authorized, \$558,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$629,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Members, before I begin, I understand that there are more people up in the gallery. I understand there are superintendents of the Catholic schools convention and also a former Member of the Legislative Assembly, now a chief, Leon Lafferty of Behchoko; and the SAO, Mr. Terry Testart.

---Applause

Members, we are on page 19, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, negative \$624,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$400,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$224,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 20, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$40,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$40,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 21, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$800,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$800,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 22, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$18 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized \$18 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Members, can you turn to page 3, the schedule? Schedule, part I, vote I, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation, operations expenditures, \$14.710 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Part II, vote II, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$19.245 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total supplementary appropriation, \$33.955 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Turn to page 1 and we'll consider clauses 1 through 8. Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Let's go back to the preamble now. Agreed to the preamble?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does committee agree that Bill 22 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Bill 22 is now ready for third reading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yay!

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, I move to report progress.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yay!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. POKIAK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007, and would like to report that Bill 22 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 21: Appropriation Act, 2007-2008

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 21, Appropriation Act, 2007-2008, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 21 has had third reading.

---Applause

Third reading of bills. Before I go to the next order on the Order Paper, colleagues, I would like to take a moment to thank our Pages this week for working in the Leg here.

---Applause

I know that all Members appreciate the work they do for us. I would especially like to mention two Pages from my own riding; Olivia Sperry and Elaine Roach that were her with us this week.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Monday, March 12, 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. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, Write-Off of Assets Act, 2006-2007
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - 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
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2006-2007
21. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I don't know if anybody recognized him, but, colleagues, the presence of a former Member of the House, Leon Lafferty is in the gallery.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 12, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 15:18.

