



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 20, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:36 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 7-16(4):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PARKS
AND TOURISM 2009**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is committed to growing the tourism industry in the Northwest Territories.

The department continues to work closely with partners and stakeholders in the Northwest Territories, including industry members and tourism operators, the Destination Marketing Organization - Northwest Territories Tourism, the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee, as well as communities, bands and aboriginal organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people in the Northwest Territories tourism industry for their dedication and for providing exceptional service to visitors throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the chair, fellow board members and staff of the Northwest Territories Tourism Association, as well as recognize the contribution of the co-chair and members of the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee.

In 2009-10 the department's Product Diversification and Marketing Program supported 18 businesses and organizations in all five regions of the Northwest Territories, with almost \$1.5 million in funding.

This year, 2009-10, is the department's fourth year of the five-year Tourism 2010 Action Plan to support the Northwest Territories tourism industry. One million dollars is spent annually on infrastructure, product development, research, marketing and training.

This year also saw several infrastructure investments under the federal government's Economic Action Plan. Industry, Tourism and Investment received \$481,000 in matching federal funding for 2009-10 projects including trail development, park improvements and building renovations.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of capital projects underway this year. These include the development of a new visitor centre at the 60th Parallel, completion of a kitchen shelter in Sambaa Deh Territorial Park and a third loop in Reid Lake Territorial Park.

The 2009 operating season also saw the continuation of cultural programming in parks. Live programs were delivered in Twin Falls, Fred Henne and Hay River Territorial parks.

Visitors from all corners of the globe continue to visit our parks. In 2008 more than 35,000 people camped, picnicked or simply enjoyed quality family time in our many campgrounds and day-use areas.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate parks staff, campground operators and other park service providers in the Northwest Territories for their dedication to this vital industry and to thank them for a job well done.

Thanks to the efforts of our parks contractors and staff and the Northwest Territories tourism industry, visitors learn what those of us who live here already know: the Northwest Territories is a spectacular place to visit. Spread the word. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 8-16(4):
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELDERS
IN EDUCATION**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, I would like to take a moment to honour our northern elders.

Elders hold a special place in our society. They are the foundation of our culture and our spiritual and cultural leaders, passing traditional knowledge and skills through generations. They are the professors

of tradition and, like teachers, spend much of their time in the classroom working with students. It is important that young people see them in the community, which is why many of our schools prominently display their images and works.

There are a few people who I would like to recognize specifically. In Fort Smith Jane Dragon is highly involved in education and preserving languages as a past board member for the Northern Life Museum, Canadian Museum of Nature and the Western Arctic Leadership Program.

Former counsellor Florence Barnaby of Fort Good Hope works to promote healthy lifestyles free of drugs and alcohol, and works closely with women in abusive relationships.

Inuvik translator Leonard Harry was awarded the Community Language Leader Award in 2003 for his translations in media and at culture-based activities.

I am glad we have so many great elders for our students to look up to. You can often find elders in our schools leading cultural camps, sharing stories, preparing traditional crafts and giving advice to students. They teach the significance of being grounded in culture and the importance of education.

Earlier this month Margaret Vandell of Fort Providence helped students from Deh Gah School and Bompas Elementary School through the rites of passage. As well as helping with culture camps, Margaret is well known for her passion for language, love of the land and passing on the knowledge of elders.

Elizabeth Mackenzie, who passed away this year, signified this commitment with the words "be strong like two people." These were her last words and when we honour them, we are better people today. The legacy of Mrs. Mackenzie reminds us that while our cultural identities are important, we must also look to the future. It is hard to know how many lives Mrs. Mackenzie touched in her 91 years. In 1991 her name became synonymous with education when we named the Behchoko elementary school after her.

This year also saw the loss of Phillip Zoe. Mr. Zoe modelled the traditional way of life and the importance of combining values from our past with the realities of modern life. When talking to those who were close with him, the first thing people mention is his commitment to traditional education. He was a constant presence in schools and cultural camps, sharing stories and his love for traditional crafts. Today Philip Zoe and his wife, Bella, are honoured as the new culture room at the Jean Wettrade School in Gameti has been named after them.

We are fortunate to benefit from the wisdom of our elders and their desire to share their knowledge

with our youth. I know there are many elders in our communities who are dedicated or committed to making a difference in the lives of young people and I am pleased to be able to recognize some of them today. Mahsi.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR SENIORS' PARTICIPATION AT CANADA 55-PLUS GAMES

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to speak today about the government's lack of support for the Government of the Northwest Territories seniors participating in the Canada Senior Games.

Since I became a Member in 2003 I have seen the participation of NWT seniors increase steadily. First with the Whitehorse games in 2004, the Portage La Prairie games in 2006, and most recently with over 100 participants in the Dieppe, New Brunswick, games.

The 2010 Senior Games are being held in Brockville, Ontario. Despite numerous requests to the various departments and the Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Lee, the government has decided that it will not contribute any funds for our seniors to participate in the 2010 Games. The main reason is that the government indicates that the federal funding program that was utilized previously has ended, and that is a shame.

I have had the opportunity in the past to supply participants with pins and flags before they were to leave for the games and they were very excited at the opportunity not only to participate in their chosen activities but to be ambassadors for their community and for the Northwest Territories. I've also had the chance to speak to participants on their arrival back home, all of whom were very proud of their accomplishments and excited to keep active. They also spoke of attending future games.

I'm saddened that the government can't seem to find some source of resources to allow our seniors to continue to take part in the games. In addition to some financial support, our participating seniors require help in administration of their participation. As a government, we need to find a way to keep our seniors active and their participation in the Canada Senior Games is a great investment in supporting our seniors.

As the stated objective of this government is a healthy, active people, our seniors are not looking for the government to pay the full cost of their participation; they are busy raising money on their own. They are willing to support themselves, as

well, Mr. Speaker, but they can't do it alone. They need some government help. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORT FOR SENIORS' PARTICIPATION
AT CANADA 55-PLUS GAMES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ditto, Mr. Speaker. As in previous years, a dedicated group of Northerners wants to participate on behalf of the Northwest Territories at the upcoming 2010 Canada 55-plus Games in Brockville, Ontario. Residents of the NWT have been participating on behalf of the Northwest Territories since 1998. During that first year, only one resident participated. Popularity of NWT participation has increased steadily since then and peaked at nearly 100 during the 2008 Games in Dieppe, New Brunswick.

There are a number of advantages for northern involvement in these games, not the least of which is that there can be significant savings realized in health care costs over the long term by keeping seniors active and involved. In previous years the GNWT has provided some financial support to participants through the NWT Seniors' Society for planning and logistics. It is my understanding that these dollars were not used to cover the accommodation or travel costs but were used to help coordinate travel, accommodation and participant registration. These dollars were a huge asset to the participants that allowed for seamless and coordinated participation of Team NWT.

Unfortunately, any future funding for this initiative has been cancelled. It seems unreasonable to me that the GNWT would cut these support dollars, the dollars that help participants coordinate their activity as a team, as Team NWT. The NWT participants of the Canada 55-plus Games are not asking for the GNWT to cover the cost of their airfare or accommodations; they are asking for some funding depending on the number of participants to have assistance with the coordination of their participation, details such as arranging travel, registration and providing uniforms. Mr. Speaker, this is a reasonable request.

Later this afternoon I will be asking the Minister responsible for Seniors some questions and seeking her support of these athletes, the champions of the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORT FOR
NWT ARTS AND CRAFTS SECTOR

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak about the GNWT's support for the arts and crafts in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago I embarked on an endeavour to collect as much northern arts and crafts that I could acquire. I particularly had an interest in garments. Being as I am a woman and I am not aboriginal, I felt it appropriate to seek the opinion of some respected chiefs in the Northwest Territories about this endeavour, because, you might notice when you go to the communities, it is not normally the women who are adorned in garments such as the one I am wearing today.

These are traditionally made by Dene women and actually are for their husbands to wear. That becomes very apparent when you go to communities such as the one where this jacket came from, which is from Mrs. Bernadette Williah of Behchoko. It was upon visits to her home where I, on numerous occasions, asked if I could try her husband Francis's jacket on, and each time admiring it so much that it came about that she made one similar for me. It is such a great honour that she did that because it is definitely an art, and in some cases it is an art which is leaving the North. I wanted to try and get as many different styles of...

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Groenewegen, I think the time didn't set on your clock so we will start over.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Okay. Are we good to go?

There is such a variety of styles of embroidery, beadwork, quillwork, from all the different regions of the Northwest Territories. The styles vary greatly. I want to try and collect as many different pieces as I could. These pieces become particularly precious when the elders who created them have passed on.

I just want to say that I am very proud to have in my collection things such as beaver mitts that were made by the late Sarah Simon, gauntlet gloves made by the late Annie Buggins, a parka with traditional Delta braid crafted by Florence Peterson from Fort McPherson, Mr. Krutko's auntie. Mr. Leon Lafferty recently lost his mother in Behchoko and she had embroidered beautiful work on a wool coat for me. So I have all of these things. I have pictures of many of the people who made these pieces of art and they are precious to me.

The other day Mr. Jacobson asked me how many aboriginal garments I have and I had to confess -- I hope my husband's not listening -- I have 22 now. I suppose at some point I may have to consider donating them to a museum or putting them on display somewhere, because I couldn't possibly wear them out, that is for sure.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I want to later ask the Minister of ITI about progress that's being made on supporting people who are involved in traditional activities such as arts and crafts and especially today thank again Mrs. Bernadette Williah of Behchoko for her work -- a labour of love, really -- in producing this jacket that I wear today. Thank you so much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MEDICAL ASSESSMENT REFERRALS
FOR FORT LIARD RESIDENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about a subject that residents of Fort Liard continue to raise with me. It is their preference to visit Fort Nelson in British Columbia when they require medical assessment as Fort Nelson is closer than Yellowknife, only 240 kilometres away from Fort Liard.

Presently, when a nurse in Fort Liard refers a patient for medical assessment and treatment, it is to Yellowknife and the patient has to travel by taxi to Fort Simpson and then fly to Yellowknife, a total of about 544 kilometres for assessment and usually taking up to three days. If the patient cannot be treated at that time, the person is then asked to return later. Or in cases of special need, they may end up flying down to Edmonton.

People in Fort Liard think it makes more sense for them to be referred to Fort Nelson in B.C. for assessment and/or immediate care. If there was a need for further care, however, the patient could be referred to Yellowknife or Edmonton. The medical policy does not support this.

I have raised this issue in the House in the past and I understand setting up of this convenient health delivery method is a challenge. However, I urge the Minister of Health and Social Services to ensure our residents are provided the best health care. An objective of quality health care is to make it as convenient as possible for people suffering from illness to access health services. I urge the Minister to consult with Northern Health in British Columbia to allow for patients of the Northwest Territories to be referred to Fort Nelson for assessment, and if further treatment is required, to be subsequently referred to Yellowknife and/or Edmonton.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister later at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CELL PHONE BAN ON
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was contacted this past Sunday by a constituent about a significant public safety issue that they feel this government has failed to address in the public's interest. The issue is the use of cell phones while driving.

The issue, as many would know already, has stirred up considerable public debate elsewhere in Canada. It has raised concerns and questions about personal responsibility, privacy and, certainly, public safety.

Mr. Speaker, I believe now more than ever as a territory we have reached the point where the need for public safety in this issue has to be examined. To date, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, B.C. and Quebec have either passed or are drafting legislation that bans the use of cell phones while driving. Even as of September 1st of this year, Strathcona County in Alberta was ahead of their own province on this issue by putting public safety first. I certainly applaud them for the visions and steps, Mr. Speaker.

As I'm trying to highlight, the issue that needs to be looked at is the fact that cell phones are considered too much of a distraction while driving, leading to unnecessary accidents causing injury and death, and most certainly fully preventable accidents, if I may say.

If I might remind this House, the New England Journal of Medicine found that talking on a cell phone while driving quadruples a person's risk of accident, and also prompting the Canadian Medical Association to call for a ban on cell phones while driving.

Now, some people would rather see stricter enforcement of the existing careless drivers and the fact is this puts the responsibility back on the drivers and enforcement agencies, but the fact is this is a point that we all agree that enforcement and certainly laws need to examine. I believe this government has a role, but certainly waiting for tragedy to inspire action will never be considered responsible.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is of serious concern to a number of Canadians and certainly a number of NWT residents. So, therefore, later today I will be encouraging the Minister of Transportation to seriously look at this issue carefully to find out what the national trends are saying and follow maybe some of the direction that we should be leading in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
INVOLVEMENT OF REGULAR MEMBERS
IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my statement yesterday regarding the granting of sole-sourced contracts and my statement on Friday and Ms. Bisaro's yesterday regarding the setting of government policy without the input of Members, I would like to table two further sole-sourced contracts with a total value of \$67,150. One for \$35,000 with Angevine Economic Consulting of Calgary is to assess whether natural gas prices would drive some coal-fired electrical generating stations to use natural gas and "therefore reduce greenhouse emissions." The other is a \$32,000 sole-sourced contract with Matthews Energy Consulting to develop a communications strategy on the environmental benefits of northern natural gas based upon the results of the first contract.

The key products of this work were apparently notes for a speaking tour and a promotional CD all under the slogan Gas is Green. Here again I wonder where the mandate to take such a position was obtained and how much rigorous review the products received.

The later contract proposal says the work will address the public policy issues that need to be considered, yet Members have never been asked to consider or set public policy on propaganda to sell fossil fuels as green. Had we been, we would at least have required, I suspect, that they must demonstrably replace more carbon intensive fuels such as coal or fuel oil and not be used to fuel carbon-spewing tar sands. Nor were Members consulted before Premier Roland emerged from the Northern Territorial Leaders Conference last year to announce that no carbon taxes would be considered.

Each Regular Member here can come up with a list of such key priorities into which they have had little or no input, despite our interest and mandate from the voters. Gas is Green, the Science Agenda, Cost of Living Framework, Agreement on Internal Trade, final consensus government policy on carbon taxes all developed and even announced without any input from elected representatives.

It was pointed out yesterday that former Ministers are being contracted to continue influencing government policy. Perhaps contractors have more input into the policy of government than the Members do, but if this is truly to be a consensus government, we need a whole new approach. As Ms. Bisaro said yesterday, we need more than ad hoc offers of briefings when Members ask troublesome questions.

Mr. Speaker, I will be following up with questions on how this government will ensure improved input of

Regular Members into important policy decisions and development. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TU NEDHE HOUSING CONCERNS

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to again talk about an issue that continues to be the biggest concern for most constituents of Tu Nedhe: housing.

In Tu Nedhe there are many families living in units with all kinds of technical problems, such as mould, leaky roofs and outdated furnaces, fuel tanks and much, much more, but in a general sense, it's most likely individuals and families that do not make enough money to do repairs and renovations to their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I've stood up in this House many times to raise issues and although the corporation has responded to many of my concerns, there's still a long ways to go. Having three Housing Ministers in the last 24 months has not helped the problem. Each time this happens there are delays and it adds to the frustration of those in need in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the corporation's obligation to address the Auditor General's report and its recommendations and I appreciate the efforts they are making in this area. However, there still seems to be a problem that is not getting addressed such as basic maintenance and upkeep of their units, and how their clients are being dealt with also continues to be a problem.

The people in Tu Nedhe have mortgage arrears, land and tax lease arrears. This has prevented the NWT Housing Corporation from doing the sensible thing of saving their homes before their entire home needs replacing. They cannot seem to get around their own policies, Mr. Speaker. In a sense, Mr. Speaker, a policy now decides whether or not a person is in need, rather than the assessment of their current situation.

I know the NWT Housing Corporation has been staffing new positions in response to the issues, but more needs to be done. It needs to get creative and start looking at other ways of effectively dealing with the constituents. When clients are approved and sign on the dotted line, the corporation must be assured that they fully and completely understand the implications of what they are signing. Only then can houses become comfortable homes for these clients to live in.

Later today I'll have questions for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CELL PHONE BAN ON
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is National Students Against Impaired and Distracted Driving Day. We're all well aware of the concerns and dangers to the public of impaired drivers, but what about distracted drivers? Driver distractions include cell phones, eating, drinking, changing a CD, fiddling with radio dials, talking to a passenger, experiencing emotional distress, minding children, personal grooming, looking at billboards, or even looking at other vehicles on the road.

The Canadian Automobile Association publishes a list of the top 10 leading causes of automobile accidents. The number one cause of motor vehicle accidents is cell phone use while driving. Drunk driving is way down the list at number five. How many of us have talked on a cell phone while driving? How many of us have texted on a cell phone while driving?

A study done for the Ontario Medical Association in 2008 determined the following: hands-free and hand-held cell phones both pose a risk of cognitive distraction and that regardless of which one you use, it reduces the speed while the driver processes information. Simulation tests and studies show that drivers using cell phones are 18 percent slower to brake and take 17 percent longer to recover their speed after slowing down.

The Minister of Transportation stated a year ago that studies show that cell phone use while driving reduces reaction times to the same levels as if the driver was intoxicated. The executive director of B.C.'s Safety Training Council has said, "What makes cell phone use distinct from other risky driving behaviours is the magnitude. There are 21 million cell phone users in Canada and as many as 52 percent of them talk on the phone while driving."

A driver using a cell phone is a distracted driver. Distracted drivers pose serious safety risks to users of our roads, both motor vehicle users and pedestrians. Other jurisdictions are taking action or have taken action. Ontario recently banned hand-held devices while driving. They have joined four other provinces who have already done so. Newfoundland and Labrador were the first province in Canada to ban the use of cell phones, in April 2003. Quebec and Nova Scotia banned the use of cell phones in April 2008. Manitoba passed legislation this past August and Saskatchewan will soon introduce legislation.

I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MS. BISARO: The Minister of Transportation said some months ago that the GNWT would not be looking at banning cell phone use while driving. We

need to reconsider that decision. A ban on using cell phones while driving must be part of any campaign to reduce distracted driving. In conjunction with education and public pressure, legislation can be an effective tool to make people change their habits. It took a long time, but that approach has been successful for drinking and driving. Now we need to make it work for distractions and driving.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
CAROLINE ANDRE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well respected elder Caroline Andre passed away on October 14th. Born to the late Mary and Ernest Kendo, married to Antoine Andre in 1948, better known as Tony, the majority of Caroline's life was spent on the land. She and her late husband, Tony, raised 14 children around Travallant Lake, Swan Lake, and Big Rock areas of the Mackenzie Delta. They enjoyed being on the land and showing their children how to survive on the land and, more importantly, learning the traditional values of the Gwich'in.

Caroline was known for her ability to sew in the traditional style. She mastered the skill very early from her mother. She was most proud of the days when the RCMP would come to her to sew their parkas, mukluks, duffle liners and mitts.

On behalf of the Mackenzie Delta constituents, we send our condolences to the Kendo and Andre family. The people of Tsiigehtchic and those who knew Caroline are celebrating her life today at two o'clock in her home community of Tsiigehtchic.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE HOUSING
PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I watched a show on TV called Holmes on Homes and thought it would be great if we had a fellow like that in the Sahtu, especially associated with the CARE programs offered by the NWT Housing Corporation.

The CARE program provides a forgivable loan so that people on low incomes can cover the costs of preventative maintenance to their homes. According to the latest housing survey in the Sahtu region, the Sahtu region had the highest percentage of core need income threshold in the Northwest Territories.

The CARE program is a good program. It helps people in the North take pride in their home and I think it would do more for the elderly and disabled people in our smaller communities. Persons with disabilities can get additional funding to make their houses easier to live in.

Right now the CARE program provides a loan so that people can do the repairs themselves. Seniors and disabled persons are not able to do the work by themselves, so they have to rely on a contractor. They get a loan to do this. It's not always possible to find contractors or tradespeople in our small communities. Also, building materials are expensive and special tools and parts often have to be shipped in from outside the Sahtu.

We can help the elderly and disabled in our small communities by connecting them with qualified tradespeople to do the work and by subsidizing the rate of costs. There needs to be a number they can call if their washer or dryer breaks down or hot water tank needs to be replaced. It would make life a lot easier for our people.

We have a small population of seniors and persons with disabilities in the Sahtu. It should be possible to develop a maintenance plan to meet their specific needs and the needs of other people like them in other regions. Our people deserve to live independently for as long as they can and a little bit of help would go a long way to ensure they get maintenance of their health and their homes.

Such programs would be in the best interest of the government. It costs a lot to house people in full-time care facilities and that money is well spent. However, can you imagine how little it costs if government could help them stay in their own homes for five or 10 more years? We owe it to these folks. Let's show them how much we care about their homes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-TERM CARE FOR TUKTOYAKTUK ELDERS

MR. JACOBSON: Quanami, Mr. Speaker. Despite all the differences and challenges in Nunakput when it always comes to living in small, isolated communities, one of the challenges sticks out from the rest. It's something most people never even have to think about and that is community-based long-term care.

In Nunakput when loved ones become ill or, even worse, they are dying, they have no other choice but to go to regional centres as far away as Edmonton. Especially our elders, they can spend weeks out alone in a big hospital. This is wrong.

The government must make every attempt to provide adequate long-term care in the

communities so our people do not have to spend their weeks and days alone with no family and no friends because they cannot afford to bring them down.

In the community of Tuktoyaktuk, Kiglavik House is one that has been brought up time and time again for use as a long-term care facility. This building is designed for a fully functional long-term care facility. I ask the government what happened. Why did we let the people of the community down? How can we reboot this plan?

During the community meetings, whether it's the community corporation or the hamlet council or just talking to people in Kiglavik House when I go visit, this issue is brought up time and time again. It evokes such passion in the people who keep bringing it up.

We do not want to see our elders and loved ones with serious medical conditions so far away from home and all alone. They should be at home with their family and friends. Caring for our elders and their health and well-being must be a pillar of this government.

During my various leadership positions I have always continued to try to improve the life of elders with things such as better living conditions, facilities and health care. I challenge this government to implement real plans for real changes and for the real problems.

I'll have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize some partners in the tourism industry that are here today. With NWT Tourism: Mr. Mike Olson, vice chair; Jenni Bruce is the secretary of NWT Tourism Association, Greg Robertson is the treasurer, Gerry LePrieur is executive director.

We also have Kelly Kaylo, the co-chair of the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee, and Andy Hutchinson, the executive director of the Northern Frontier Visitors Association. Welcome.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Gary Barnet, president of Extell Development Corporation, in the gallery with us today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure to recognize Mr. Greg Robertson, resident of Weledeh, to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 34-16(4): AKLAVIK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POSITION VACANCY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed today to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. They are in regard to positions of economic development officers in the communities. I think they are an essential position for communities, not only economically but developing a social fabric of our communities, especially taking advantage of government programs and services such as SEED and making sure we assist our business community.

I am speaking today about the position in Aklavik in which I just received a letter indicating that position has been vacant from December 3, 2007. We're talking about capacity challenges in our communities, that we have to somehow think outside the box to try to ensure we have these positions filled and, more importantly, ensure the programs and services are being delivered.

I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI what the government is doing to ensure that we are filling this position and taking advantage of the programs and services this government delivers.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the years we've taken a number of different approaches with regard to providing EDO services in communities. I think the community the Member is referring to is Aklavik. That position was filled by a government EDO position at one time. The position was transferred to the community as part of the Community Transfer Initiative. It was run by the municipality for some time and then it was turned back to the Government of the Northwest Territories. We've filled it on several occasions. Most recently we had tried to work it out on a training assignment. We've gone out to competition at least three times now without success.

MR. KRUTKO: I believe that there is some interest being shown, because from the last time that they put these positions out for competition I believe they had some seven candidates in regard to people who put their applications forward. That shows me there is interest. If it's a question of capacity, I think it's something that should be done either here, at headquarters, or at the regional office to provide that training or give them the tools to do the job.

I'd like to ask the Minister if there are any time frames we can look at to ensure this position is filled in Aklavik.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have suggested a couple of options, expressions of concern by community leaders. I guess right now we have three options. The first option I think we pretty well exhausted, because we went out to competition three times. The second option is we offered the community to identify a candidate that we can train up to fill that position at some point. Thirdly, the community could take that position over again as part of the community transfer. Then they could fill it with whomever they feel is suitable to fill that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, one of the big challenges they face in the communities, especially filling positions, is dealing with trying to attract professions to communities, but also realizing that there are high costs associated with living in communities. When was the last time the department has increased the allocations for these EDO officers in communities so that we can attract people who will realize that there is a wage that is compatible to live in these communities, but, more importantly, that they basically come in line with other professions in those communities?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I guess a couple of initiatives that we are undertaking first of all was we made significant efforts so that community transfer EDOs were more closely aligned with the departmental officers and were participating in training and also being more aware of programs and services. Secondly, I think on at least two occasions over the past 10 years we have gone forward and obtained additional resources to top up the salaries of the transferred positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I think that is the problem that we are seeing here in regards to attracting people to fill these positions in communities, but, more importantly, ensuring that their salaries are compatible with other positions in communities. I know we increased the amount of money for mental health and alcohol and drug positions. We are looking at increases to the amount of money for housing authorities and

whatnot. I think it is important that we also look at the area of economic development; make sure we have the resources there to basically ensure that the salaries that are being provided to these people in these positions are adequate and, more importantly, that we are taking advantage of those government programs and services for the communities.

Would the Minister seriously consider a review of the salaries of the economic development positions throughout the Northwest Territories? If possible, could he increase their wages so that they can come in line with other professions? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As a government, we do that on a regular basis and, more specifically and more recently, along with my colleague, the Minister of MACA, we have identified \$1 million to work with the municipalities so that we can work to find ways to not only attract suitable candidates but also make it more attractive for people to work with municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 35-16(4):
INVOLVEMENT OF REGULAR MEMBERS
IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier and concerns the policy development without the input and review by Regular Members elected by the voters for that purpose.

First of all I would like to ask in reference to my Member's statement and the contract by Angevine and Matthews Consulting, I believe it was. I note that natural gas represents about 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to fuel oil but only if it displaces that fuel oil. When it is used in addition to other fuels, it represents a large increase. Considerable and well documented concerns that our natural gas will be delivered directly to tar sands allowing rapid expansion of this dirtier fuel and further promoting a rise in emissions is of concern. Were these concerns accounted for in this policy development and in the communications products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Premier Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Number one, the Member stated in his Member's statement that led to this question about where do we get our mandate and how is this seeking the input of Members. First and foremost, just for the Member to start from first base, I guess, is that when departments look at what type of work they need to do, they start from the basis of, one, an establishment policy. The establishment policies

would be found on the website, so individuals could find that and the Minister of ITI is saying that is the starting point.

Second to that, as the Legislative Assembly, when we start our business, we then focus on looking at other things, then a mandate is established. Further to that, by myself as Premier, to the appropriate Ministers when we see other work that we want to take up as the Legislative Assembly.

In this scenario, we have talked about the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. Previous Assemblies have talked about the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. We all know that we need to be getting more information on just what benefits would flow from that, what that would mean for ourselves and how we could promote the use of natural gas to the rest of Canada and internationally as well. In this case, this specific question that the Member asked, yes, that was taken into consideration by the department. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Again, I wasn't clear on the final answer there. Apparently that would be taken into consideration. Was it, is the question. I would like to request copies of the Angevine report and the policy development that derived from it and the promotional CDs, speeches, and the dates, and audiences for the speeches. Will the Premier ensure that that is provided to Regular Members? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, it is the practice of this government when Members have an interest in specific areas, we can have the appropriate Minister make a presentation to standing committee and provide all the necessary information, if that is being requested. In fact, all the information the Member is now raising issues on has been provided by ourselves as the Government of the Northwest Territories and the contracts that he is tabling have been given to him by ourselves as a government. We have no concerns there. We will provide that information to the Member and, working with the Minister of ITI, I believe that information is available or the majority of that may be available on ITI's website as well. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that offer. I will certainly be checking further for those products. Will the Premier commit to offering a plan for informing, involving and confirming input of Members before important government policy positions are announced? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: First and foremost, this Legislative Assembly, previous Legislative Assemblies, when we compare ourselves to every other jurisdiction across Canada, we share more information with Members of the Assembly than any other jurisdiction; probably equal to Nunavut. On top of that, we are working on a process that we have engaged in with all Members of the Assembly

to fine tune just how we flow that policy development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope that as a consensus government we would indeed be sharing a lot more information than other governments. Indeed, I do believe we do. I am also with the Premier here on a tune-up. I was asking for his commitment to offer a plan for how we can ensure that these gaps are addressed and we Regular Members have better input and significant input on the considerable amount of policy development, key and strategic and important policy development and implementation that is now happening without the input of Regular Members. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: If we were to take all the policies the Government of the Northwest Territories operates under -- some of that policy many years old, much before our time as the 16th Legislative Assembly -- all we would be doing is looking at policy. So the policies are there as a basis to start from. When there are issues, when we make changes to policy or engage in other work, then we have the appropriate Ministers work with the standing committees, Members of the Assembly, to seek information, input and get some response as we uptake that.

That tune-up that the Member has referred to and I have also referred to in the sense that Caucus, all Members of this Assembly, are working through a process to fine tune that. The time we have between sessions and standing committee work will allow us to share even more information on that basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 36-16(4):
SUPPORT FOR SENIORS' PARTICIPATION
AT CANADA 55-PLUS GAMES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Seniors and are in follow-up to my Member's statement.

In my Member's statement, I talked about participation in the 55-plus Canada Games, which I understand a large number of seniors across the NWT participate in. There are a number of advantages for seniors to actually attend these games, both for the individuals over 55 as well as for the Territory as a whole. Unfortunately, it appears that funding has been cancelled. Would the Minister responsible for Seniors please commit to restoring some funding between \$25,000 and \$50,000 to assist these local athletes over 55

participating in these games and promote the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department does support or I as the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Services does support the programs and services to promote healthy activities among the seniors. As the Member has indicated in his Member's statement, the funding for the Senior Games came out of federal funding. That is not as of yet being renewed. We have looked from within to see if we could fund this, but we are not able to come up with the \$50,000 or \$25,000 to \$50,000. At the moment we are not able to renew the funding. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I would like to thank the Minister for that response. I understand that Health did provide the money in the past. However, there are a lot of advantages for participation in these games. I see the seniors being champions of the Northwest Territories and having the ability to go out and promote the Northwest Territories. So maybe the Minister might benefit from working with ITI and try and get some money for promotion. Also MACA, I believe, has some responsibility for sports and recreation. Although their priority is for youth, there might be some advantage for a little bit of money to come out of MACA as well as maybe a little bit of money out of Health and Social Services as they are clearly responsible for health.

To the Minister: will the Minister work with her colleagues and break down silos and try and identify a little bit of money -- and we are talking a small amount of \$25,000 to \$50,000, depending on how many participants there are -- to help these individuals go and promote the Northwest Territories, participate in the games and protect their health and promote sport in the Northwest Territories? They are our champions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, the department has funded this activity in the past to the NWT Seniors' Society. They have expressed to me, in my meeting with them three weeks ago and in previous months, that they would not be pursuing funding on this. We have not received any funding requests from other groups.

What the NWT Seniors' Society has indicated, though, is that they would like to submit proposals to us to do senior activities regionally based. In fact, they have done one in Smith and they have indicated to me that they would like to see more of that happening in the Territories.

I am willing to work on supporting the seniors and do whatever we can to use our existing pot of money on health promotion to support the seniors.

That is what is going on with that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ABERNETHY: I understand the Seniors' Society direction on this, but it doesn't change the fact that there are a large number of Northwest Territories individuals over 55 who participated in these games. I would like to actually go back and re-ask my previous question.

I was asking the Minister if she would commit to working with her ministerial partners, ITI and MACA and Health, to see if there is an opportunity to squeeze out a little bit of money to support these things. It is about working together and acknowledging the importance of these types of games from a big picture perspective, not just a health perspective. These people are our champions and they can really get out there and promote the Northwest Territories and maybe encourage some people to come and visit our fine Territory.

To the Minister: will she work with her colleagues to try and find some additional dollars to support this initiative? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Absolutely, I'm willing to work with other Ministers and we do continue to do that. I have discussed with the Minister of MACA, for example, on what can be done. I just wanted to make sure that the Member understands -- and my last answer speaks to this as well -- the NWT society has indicated that they would like to seek support in these activities and I will be looking to see how we can support that.

I just want to say that \$25,000 to \$50,000 is not a small amount of money to find from within. The Seniors' Society activities, they would like to see some regional activities in regions and we will look at whatever proposal that they will bring forward.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems odd that we can find money for hundreds of thousands of dollars for contracts for previous Ministers and Members but we can't find a little bit of money to support up to 100 individuals over 55 who are very interested in attending these games and promoting the Northwest Territories, which goes to our strategies of promoting this place as a fine place to come visit and whatnot.

I would like to have the Minister, or get the Minister's commitment to meet with some of these individuals who wish to participate in these 55-plus Games and talk about possible funding options. It's my understanding that these individuals want to work through Sport North as an organization to help them do the coordination. That's all they're asking for. They're not asking for the departments to pay their way. They're asking for some administrative support money to help them organize so that they

can go as a cohesive team rather than a bunch of individuals. So will the Minister please do that? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I have met with people organizing Canada 55. I just want to say that as the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister responsible for Seniors I do need to work closely with all the groups in the Territories. I meet with the seniors from Smith or the NWT Seniors' Society or Fort Simpson or anywhere in Yellowknife. So I'm always willing to meet with the seniors.

I think it should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that the department did fund \$50,000 to do these Senior Games and, plus, the NWT Seniors' Society organized these events. They have decided that they would like the government to support other ideas that they have. So I'm telling the Member again, I am willing to work the other Members, the other Ministers to see how we could support seniors' groups having regional games within the Territories. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 37-16(4):
SUPPORT FOR SENIORS' PARTICIPATION
AT CANADA 55-PLUS GAMES

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up. My colleague Mr. Abernethy had some questions for the Minister responsible for Seniors and I liked his line of questioning, how it's easy for the government to find, let's say, \$20 million when it has to or a \$34 million loan, but when it comes to \$25,000 to \$50,000 to earmark for the Canada Senior Games we're at a loss as to where we can come up with helping these folks out.

The Minister is quick at providing us with a history lesson and she's quick at trying to deflect answering the real question, but the question is: will the Minister who's responsible for Seniors find some support, both administratively and monetarily, for the seniors to participate fully in the 2010 Games in Brockville? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister responsible for Seniors, we work with the NWT Seniors' Society who takes on issues and interests that are important to the seniors, and they have taken on administrative tasks for these things. They do Help Line for seniors, they organize events and they're the ones who are part of providing admin support.

Mr. Speaker, like I've already indicated, the Seniors' Society has indicated they would like us to support them in encouraging and providing funding

for regional sporting events so that elders from all over the Territories take part in it. They had one very successful event in Smith and they will be coming forward with other proposals. So, Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with the seniors of the NWT to support their initiatives. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Again, I believe the Minister is really avoiding answering the question, which is pretty basic. The participants at the 2010 Games are going to need somebody to administer their participation in the games. Is the government interested in helping these people out finding somebody to administer their participation in the games? By the sounds of it, the Minister is not interested. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, we don't have the program or funding within our department to provide an organizer to organize events. That is not within our mandate.

In the past the NWT Seniors' Society had applied for funding from us and they did the work of organizing the seniors. They have indicated to us that this is not what they're interested in doing and they have other ideas that they want us to pursue. So we are waiting for the proposal from them and we will do what we can to support them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 38-16(4):
MEDICAL ASSESSMENT REFERRALS
FOR FORT LIARD RESIDENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement about the ability of Fort Liard residents and constituents getting at least a medical assessment done in B.C. One of the main reasons being is that they travel for three days, they come over here and the assessment says, yes, your leg is sore, then send them back home and then set up an appointment for a medical checkup.

I raised this issue in the House before with the Minister of Health and Social Services and I'd like to ask her again, has she looked into it and what can be done to address this situation for the Fort Liard residents? Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'd like to thank the Member for that issue. He has brought that up to me. I think it is an idea that is worth looking at and do some evaluation on. I've had a preliminary discussion with the officials about whether this could be looked at. We need to do further work on what services are available at the health facility in Fort Nelson. I understand that it has a lot less services than what Stanton has to

offer. We should also consider that we are already funding a lot of health facilities and services in the NWT and if at all possible we want to use that.

But I do appreciate the points the Member is raising. I think it's worth pursuing. We haven't concluded that review and I will undertake to get back to the Member on what we find and where we go from there. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I understand with the Alberta system we have an agreement with the Capital Health Authority there. I'm not too sure which authority governs northern B.C., but a discussion like that with them will certainly go a long way to make travel and health concerns a lot better for residents of Fort Liard. To them it makes sense. How soon can these discussions take place if the Minister is proceeding on it? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Obviously, Capital Health is our main service provider for services that cannot be provided within our Territories, but that's not the only one. We have relationships with all sorts of different health facilities in all different provinces. So, Mr. Speaker, the important part is to look at for what services Liard residents go to Nelson. We need to look into what the Nelson facility is doing and how those services can be provided and whether or not those services are already in Simpson and Yellowknife and do some cost-benefit analysis. So we're going to have to do more work on that. I would commit to the Member that I will try to get that review done in the next two or three months and get back to him. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I don't know if we can go as far as coming with a full-blown agreement with the B.C. health administration there, but I think sometimes all the residents want is to get their costs recovered for emergency, at least tooth services and/or other medical services that they travel to Fort Nelson for. In the assessment that she's going to complete, can they also look at that arrangement of pre-approved travel? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: We could look into that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 39-16(4):
SUPPORT FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS SECTOR

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the cultural expressions of the traditional First Nations people of the Northwest Territories is in the arts and crafts that they produce. Mr. Speaker, in the previous government of the 15th Assembly, in order to ensure the pursuit and continuation of these endeavours, efforts were made through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to allow people greater access to

the materials that they needed to be involved in these crafts. One of the materials was hides, and also money available for other sewing supplies such as beads and so on.

I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI today where that program is at. Like, what does ITI do to track this activity to, I guess, measure the success of this program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think what the Member is referring to is the Moose Hide Program that was introduced in the previous government. We tracked that and I think there were only four moose hides that were turned in. So we've taken a different approach in this government. We've established the SEED program, which is Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development. In that we have put in programs so that very small businesses, micro businesses, can access funding so that they can purchase raw materials so that they can continue to make some of the best arts and crafts in the world. We've taken that approach and I'm very pleased to see that there's a very good uptake in almost every region and a lot of the small communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: That's interesting. I didn't know how the Moose Hide Program had gone over, but I guess it is kind of a disappearing art and it's unfortunate, because most of the people involved in that endeavour are usually getting up in age.

But the SEED program so that people can access materials, I'm glad to hear that there's been uptake in that. Once people have access to those materials and then are interested in selling them, understanding that not everybody that creates these things is interested in marketing them, but for those who are, there seem very few, very well organized outlets for the marketing of these products. Like, I think of Winnie's in Enterprise, the Fort Liard Craft Shop, certainly, shops here in Yellowknife that sells these products. Is there any program through the government which would help artisans organize themselves to market their products once they are made? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I should probably qualify my statements on the moose hides. I think probably most people keep the moose hides for themselves, because they are an extremely valuable commodity in the communities. I think almost every community in the Northwest Territories has an arts and crafts or handicraft outlet where people can produce their craft and take it and sell. I know a lot of people make a lot of spending money from doing so, or some of them do it for their livelihood. We have quite a tremendous number of programs in this government. For example: we've upgraded our

NWT artist database; we have our branding logo program; we've been working on an NWT Arts Marketing Strategy; we do a lot of community consultations; we're taking a number of arts and crafts people to the 2010 Olympics so that they can demonstrate their procedures and also their products; and, we also have a number of regional activities to further that. Also, through the BDIC we have a number of subsidiary programs that we use in a number of different communities.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Well, if communities are organized in the promoting and sale of arts and crafts in their communities, this is something relatively new to me. Because in a lot of small communities that I visited in the North, finding somebody who is an artisan and who has anything for sale in the community is like looking for a needle in a haystack most of the time and if you do find something, it's very, very treasured.

Mr. Speaker, I guess it's getting away from the business case for it, but a part of the tourism in the Northwest Territories is, again, to have access for visitors to view this particular area of culture in the NWT and I was wondering if the Minister could share with us what is being done to preserve and display something like the various art forms. What is being done by the government to preserve and display them for visitors and residents alike to enjoy? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I guess to begin we hire a number of people to go around the Territories on a regular basis to demonstrate different techniques, for example, on how to tan moose hides. We've shown people how to create spruce root baskets and also people that show how to do different kinds of artwork, beadwork, moose hair tufting and so on. So this is something that we do on a regular basis.

In terms of promoting it, I think we're trying just about everything. We have a 1-800 number to promote artists and so that people can call. We have regional product displays; we have marketing and promotion workshops. So we work with our Department of Transportation so that we can put up displays to promote the arts and crafts at the different airports we're looking to set up displays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. That's very informative and I must say that a lot of that information the Minister has just shared I was not aware of, but I think it is excellent to use government offices and spaces already owned by the government to display and promote arts and crafts in the Northwest Territories.

I would like to ask what role does the Prince of Wales Museum play in acting as an institution, I

guess, that has the capacity to collect, preserve, display arts and crafts in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The museum plays a very significant role, because we work very closely with our schools and education facilities, and certainly a lot of the children's programs allow us to show some of these traditional activities. For example, we've worked with the Prince of Wales to have birch bark canoe projects where students from different schools can build a birch bark canoe, for example. So that's all been put on tape and there are also books that have been created to show that. So we're doing that with a number of different kinds of activities. The Prince of Wales has been very helpful in recreating some techniques that have been lost and recreated so that people can recover those skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 40-16(4):
TU NEDHE HOUSING CONCERNS

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker. Based on my Member's statement today I have questions for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Can the Minister advise me if direction has been given to the staff to find creative solutions to address maintenance and repair issues for homeowners that have mortgage arrears or land tax or lease arrears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Housing Corp has program staff in the regions and headquarters who work daily to find solutions to meet the housing needs of residents. On the issue of arrears and its impact on applications, it doesn't prevent anyone from applying for the program; however, according to our policies, it prevents them from qualifying until their arrears are resolved.

We've had many people understanding that and are starting to take steps to write off their arrears, because they know it's going to prevent them from applying for or qualifying for housing programs. So that's one of the positives that has come out of this. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister tell me if the corporation has a strategy for dealing with clients that have income but feel that some of their housing problems are partly the fault of the NWT Housing Corporation, such as non-ventilated roofs where shingles were applied as an example? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Housing Corporation is well aware of these problems that exist in the Member's communities and other communities, and technical staff are determining the extent of the problem. Once this is determined, we will work with the homeowners to determine the repairs required and determine how the Housing Corporation can provide assistance to deal with the needed repairs. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: The housing issues of many of my clients are very serious. Can the Minister assure me if the family situations and the day-to-day living situation is fully considered before the corporation decides to deny a client funding for a program? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: It's the Housing Corporation's intent to provide housing to those that are in need. The program advisors analyze family situations through the application process and each applicant meets personally with the program's advisor and they have a priority allocation system that's designed to ensure that assistance that's provided to those that are in greatest need in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of the clients, at least in Tu Nedhe, don't get out or are sometimes not aware of the timing of the delivery and so on. Can the Minister advise me if there's an intention of the NWT Housing Corporation staff to visit the majority of the homes to do an assessment as part of the delivery of programs this coming fiscal year?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Regional staff are always visiting existing homes of applicants for the CARE program. They have to do that to determine the extent of the repairs that are needed.

For us to actually go door to door and go through the application process, there is information out there right now saying when the district staff are going to be in the communities taking applications and we need buy-in from those folks out there that want to be applying for housing programs. They have to be able to come down, I think in one of the Member's communities, I think October 23rd is the date that comes to mind, and the Member has actually been asked to be with the Housing district staff when they go in there. So we need buy-in from people out there that are applying for homeownership.

Obviously there are going to be cases where some folks can't quite make it out because of disabilities and that, and those folks we would be able to go and see. But for the most part we need folks to come out there and fill out the applications and then we'll go from there. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 41-16(4):
CELL PHONE BAN ON
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be asking questions to the Minister of Transportation today to follow up on my statement made earlier this afternoon. But, Mr. Speaker, it's not just a follow-up of today's statement, it's also a follow-up of a statement I made 18 months ago where I raised the concerns of the usage of cell phones while people are driving.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister at the time, Mr. Norman Yakeleya, suggested in some way that part of these issues would be wrapped up and addressed through the Drive Alive campaign, but, I have to admit, nothing has moved forward. So, Mr. Speaker, the present-day Minister, I'd like to certainly hear his views and certainly the department's views that are represented through him as to what is his department doing to move forward on legislation that restricts people from using cell phones while driving vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to pretend to speak on behalf of the former Minister, but we did undertake, as a government, to provide information and provide an education campaign under the Drive Alive strategy and we have moved forward on that. We have not, aside from the Member raising it on a couple of occasions, had any cause for concern regarding distracted driving and we are not currently moving forward with any legislation at this time. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: This morning I talked to the Minister and explained a story about what stirred this Member's statement, that I had been recently contacted on Sunday by a constituent who actually saved a young person, potentially even their life or at least from serious injury, because a vehicle went around the corner and could have hit them. Now, Mr. Speaker, I can give other examples as well, but I brought that specific example to the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, why is this becoming a trend across the country and why is this even becoming a trend in the U.S., because they say that the National Transport Safety Board of the U.S. bans their employees from using cell phones while driving. So, Mr. Speaker, the evidence seems to be very clear and definitely pointing in one direction, which is banning the use of cell phones while driving

vehicles. So, Mr. Speaker, what will it take this Minister to consider this type of legislation and move forward on this issue as opposed to being asleep on it?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: What it would take to get me to move forward on it would be to be convinced that there is an issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Member has had one instance and wants me to change legislation. So far what we're doing on this issue is to look at what other jurisdictions are having to deal with on this. Currently it's an issue in Yellowknife, if the Member is correct on the one instance that he's referring to.

Cell phones do not work on our highway system, they don't work in 22 of our communities, it's not a huge issue for us. However, if he can bring me the names of all the people that are contacting him and present that as a concern, I'd certainly be able to reconsider. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I have to say that the Minister's answer was certainly disproportionate to the facts that exist today and the reality is several provinces are taking this on because they've done the research. The Canadian Medical Association agrees, Mr. Speaker. New England Journal thinks this is important. The National Transport Safety Board in the U.S. thinks it's important. I'm not sure who is left that doesn't think it's important, other than the Minister, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what concrete position or evidence is the Minister looking for to actually entertain this idea and let's get on board with it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: As I pointed out, there is no cell phone service on our highways and those are NWT roads. The municipalities have a mechanism to create bylaws that would ban cell phone services, not one of them has even come forward to consider that. We have legislation that already covers distracted driving as undue care and attention. I'd have to look at the information there, but up to now nothing has pointed to a real need except for the Member having somebody complain from his riding. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think today is clear evidence of downloading a responsibility, which is really a territorial issue. Mr. Speaker, the Minister keeps referring to the highway. You know what? We don't have cell phone coverage so why would it be an issue on the highway? I mean, come on now, seriously. Mr. Speaker, I've been approached by two city councillors on this particular issue, as well as I raised it a year and a half ago.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask the Minister clearly how much more evidence does he need? Would he like a digest brought forward? Would he like a piece

of every legislation that has enacted this process? I mean, we've heard at least six or seven provinces that are seriously looking at this or have implemented this. So, Mr. Speaker, the evidence is clear and certainly pointing in one direction, let's get on and do this. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The Member is correct; there are five other jurisdictions that have incorporated legislation in this area. I, however, am not convinced that there's need for this type of legislation in the NWT. Creating legislation for legislation's sake is not something that I plan to do. It's expensive, it takes resources and, of course, that all adds up to a lot of dollars out of the department. So I can certainly commit that we'll talk to the city and see if they share the Member's feelings on the need for legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

QUESTION 42-16(4):
COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-TERM CARE
FOR TUKTOYAKTUK ELDERS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I was speaking on the Kiglavik elders facility and long-term care of Tuktoyaktuk. Will the Minister commit to evaluating the needs of the elders who are residing in the elders facility in Tuktoyaktuk?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I'm correct about the building that the Member is talking about, I believe it's a multi-complex that was built by the Housing Corporation as independent units. I believe I've been there a couple of times, but I need to be able to verify that. I would commit to the Member that I will undertake to see who is living in those residences and what their needs are. Even when we were touring there, it took some convincing on the part of the seniors to move in there. I don't have the latest information on that, so I will undertake to do that evaluation and do the needs study.

MR. JACOBSON: Will the Minister commit to changing the services at the elders facility so that the elders do not have to be moved away from our home communities and moved into other elders facilities either in Inuvik or the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I'll be happy to review that. We do want to keep our elders as much as possible in our communities and that's why that facility was built. I do need to look at the level of care that could be delivered there, as well as the needs of the residents who live there. Those would

be some of the things that we need to look at. I'll get back to the Member on that.

MR. JACOBSON: I'd like to thank the Minister for that answer. I'm really happy. Would the Minister be prepared to work on a long-term plan to ensure that, whenever possible, seniors are supported as they grow older in their long-term home community?

HON. SANDY LEE: My goodness. I don't know. I think there's only one answer to that question. I just want to say that we are, as indicated, doing long-term care needs NWT-wide and we will look at the situation in Tuk and get back to the Member.

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

MR. JACOBSON: I just would like to thank the Minister in regard to coming into the communities. It's not only going to be the elders facility in Tuk. I'm bringing forward our motion for the one in Ulukhaktok, as well, because they need one. Just to let the Minister know, and our colleagues on the other side of the floor, that we just want to take care of our elders. That's a comment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. I didn't hear a question there, just an opportunity to make statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 43-16(4):
CELL PHONE BAN ON
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Transportation. I would like to follow up on the statement that I made earlier. At the risk of asking the Minister to be repetitive, I will try to ask some questions which haven't already been answered.

About a year ago the Minister of Transportation made a statement on National Students Against Impaired and Distracted Driving Day and in that statement he recognized the dangers posed by drivers using cell phones. Then in March of this year, when the Minister was reviewing the operations budget with us, he advised that the GNWT is not considering legislation which would ban cell phones and driving, that he was waiting for more information.

I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not this situation has changed -- I think his answer is probably no -- whether or not there's been any research or any more information undertaken or received by the department and is there any hope that the Minister will consider introducing legislation to ban the use of cell phones while driving?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't like saying no on requests made from the Regular Members. In light of how the second occasion that this issue is being raised by the Members of the House, we'd certainly like to take a look at the situation to see if there is a demonstrated need. We will look and want to be able to talk with both Members to see the number of people that have approached them. I indicated earlier, to another line of questioning from a Member on the same issue, to talk to the city and see if they feel the same way?

We haven't, as a department and as a government, been convinced that there is a number of real concerns in this area. In fact, I think the road licensing division has only had less than a handful of concerns being raised on cell phones and distracted driving. There is, of course, concern on how we can enforce it. These things need to be looked at. I won't rule that out. If there is enough information there to warrant change in legislation, then I will certainly consider that.

MS. BISARO: I'd like to thank the Minister for that answer. I think the time has come where the department needs to do some research and to look into this matter. I didn't put it in my statement, but I have also been contacted by a resident some time ago and I have three or four anecdotal examples which I did not put into my statement, one of which was someone had to slam on their brakes at the N.J. McPherson School crosswalk because the young woman who was in front of them didn't stop at the stop sign and that was due to a cell phone.

In terms of actions that the department has taken or will take, the Minister alluded to some; but relative to trying to reduce the number of distracted drivers in the NWT and trying to make sure that our roads are safer, I know the department publishes an annual accident report which I think recently came out. I think it was 137 accidents were caused by undue care, well, not undue care but I think reckless driving. I'd like to know if the Minister can advise how many of those accidents or collisions were caused by distracted driving. Were there any arrests or violations or even comments?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I don't have the accident report in front of me, so I'll have to wager that the amount of accidents due to distracted driving was relatively small. I think we can't ignore the fact that there is a mechanism in place within the municipalities to create the exact legislation within the municipality to govern the use of cell phones and other forms of distraction. That's something I guess we can follow up on and explore. Up to now, none of the municipalities have undertaken to go that route. I would leave that to an assumption that there is no real concern out there. Having said that, the Member is correct that there are more and more communities that are coming on

line with cell service, so it may be high time that we reviewed the situation. I will undertake to do that.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate that this is sort of an issue that involves municipalities, because we don't have cell phone service beyond municipalities to a certain extent, but certainly in Yellowknife here, cell phone service is available at least 40 kilometres and I think sometimes up to 50 kilometres away from here. That highway out to Prelude and beyond is used often in the summertime. I think there is an opportunity for us to look at drivers outside of our communities who are driving on highways, even if it is for 10 kilometres.

I'd like to know from the Minister -- he's alluded to the fact that there's an opportunity for municipalities to develop bylaws, I think that's a possibility -- is there another way, though, that we, as the GNWT, could do something about distracted drivers apart from putting legislation in place? Can we put fines in place? I know it's an enforcement issue, but can we put fines in place instead of having to change legislation?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The Member indicated in her Member's statement that there are 21 million cell phone users across Canada. I think out of that amount there's probably 8,000 that are living in the NWT. We do have legislation that covers and provides oversight under the concerns the Member is raising as part of distracted driving. That's section 154 of the Motor Vehicles Act, undue care and attention. The fines for that are already set at \$115. We can always review to see if that can be raised as a deterrent for this whole issue that's been brought up today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the answer. I guess I would like to suggest that maybe in looking at this issue perhaps the value of the fine should be increased. I'd also like to ask the Minister -- he's alluded to working with municipalities -- could he commit to taking this issue, getting some more information, and also talking to municipalities to see if there isn't some sort of joint action we can take?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The action that we have been utilizing so far has been education. Our Drive Alive program has been utilized to provide that information to all the municipalities and individuals in the communities. We'd be glad to, as part of our discussions, undertake to talk about this whole issue of distracted driving and the probability of raising the fines so that they could be utilized and recognized as a deterrent. I'd be happy to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 44-16(4):
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE HOUSING
PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could explain what the NWT Housing Corporation is doing in the Sahtu to help elders or seniors or persons with disabilities to keep their houses in good condition.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Housing Corporation has a program called the Preventive Maintenance Program for Seniors that allows seniors to have furnaces repaired and getting ready for winter. For the most part, once you apply you're pretty well in the system. It's just a service that they continue to do every year.

MR. YAKELEYA: I would ask that the Minister would answer my other question in terms of persons with disabilities and helping them keep their houses in good condition.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Housing Corporation will continue to assist persons with disabilities as far as making their units disabled with all the proper hardware and stuff that they need. They do assist disabled people any way they can.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member supplementary questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister if he would look at the programs under the CARE program or the Preventative Measures Program in our small communities in terms of showing that the corporation can possibly look at the options of contracting specific tradespeople or contractors in the communities that would be specifically assigned to seniors' homes or people with disabilities in terms of them knowing who they can contact in terms of repairs or preventative measures updates on their homes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: In some communities that service already exists where a local contractor is used to do the preventative maintenance in the home and once we work with the other communities to identify possible potential tradesmen that would do the work, then we would be more than pleased to work with them to provide that same service in their community so the local people will have a contact number in the community that they can get a hold of.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: I would ask the Minister if he would look into the Sahtu region in terms of working with his staff to ensure that this information is relayed down clearly to the communities in my region to let them know that this opportunity could be available to local contractors or trades people in the region so the elders and people with disabilities can know for sure that they can call when they need some help.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That's part of our communication plan and that's already begun; to talk to all the communities and communicate to them the programs and services that we have available. We have a new communications person on staff. They're pretty excited about getting the word out there. I think that process has already begun.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 3-16(4):
DETAILS ON CONTRACTS AWARDED TO
FORMER MINISTERS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and related to the two contracts that were tabled on October 19, 2009.

In regards to the two contracts, Tabled Document 7-16(4) and Tabled Document 8-16(4), one with the Northern Strategy Group, dated December 21, 2007, and extended August 18, 2008, and the other with John Todd Holdings Limited, dated January 1, 2008. For each of the contracts:

1. Can the Minister please provide a description of the federal, provincial and territorial meetings that resulted from the services provided by the contractor?
2. Can the Minister please state the subjects of the discussions taking place at each of these meetings?
3. Can the Minister please provide documentation certifying the value and nature of services received in verifying receipt of deliverables?

WRITTEN QUESTION 4-16(4):
CONTRACTS TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND SENIOR STAFF

MR. BROMLEY: My questions are for the Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Can the Premier please provide a list of the sole-sourced consulting services contracts given by all departments during the life of this Assembly with

former Members of the Legislative Assembly and former GNWT public servants at or above the director level?

Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 9-16(4):
WORKERS' SAFETY AND
COMPENSATION COMMISSION
2008 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission 2008 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

TABLED DOCUMENT 10-16(4):
ANGEVINE ECONOMIC CONSULTING LTD.
CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 11-16(4):
MATTHEWS ENERGY CONSULTING
CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two service contracts, the one to Angevine Economic Consulting Ltd., dated September 1, 2007, and the other to Mathews Energy Consulting, dated August 30, 2007. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 1-16(4):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO OCTOBER 26, 2009

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 22, 2009, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on October 22, 2009, it shall be adjourned until Monday, October 26, 2009; and further, that any time prior to October 26, 2009, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive

Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MOTION 2-16(4):
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
PROGRAMS REVIEW OF THE
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT
TERMS OF REFERENCE

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 22, 2009, I will move the following motion: Whereas, on June 3, 2009, the Legislative Assembly adopted Motion 21-16(3) as amended, directing the Standing Committee on Social Programs to conduct a review of the Child and Family Services Act and its implementation and to present the committee findings to the House at the earliest opportunity; and whereas, the motion also directed the Standing Committee on Social Programs to prepare additional terms of reference for the review of the act and its implementation and to present the terms of reference to the House at the first opportunity during the October 2009 sitting of the Assembly; now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the terms of reference for the review of the Child and Family Services Act be established as follows:

1. The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall examine the following:
 - a. the achievement of the objectives as stated in the preamble of the act;
 - b. the administration and implementation of the act, in particular where child protection apprehension is considered;
 - c. the effectiveness of the provisions in the act, including the assignment of the scope of independent powers to the child protection workers and the general oversight of the NWT child protection services;
 - d. the use of alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation, conciliation, arbitration and case settlement conferences to avoid child apprehension and adversarial court proceedings wherever possible;
 - e. the supports required to fully implement the community child and family services committees as provided for by the act;

- f. the community supports available for families and children to prevent apprehensions;
 - g. the gaps in care and services for youth between 16 and 19 years of age;
 - h. concerns regarding frivolous complaints; and
 - i. the potential role, responsibilities and powers of a territorial child advocate.
2. The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall, during its examination, consider the following:
 - a. incorporation and respect for aboriginal values, beliefs and approaches to conflict resolution;
 - b. real or perceived racial undertones in child protection investigations and apprehensions;
 - c. complexity of family law issues;
 - d. potential conflicts between federal and territorial legislation; and
 - e. discrepancies in the supports and resources available to the different parties in court proceedings.
 3. The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall have access to such persons, papers and records as necessary for the conduct of this review.
 4. The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall be provided, through appropriations of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, with the necessary administrative and professional support to carry out its terms of reference and assigned responsibilities as they relate to this review.
 5. The Standing Committee on Social Programs may make recommendations for amendments to the act that it considers desirable through a final report.
 6. The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall table a final report on the review no later than October 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I call Committee of the Whole to order. Committee of the Whole, we have Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011. Mrs. Groenewegen, what is the wish of the committee?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee is to continue today with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, then Justice, then, time permitting, Health and Social Services. Just in terms of Health and Social Services, with a view to perhaps winding things up by around 5:30 as we have a meeting at the rise of the House today. That is the order we would like to consider those in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, I will ask the Minister if he can bring in any witnesses. With that, we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. As we agreed, we will begin with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he will be bringing in any witnesses. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in.

Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance; Dan Daniels, deputy minister of Education; Paul Guy, acting deputy minister of Public Works and Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We can begin on page 8-2, which we'll defer for later consideration in regard to the department summary. With that, 8-3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Can we turn to 8-4, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education and careers, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$13.234 million. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the most part, I'm happy with what I'm seeing in Education, Culture and Employment, but there are a couple of things that I think are missing. One of the things I think is missing falls into this particular area.

We continue to pay incredibly high rates to have the Aurora College in Yellowknife with respect to rent and whatnot at Northern United Place. There has been talk in the community, as well as other places, about the possibility of having our own Yellowknife Campus, our own stand-alone campus, rather than continue to rent at incredibly high rates at Northern United Place, but I haven't seen anything in the capital plan. I haven't seen anything in the longer-term capital plan. I'm wondering why we continue to leave out the possibility of constructing a stand-alone Yellowknife Campus, similar to the ones that exist both in Fort Smith and Inuvik who have their own stand-alone campuses, as opposed to renting space from others. Are we going to at some point see some work towards a Yellowknife Campus?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there is a facility plan being undertaken by Education, Culture and Employment for the city of Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you for that. I'm happy to hear that. I am curious, what kind of timeline until we can start seeing some progress on that planning. When are we going to get an update as Regular Members as to what the future plan is and what is a timeline for establishing a Yellowknife Campus? When does our lease expire with the Northern United Place and when can we start working towards our own campus? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The lease expires in 2012. The facility plan is slated to be completed by spring 2010. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I'd like to thank the Minister for that and I look forward to seeing the plan and having further discussions with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and the Minister of Finance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. Next on the list I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I see that we're investing into three community learning centres and I'm really very pleased to see them, because they're there for some of our smaller communities and we should definitely invest in infrastructure of that type. Can the Minister tell me what type of funding was used to accomplish this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We accessed the federal program,

the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a two-year program as part of the Economic Action Plan and we made use of the resources. A list of potential projects was provided to the federal government that we believed qualified, and the three that were chosen were those three that are before us today. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'd like to thank the Minister for that answer. I've done some research on the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and some of the parameters are, of course, education, one is museums and another one is library.

For a couple years now I've been trying to get some resolution around the Fort Simpson library that's now reduced to a resource centre. So I've been pressing government on this matter to...It requires some capital investment in order to return our library back up to full operating service.

Fort Simpson is a service centre to about 3,200 people in the region. We're a central district. We've got students that have to go to Fort Simpson for education. Having a library is paramount to the community. So this program, I believe, would have fit with investment in Fort Simpson and I'd like to ask the Minister why wasn't Fort Simpson considered for capital investment from the KIP program? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: My understanding of that Knowledge Infrastructure Program was that it was targeted for post-secondary institutions across Canada. I can point out, as well, sometime during the month of October this year Public Works and Services is supposed to be arranging for a structural engineer to go look at the existing infrastructures at both Thomas Simpson and Bompas elementary schools to see what may be possible in terms of accommodating a library structure there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions I have are similar to Mr. Menicoche in terms of the community learning centres. I want ask the Minister if there is the thought, when they do look at future learning centres, that the settlement of Colville Lake would be a place where they would have a learning centre in that community of its own standing building?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Colville Lake was not on the list that was submitted to the federal government to access this particular Knowledge Infrastructure Program. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: From reading the list, I take it Colville Lake wasn't on the list, but I guess what I'm asking is that when they look at the needs

assessments for learning centres for the size of Colville Lake, the needs of that community that see in the future a capital needs assessment for building a new learning centre. Would Colville Lake be considered as a priority to establish a learning centre there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can certainly look at that as part of our needs assessment that we conduct with our school boards and with Aurora College in terms of identifying priorities for programming needs in the various communities. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I'm certainly pleased to hear that it will be looked at. I hope you go further than just having it being looked at in terms of actual construction, if it's the will of the House to proceed further with this here. But, certainly, I'm happy to hear this here.

Mr. Chair, I've also asked if somewhere in some discussion in the future in terms of regional campuses, I know right now we have three and just here Mr. Glen Abernethy talked about setting up a campus here in Yellowknife. I know it's been a longstanding wish of the Sahtu people to have a regional campus in that region. As Members go to Inuvik, they go to the Yellowknife Campus and they also go to the Fort Smith campus, they certainly would see a benefit for having a regional campus in that region. They know that the learning centres can only do so much in our communities and it's going to be something that the region can work with the department to look at if there's any possibility of having a regional campus in our region. It's been talked about many times; however, we haven't moved very far in terms of this type of discussion with the region in terms of having a Sahtu tech in our region. Could I ask the Minister if that's something that he could entertain with the leadership there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The question has been deferred to the Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, certainly, those are the areas that we can have an ongoing dialogue, whether it be the Sahtu leadership and DEAs and DECAs as well. So we'll continue to have those discussions.

The campus in Yellowknife has been brought up several times, so those are discussions that we're having under the review that we're currently conducting. So those types of discussions will certainly take place. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Minister. I guess it just goes to the point that if we had a regional campus in the Sahtu in terms of our students there, you would see a lot of them staying in the Sahtu

rather than going to the other locations. We will certainly let you further pursue this strongly with the Minister in terms of actually having some fruitful discussions in terms of what possibilities are there.

Like any other large infrastructure, it certainly requires a lot of dollars, so we need to have that discussion, get it on the table. Maybe within a couple years we can have some further discussions, but I think it needs to happen now, it needs to start, because certainly we're going to start putting more dollars into other campuses and we are not going to get very far. So I just wanted to make those comments to the Minister in that sense in terms of moving forward on this issue for a regional campus in the Sahtu.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A commitment has been made to the Member by the Minister of Education and he'll follow up on that and we'll all be kept apprised of how it is proceeding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Next on the list I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd also like to reference the community learning centres. It's good to see these being established in the small communities. I think they are important and require our support. However, the sorts of things I hear are often that they're not taken full advantage of because of housing problems with the teachers. I'm wondering, has that been considered? Is it being considered, at the same time that we're putting in this valuable infrastructure, that we're actually putting in the additional infrastructure that's needed to make sure they're made good use of? Or would the teachers actually be local residents and we wouldn't have that sort of concern? So what can the Minister tell me that looks after that concern? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through Refocusing Government, one of the issues we're looking at is housing for staff in the communities. Some funds have been identified to help move that particular initiative forward. As well, when it comes to local staff, that would be an ideal circumstance if there was qualified, trained residents in the community where there was a learning centre that could be employed at the learning centre. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I agree those are the key questions. Has that investigation been done at the same time that we're deciding which communities to put the learning centres into? Have we determined whether the teaching staff are available locally, and if not, will they need to be brought into the communities, and if so, what are we doing to ensure that housing is on site and we're making

good use of those facilities in that investment? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy minister of Education, Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you. Yes, the facilities that are in the Knowledge Infrastructure are really replacement facilities for existing facilities. So we'll be using the existing staff, if they're full-time staff, to continue on with the programming for those particular communities. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: That's it for now, Mr. Chair. I'd appreciate those questions being asked, as the Minister has mentioned, in the future and some analysis included would be good routine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Next on the list I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I did want to ask a question with regard to the projected expenditure for the Case Management Administration System, the CMAS enhancements. It seems to me in my short time here we seem to be not constantly but often putting money into CMAS and into the system. I note that this expenditure is only specified for one year and I wondered if I could get an explanation from the Minister whether or not the proposed enhancements are going to be enough to upgrade the system to the needs of ECE and whether or not we're going to be looking at further expenditures in future years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy minister of Education, Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: There will be an ongoing need for enhancements and to keep the CMAS system operational and functional. It's a system that houses administration for about 14 different programs that we run ranging from student records to student finance and income security and a variety of other programs. So there are always enhancements that have to be made to those programs. Sometimes there are changes in benefits that have to be built into the system and there are other changes that we'll be contemplating for the future as we move forward, including consideration of enabling applications to be done on line for more of our programs. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I guess, then, if we're looking at continued enhancements in future years as we go forward and then there's nothing listed in the capital plan, does that mean, then, that these future enhancements are going to come out of operations and maintenance funding or are we expecting capital expenditures in future years and if so, why aren't they here in the budget? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for these types of

projects are allocated through the Informatics Policy Committee of deputies that has a \$5 million budget and the CMAS will make its application through that structure. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I understand the process. Departments will apply to get some of this \$5 million funding, but that means, then, that the capital expense for IT is never shown until the current year or until the year that is being considered for a budget. Is that correct? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It depends on the project.

MS. BISARO: Okay. I'm not quite sure how to take that one, but I guess I would encourage the Minister to have, as much as possible, a capital budget reflect ongoing capital expenditures for a project such as CMAS. If there's going to be capital expenditures in future years, I would encourage the budget to show that. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We appreciate the Member's comments and we'll make note of that good advice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. Next on the list I have Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a few comments and questions that I wanted to add to the debate this afternoon with ECE and I think I'll start off with following up on my colleague Mr. Abernethy's questions.

I've been here for six years and every year we go through the capital budget it's the same thing, we ask about Aurora College in Yellowknife and when exactly we're going to get a stand-alone campus. That college is now a degree granting institution with the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing and it's stuck in a high-rise building in inadequate space. From my understanding, I believe we need to be looking long-term and we need to be looking at a stand-alone campus and eventually even a university, a degree granting institution here. Whether it ends up in Yellowknife, that's open for debate, but if we're going to build a campus here, obviously this would be the first choice.

Every year it's the same, you know, we're in a lease, we're this, there's a planning study, we're looking at it and nobody seems to want to take it on. That lease expires in 2012 and I would want to ensure that the government is doing everything in its power to try to earmark some capital dollars. There's going to be a requirement for some serious capital dollars here to build a campus and get out of that lease that we're currently in. It's inadequate space. I think we could offer more programs and more services to the residents of the Northwest Territories if we had a stand-alone facility.

So I want to, I guess, start off by asking the Minister if the department is serious about...I know he talked

about a planning study, but is it going to end up in the capital plan sometime in the near future, hopefully before 2012 when we'll have to consider a new lease at that time? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated to the Member for Great Slave, there's a facilities study being done and it will be complete by this coming spring, at which time there will be an assessment of all the facility requirements as it pertains to Education, Culture and Employment for the city. One of the big pieces being reviewed is going to be the Yellowknife Campus and how it should be accommodated for going forward. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I certainly look forward to that and hopefully at some point in time, like I said, some serious capital dollars are going to have to be earmarked for a stand-alone campus facility here in Yellowknife. You know, we'll have to ratchet that up and get the government's commitment to at least consider that before 2012 when that lease is up. So I guess we'll stay tuned to that.

The other issue that I wanted to bring up today is Sissons School in Yellowknife. It's in need of a major retrofit. It, like some other projects, has fallen off the government's capital plan and I just want to ask the Minister where exactly is Sissons School in the grand scheme of things and when might we expect it to appear on a capital plan? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That will, as well, be part of the facility plan. With the Sissons School, they're looking at the capacity that exists across the city in the various schools and there is an overcapacity of space. The question is how do you rationalize and make the right decisions when you consider all the complexities within the city, but that's part of the work that's being done and that will be included in that facilities plan. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: That facilities plan that the Minister talks about sounds awfully familiar to a facilities plan that I think was done when there was an issue of the fire at Ecole St. Joseph and the space utilization in the schools in Yellowknife and that was an issue. I think there was a facilities plan done at that time. So how is the one that the Minister is talking about any different from the one that was already done? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It will be the latest iteration, including what currently exists, the current numbers that are there, the current projections on enrolments and the improvements that have already been made since the last one was done. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Again, I do look forward to that. Again, I'm very appreciative of the government's work and the Department of ECE on getting the renovation work done at Ecole St. Josephs in my

riding and I think that's going to be a definite benefit to the community when all is said and done. It looks good and I'm glad to see that that's moving forward and it's scheduled to be concluded sometime, I hope, by the end of this year. I wanted to again say thank you very much for that. We appreciate that.

One other question while I've got the floor, Mr. Chairman, is on the Inuvik school. I'm a big supporter of that school in Inuvik getting built. I just want to know how much it's going to cost. When we were in committee, whether it was \$115 million or it was \$95 million, nobody really seemed to know exactly how much that school is going to cost and I think we really need to try to peg that down at some point in time and it can't just be a negotiated contract that's wide open with no ceiling. I hope that's not the case. So, again, I just wanted to ask the Minister do we know exactly what the school in Inuvik is going to come in at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Just before we can go any further, the department we're under is dealing with advanced education and careers and we're on the college discussion. The one dealing with schools and education is on page 8-6. So if we can talk about schools in that context when we get there. So if you want to keep your question, you're on careers and development on this page and then we'll get there. Mr. Minister, did you want to respond to questions raised by Mr. Ramsay?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number remains unchanged from last year. It's a fixed price contract. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I've got a number of questions on how that is a fixed price contract, but I appreciate and I'm sorry that I jumped the gun on getting to that, but I'll ask those questions when we get to that page. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on the list I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if my question is totally related to schools, but relative to the facilities study or facilities plan that is being done within Yellowknife -- and I think the Minister referenced that that study will consider space for Aurora College in Yellowknife -- I'd like to know who is doing this particular facilities plan or study and whether or not the boards of the various educational organizations are involved, that being the French and Aurora College and the Catholics and the public? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy minister of Education, Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Yes, we have a contractor that we've hired, Dowland Contracting, who is doing the work for us and, yes, we are talking with the education boards on the needs and the current

utilization and projected possible enrolment growth down the road. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: That's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. We're on page 8-4, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education and careers, infrastructure investment summary, total Infrastructure investment summary, \$13.234 million.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. We'll move on. Page 8-6, Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was going to ask some questions and then we were on the wrong page, so I held off.

On this section I'm also a little sad to see that there is no reference to J.H. Sissons. It is a school that's quite old, clearly in need of some modifications. I understand that it's being done as part of the facility review. The reason I was going to ask this question in the last section is I'm not suggesting that this is maybe the best use of that facility, but I understand that enrolment levels are going down in Yellowknife. I also understand that enrolment at Sissons is quite low and if we're trying to maximize the use of our facilities, if we're trying to gain the maximum benefit for every dollar, maybe, maybe it's time to consider changing the use of a building like Sissons and possibly, maybe, that should be our Yellowknife Campus. If we have to do a bunch of modifications to that building anyway, I'd like to see it as part of the facilities review that that is maybe considered as an option. It may not be appropriate, but unless we do the review or study on it, we won't know. If we only have 50 percent capacity in that building right now as a school, and we could fit kids in different buildings, maybe it is time to start thinking outside the box a little bit and whatnot. I guess it is more of a suggestion that when you are doing your facilities review, to consider possibilities, to consider options that we haven't considered before and think about something like Sissons as possibly a Yellowknife Campus.

I guess that is more of a comment, but it needs to be fixed up. Maybe we could kill two birds with one stone here. I would be interested to hear what the Minister had to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is a capital idea. The facilities review will be looking at those very type of options, recognizing the Member is on the money on his comments about observations about the enrolment rates and the space and those types of things. Yes, we are going to have to look at all options and put our resources to the best use. We have to think outside of our

program silos; sometimes maybe departmental silos, but for sure the programs that we want to see what is possible, looking at all the resources which is far dwarfed by the needs. We have to have those kinds of reviews. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I would like to thank the Minister for that response. I am happy to see that we are willing to start thinking outside the box.

Just with respect to that particular site, I think another advantage of that particular Sissons site is that the government in some capacity owns it, but it also has that giant playground. When I went to Sissons, we called it Soaker Cemetery. That is where we used to go and play and get lots of soakers. It would also be a significant amount of property that we can use for maybe a housing project for the college. There are lots of advantages to that type of property and thinking outside the box. I am happy to hear that the department and the Minister are willing to think outside the box and try to maximize the value of every dollar we spend as a government. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I appreciate the continued good suggestions from the Member. I do understand, though, YK1 owns the property, but be that as it may, it is still going to be looked at, as the Member has suggested. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there has been contemplation of a phase two on Ecole Allain St-Cyr. I am wondering what the status of that is and I know there is a lot of interest amongst parents to see that implemented. Where is that at? What is the plan phase two? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Negotiations are still continuing with Heritage Canada in terms of the funding requirements of phase two. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. What sort of time frame are we looking at for resolution to those negotiations? Is there any context to the negotiations that can be shared at this point? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: A schematic design for phase two has been shared with Heritage Canada, but there has been no meeting of the minds as it pertains to the funding requirements. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you again for those comments from the Minister.

The other one I want to discuss was the Kalemi Dene School. I was very pleased to attend the opening of the new Kalemi Dene School last month. It is an amazing facility. What was very interesting is it was instantly overcapacity in enrolment which,

of course, reflects the facility deficit that we had there. This is a school which, in a very modest facility, has gained national attention, two major national awards, three actually, two for the principal and one for Eileen Erasmus, a teacher at the school recently announced a few weeks back for the work done at Kalemi Dene. The education there is grounded in place and culture. I do not think it is too early to start considering future needs for that area and that facility. At a time when many other schools are experiencing a decline in enrolment, Mr. Chairman, this area obviously has a significant need. I would say for the time being this Kalemi Dene School is servicing that need, but barely. It is quite amazing.

I hope that the Minister of ECE will be considering this in the facility needs study that is going on, despite the fact that there is a new school there in place. As I mentioned, it is already oversubscribed or over enrolled. I hope that Ndilo and Dettah educational needs are considered in that study.

That is just by way of a comment there. But in terms of question, what is the process for dealing with the old facility there? Is there a consultation process that the department takes on for what to do with the old facility or are there any insights in that to be shared? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I understand the college is currently looking at use for the building at this point. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I think I missed that. Was it Aurora College considering it? Is that correct? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BROMLEY: That is good to hear. I hope we can keep posted on that one.

The last point I just wanted to raise was my voice on, as well, going back a page to the Aurora Campus, but more specifically to this page on Sissons. I think everybody agrees it is in need of some serious maintenance work. I am intrigued by my colleague's idea, Mr. Abernethy's idea for Aurora College campus. Perhaps that could be considered for whether the school would be most appropriate for a campus and Sissons enter the mix as for the most appropriate use. I just want to lend my support there that this is a facility that is recognized, needs attention. Let's get that fixed and in good shape and make the best use of these facilities. Again, just a comment. That is all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Comment. Next on the list I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just follow up on that comment and then I have a question. I, too, would like to encourage the

Minister and also the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to not narrow the vision of using an existing school for the college but to consider all schools. When looking at this facility study, don't just look at Sissons but look at all schools. It may be that there is another school which may be more appropriate or the land around it may be more appropriate for a college. It is certainly going to require some reprofiling of students, which is going to raise some alarms, but I guess I would just encourage everybody to keep an open mind.

I do have a question with regards to the line item for high school career and technology studies. It was my understanding, I believe when I asked the question at committee, this is a fund which is available through the education authorities and schools can apply I think to the education authorities for funds to try and enhance the technology and the trades programs within individual schools. It was also my understanding that this was for small schools only. My question is whether or not this expenditure can be considered for a small school which happens to be in my riding, which is Ecole Allain St-Cyr. If I could have an answer to that question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Currently communities that are exempted from this particular fund are Yellowknife, Inuvik, Behchoko, Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Simpson. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for the answer, not that I like it. I guess I understand the rationale for exempting communities, but perhaps it would make more sense to exempt schools by their size as opposed to exempting a whole community. Certainly Ecole Allain St-Cyr is a small school which no doubt could use the capital dollars to enhance their high school trades programming. I don't believe they have any at this point. Is there any hope that the rationale for this particular program might be changed? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Whereas work is done with the business plan for Education, Culture and Employment, I would speak on behalf of the Minister that that kind of discussion is one that would be appropriate as we look at things being structured the best possible way. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I understand the answer, but I guess, if this is a capital expenditure, the time now to talk about a capital expenditure being accessible by all small schools is now. Is the Minister suggesting to me that come the time to discuss the operations and maintenance budget, that there is an opportunity for some funding for trades for small schools at that time? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, the only point I was making at this juncture is if there is an interest in talking about the actual structure of that program, the preamble and the rationale that has been set and been operational which is to assist small communities with smaller schools, the Member could raise the issue now and where we are talking about the specific projects that have already been agreed to, but that kind of discussion would be best undertaken with the Minister of Education. I would be happy to maybe refer this question to the Minister, if he wanted to respond to the Member about the actual structure of the program. I am not in a position to make any commitments or discuss that. I do believe that would be the Minister of Education or the deputy that could speak to the structure of that particular program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): For clarification, Mr. Minister, are you deferring the question to the Minister of Education? The Minister is referring the question to the Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Those are the areas we can certainly look at as long as...I guess we need to look at the whole structure itself, the situation that we are at and the current policies that we follow. We can certainly look at those areas that Ms. Bisaro is suggesting. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate the answer from the Minister of Education. I note that this program is an ongoing program three years in length. This is the middle year of the three years. If the department would look at that, I think that would certainly be more fair. Certainly the larger schools probably don't need this kind of funding, but not all small schools exist in small communities. I think if there is an opportunity for a small school that is providing high school to have access to some of this funding, this capital funding, I think that would be certainly appreciated. I think I would like to ask the question whether or not, if this program is application-based, whether or not Ecole Allain St-Cyr should put an application forward for some of this funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a document sent out September 18th to all the divisional board superintendents as well as Yellowknife district education authorities, as well as the director general of the Commission Scolaire Francophone Territoires du Nord-Ouest. So they all have the information. The intent in small communities, in small high schools, the debate over...I am not sure. Maybe I will ask the deputy minister to respond if there are any questions or feedback from the communities that have small schools but are clearly large communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy minister of Education.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you. The information has been sent out. We are waiting for proposed ideas to come back from the bodies that we sent the information out to, and the plan is to review that information upon receipt of it and to make some decisions around projects that could move forward in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry to belabour this, but I just want to be clear. The information has gone to the Commission Scolaire Francophone and they should put forward an application to the Department of Education for some of this capital funding for career and technology studies. Is that correct? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. They are welcome to do that. In the program preamble it states to address particular needs of small communities, funding has been set aside for small capital projects and currently the communities that are excepted or exempt from this are Yellowknife, Inuvik, Behchoko, Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Simpson. So that's the policy as it now stands.

These folks have that information. There is nothing to stop them, I would imagine, from writing for an exemption using the argument put forward by Ms. Bisaro, that they are as all community or a small school and shouldn't be discriminated against because they happen to be situated in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. BISARO: Thanks for the clarification. I guess it might have helped. We wouldn't have had this conversation perhaps or maybe not at quite such length if that information had been in the capital project substantiation. It might have made it a little more clear. Thank you. That's just a comment, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I want to ask in terms of the funding for the high school career and technology studies upgrades of the CTS facilities and equipment in terms of how this is working out for our communities in accessing these dollars here. I want to ask the Minister in terms of a brief update as to this project here in terms of getting funding into our communities with the stated dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy minister of Education, Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We asked the various school boards to submit their proposed ideas to us by the middle of October, by October

16th. We will be reviewing those requests and making a determination in the coming months. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I look forward to seeing this money roll out to the communities where this money was intended in terms of the upgrades for the trades. So, Mr. Chair, I want to ask the Minister in terms of some of the communities or some of the boards that may be somewhat...Is this a first come, first served basis or is that money allocated to different regions or is it going to be whoever gets the proposal into the Minister within the time frame? Certainly there will be some interesting proposals to entertain this project here in terms of getting the trades into our communities. I look forward to seeing what type of projects are going to be there. So is this going to be allocated or is this first come, first served basis in terms of the request for money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a \$400,000 a year program over three years. It's going to be merit-based. The maximum any school can obtain is \$100,000 per year for the three years. It is strictly for capital. So last year the work was done for a needs assessment in trying to see where the needs would be. Now the actual requests for proposal have gone out. There is a list that we would be happy to share with committee that lays out all the criteria that would maybe help clarify the issue for the Members how this program is intended to work and what the criteria is. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I want to say certainly the communities will look forward to this type of funding. Certainly this type of government and the Minister has been listening to this side of the table here in terms of what challenges we have to deal with in our small communities in terms of bringing the trades or specialized training into our communities that they have longed for for many years. It's certainly good on this government here and this Minister to get this on the go and to see what results we will have in our communities.

I wanted to ask the Minister also in terms of the schools in our region. I know the issue of vandalism has been quite a topic in one of my communities and especially with an asset such as a school here and that we wanted to look at some solutions along with the leadership in the communities in terms of keeping our assets in a safe manner for the schools here. Is there any type of funding or capital dollars looking at adding a security system in our schools that the schools can apply for, rather than taking out of their own budget in terms of the education boards; that the government can offer to have security systems in some of our schools? That seems to be attracting a lot of attention of some of

the community members that are vandalizing our school here.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As Minister Michael McLeod noted late last week in the House, vandalism across the government costs about \$5 million a year, which is an enormous amount of money for 42,000, so it is a significant issue. We all know the unfortunate circumstances of fires and vandalism and destruction of property, some of it often brand new. So the discussion about is there some type of security requirements that should be built in are ones that Education, I am sure, could have with the various divisional boards. They look at how to cope with this, especially when you have a brand new asset that's worth \$9 million or \$10 million or whatever it may be, that there may be some attempts. So I understand in communities where they have tried this, it becomes almost an art form to figure out how to beat the security system and continue to engage in vandalism.

So I think security is one thing. I think there are some other fundamental issues at the community level that communities have to try to come to grips with so they don't destroy the very hard-fought resources that are put in their communities. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly I agree with the Minister in terms of the comments he had to offer this afternoon, Mr. Chair. I would guess I was hoping to see if there was some type of interim solution to having some type of security system in one of our schools in Sahtu to deter further vandalism in one of the schools that I represent, and that the community or the educational board can apply to this government to put in an interim security system. I know it's going to require a lot more discussion. Certainly as a community as a whole, we have to sit down and look at the whole issue and find out why certain things are happening in this community that attracts vandalism especially into a school. So I know what the future suggestions are. However, is there something within the capital that we can direct the educational boards to possibly look for an interim solution? It certainly can help us with vandalism in one of my communities. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Education, Culture and Employment stands ready to work with the divisional boards in all the regions as they do on an ongoing basis with a lot of issues, but with this particular one to look at what's the best way forward, especially to protect assets where the paint is barely dry on the new structure. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Certainly I would look forward to conveying this message here to our boards and our leadership in the specific community in my region in terms of how we go forward in terms of securing our school in not having vandalism coming into the classrooms or the

school. So I thank the Minister and I want to leave it at that in terms of my comments. I don't require a response.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Moving on, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple more things. I have been here since 2003 and I have raised this issue in the past and I raise it again today. I believe the Government of the Northwest Territories has to come forward with some kind of policy that no school, anywhere in any community in the Northwest Territories, can be constructed without a gymnasium. The reason I raise this again is Ecole Allain St-Cyr here in Yellowknife was built without a gymnasium and I just believe, you know, you're given the statistics of childhood obesity and the inactivity of children. For us to build a school anywhere or to put money into any school anywhere, I am talking about any community in the Northwest Territories without a gymnasium in it is wrong. I think that's something I would like to see the government come forward with a policy on in constructing new schools; they will not be constructed unless they include a gymnasium. I would like to get the Minister's response to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister of ECE, Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, those are the things that we can certainly...We are open to those ideas and I guess just in the recent years, we've built schools without gymnasiums, but with other departments such as MACA in partnership with the communities, we've attached gymnasiums to the schools. So, certainly, this will be a discussion on an ongoing forward basis. So I appreciate Members responding to this area. I think it's key that we have to have this discussion. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. RAMSAY: I do understand. I know the Minister knows how important it is to have a gymnasium included in the original construction of a school, because if you add any component to a facility after the fact, it always costs more money to add something on. If it's incorporated into the early stages and into the design, it can be done in a more cost-effective manner. So I do look forward to further discussions with the government on including gymnasiums in any new school construction in the Northwest Territories. I think that's a step in the right direction.

One other area -- and I started to talk to it under another page -- but on the Inuvik school, I just wanted to get an idea of what the fixed price is, because there's been numbers ranging anywhere from \$95 million to \$115 million. What exactly is that fixed price and can the Minister share that with us today in this forum? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can share this information, but I can just indicate the consultant's design and inspection: \$6.485 million; Public Works expenditures -- travel, commissioning, insurance, small contracts, course of construction: \$700,000; relocating client expenditures, relocating existing building and furnishing and move in: \$1.845 million; Dowland Construction Limited contract, phase two: \$92.3 million; drainage and site preparation: \$2.335 million; and, there's an \$11.7 million contingency, for a total of \$115.365 million.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear from the Minister. On the construction component, the \$92.3 million, that price is a fixed price and will not exceed \$92.3 million. Am I correct in that assumption? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up on another line item in this particular section, the capital infrastructure for community libraries. I understand that's multi-year funding. Can you confirm that for me, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Apparently, it varies from year to year.

MR. ABERNETHY: The reason I ask about this particular line is I have had an opportunity to go to Fort Simpson a couple times over the last two years and in one of my visits there, I went with the Member from that area, Mr. Menicoche, to what is their library today and I've got to say it's not the greatest building. It's small, it's super limited, the floor doesn't have the capacity to handle many books at all and they have a significant amount of books that they've acquired over time that they can't even house in the building, so they have to leave them in a different building and if somebody wants them, they have to go get them. So it's super inconvenient and I'm curious as to whether or not any of this money is going to be able to go to the library in Simpson to help them either find a more suitable location where they could actually have their library or fix that building up to the degree where you could actually have more than a half-dozen books in a room due to weight restrictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, the plan is that Public Works is going to arrange for an engineer to go in and take

a look at Thomas Simpson or Bompas about what's possible for a library space there. There is money available in the '09 allocation, which I believe this year is \$150,000 which is being held pending whatever plans may come out of the potential relocation of the library in Simpson. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Moving on, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in regard to the discussion of policy this government has in regard to providing funding for small communities to ensure that they do have the infrastructure so they can provide services and programs in schools, I think that one of the problems we're seeing especially in our school systems is the government made a policy decision back in 1995 or '94 to allow for high schools from K to 12 in every community. But one thing they've done is, sure, they've expanded the enrolment numbers, but they have never delivered on all program curricula by way of the trades programs or even in regards to chemistry and science, having the facilities designed so that all these programs could be delivered. I'm glad the government's coming forward with a program that we can finally, hopefully, build in some of these facilities into our school systems, but I was kind of taken aback when I heard the Minister of Education making reference that he's going to consider looking at changing the policy now which identifies these small communities as where this program is going to be delivered and exclude the larger communities from having access to this program.

So I'd like to get clarification from the Minister of Finance exactly what is the position of this government. Are you going to abide by the policy that you have in place or are you going to open it up so that all schools in the Northwest Territories are going to have access to these funds so we can accomplish what the intent of that policy is: to ensure that those programs and policies are in place? I'd just like clarification on exactly what was meant by considering opening it up so that Yellowknife can have access to these dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the program is structured and the information that was sent out to the communities was that this program was designed to address the particular needs of small communities. Funding has been set aside for small capital projects and it specifically indicates which communities don't qualify under this. The list, I'll repeat again, is Yellowknife, Inuvik, Behchoko, Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Simpson. So that's the program as it now stands.

In our government, if there is an interest to discuss policy decisions, that's something that we have to

be prepared to entertain, but the program as it's now structured is clear. The document that was sent out is clear. It hasn't been changed.

The Minister may want to add further to this, but I think the intention is that if there's an interest in somehow reviewing this to make it as applicable as it should be, that the Minister has indicated he's prepared to entertain that kind of discussion. At this point this policy is clear and it was sent out with the 14 criteria that are very specific.

I'll ask, Mr. Chairman, if maybe the Minister wanted to elaborate a bit further on this issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, those are the areas that...I didn't say we would change the policy, but I said we will look at a discussion further. We're following the guidelines right now as it stands and whatever changes that are forthcoming will certainly be addressed with the standing committee before we make any drastic changes. So Members will certainly be informed of any changes that may be coming. This will be a discussion that we'll probably have down the road. That's what I was referring to, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, Mr. Chair, we realize we have some major challenges, especially for the community infrastructure, lack of staff housing for teachers, the challenge we're facing of just having the services being delivered in our communities where we still have students leaving their home communities to go to the regional centres to attend high school because we don't have high school in all our communities. I think, as a government, the reason that you have a policy and the guidelines in place is so that we can accomplish that. If this government's going to back away now at the 11th hour, I think all the work that the communities are trying to do by ensuring we can provide an education and curriculum for our communities which is somewhat close to or basically meets the qualifications in other schools so that we can provide all these services to all schools in the Northwest Territories, we're never going to get there.

I'd just like to get some assurance from this government that basically the guidelines that you mentioned are spelled out. The intention of that was to ensure that we're able to provide those programs and services in all schools in the Northwest Territories where presently we don't have them. I think it's important that we, as government, realize that we still have communities in the Northwest Territories which have not implemented the policy of K to 12 in all communities. One of the reasons is because we do not have the capacity in the

community and we don't have the infrastructure in the community to provide those programs or education curriculum in all communities.

So, again, I'd just like to get some assurance that there is no movement on behalf of this government to back away from the policy and guidelines that basically the Minister referenced.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The package which we've committed to share with committee, the very first criteria in the application and selection process is to be eligible to apply. You must be an NWT high school that is not in a community with more than 200 K to 12 full-time equivalent students. So that's the very first criteria for this application. This is what's gone out to the communities. That's what's being acted on. That's the basis that they're going to be applying on.

If there's the will, as the Minister has indicated, of the committee, of the Legislature, to review this program, of course we stand ready to do that, but the information that's gone out is very clear for the program as it now exists. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, one of the questions I touched on is the whole area of providing staff housing for teachers. I know this government had a program a couple of years ago in regard to allowing for professional housing development in communities. We're still seeing that challenge, especially in the Beaufort-Delta region where we're seeing the biggest challenge in regard to providing secure housing for staff, especially for the teaching staff in our education system. So I'd just like to know from the government, where are we in regard to that program and what's this government doing to ensure that we are able to provide some means of housing for teachers in the Beaufort-Delta?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that this current year all the teachers have housing, but that we continue to work through the issue of staff housing, especially, once again, in the smaller communities for teachers and other professional staff. We continue to work to address that issue through the Refocusing Government committee. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Well, again, Mr. Chair, I think we're probably going to be getting phone calls in the winter months when it gets a little colder and people start realizing the real costs associated with renting a house in the communities, from the utility costs to the operational costs, and I think it's something that we as MLAs have to deal with every year because people don't realize that there's a real high cost to maintain a residence in a community. If you're renting the unit, paying the O and M costs, those costs do go up in the wintertime. I think that we might not be hearing much about it now, but I think

we probably will be hearing about it in December, January.

So I'd just like to ask the Minister: Is this government seriously considering looking at a policy as part of the delivery system of education in certain regions of the Territories in regard to non-market communities? Will we consider looking at the possibility of providing staff housing like we did prior to the 13th Assembly and is that something that's considered looking at through collective bargaining?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: What we are looking at very definitely in terms of cost of living is things related to provision of energy, power and electricity. The electrical rate review will be going to committee members and they will be able to see what is being contemplated by the folks that did the review. We've also been passing on significant savings to those communities that are fuelled under the GNWT, that get fuel for the PPD. As well, there have been savings transmitted and we're continuing to work with the Refocusing committee and the Housing Corporation. We stand ready to work with communities, alternatives that are there in existing communities with housing for staff, not only necessarily for GNWT employees but municipal employees, community employees, other employees. I believe the Minister of Housing has made some suggestions to the Rural Remote committee about some of the possibilities that are there to try to improve in those areas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. I'd like to call next on Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I guess it's good news to see that the plan is to have the adult learning centre occupied by September 2010. So that's something I was pleased to see.

I have a couple of questions pertaining to page 8-8 on the high school career and technology studies. I'd like to ask the Minister if there have been requests from the communities, Tu Nedhe communities of Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e, pertaining to this funding and how the request is being handled.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information was sent out September 18th. There's a deadline that was just recently met or reached October 16th and I understand the departmental selection committee for the applications for the NWT Career and Technology Studies Program are looking at having those projects approved by November the 20th. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: On the capital infrastructure for community libraries, I see that there's some funding

in there, but I'm wondering if the target communities for the infrastructure for community libraries is schools that currently don't have any libraries or if this is a part of an actual library program where they have community libraries in places like Hay River and Yellowknife and so on. So I'm wondering if this is specific to schools or libraries.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is a range of community libraries or where they're located. In some communities they are separate buildings like they are in Hay River or Fort Smith, Fort Providence. In some places, as in Simpson, we're looking at what may be possible to make use of space in either Thomas Simpson or Bompas and if there's space in schools that could be accessed by patrons after hours, a library.

So I think as we are in other areas trying to be creative and think outside the box in terms of space, usually it's very hard to come by and has to be put to as extensive use as possible. Of course, we have some communities with virtual libraries; we have some with no libraries. In fact, a fairly extensive list: Behchoko, Colville Lake, Dettah, Fort Liard, Jean Marie River, Kakisa, Lutselk'e, Tsiigehtchic and Wrigley have no libraries. So we have a whole range of need here on this issue across the Territory. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I guess in that same area, libraries...To be more specific, has the department had any discussions with Lutselk'e's principal pertaining to possible development of a library in the Lutselk'e school? I know there is no actual space I believe for the library, so there may have to be something added or some sort of a space made for it, but I'm curious if there had been any discussions in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I'd like to call on Deputy Minister Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We've had a consultant working with the school in Lutselk'e talking about some of the future needs of the school as they proceed with grade extensions in the community, for example. As part of that discussion there was discussion on other possible needs in the school as well. So I'll have to double check to see whether the issue of libraries was discussed specifically as part of the school function, but there certainly was a wide-ranging discussion on different needs in the school. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: In relation to the consultant's report, I see that there are some recommendations made that may involve the purchase of possible, I guess purchase of computers. I think it's fairly clear that in Lutselk'e school that they lack the computers. I don't know if it's the hardware. Actually I forgot what the term was to describe the computer infrastructure, but just the lack of computers. I'm wondering if the department has done any work at all in the area of providing

computers that may be needed for the various classes or even that small computer centre that currently exists in Lutselk'e's school.

MR. DANIELS: There are certainly computers in the school in Lutselk'e at this time and I know that the Minister of Education announced yesterday that there are some initiatives to also provide additional computers for students in small communities in different high schools. So we are undertaking work to enhance the availability of computers in our smaller communities. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next I have Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just another question getting back to Ecole Allain St-Cyr here in Yellowknife. My French is not that good, but I can understand, though, we've received a number of letters from parents and staff at that facility requesting that the Government of the Northwest Territories try to get the federal government or ourselves to step in and look at a gymnasium for that school. Has the government done any work in trying to secure some capital dollars that would allow a gymnasium to be built at Ecole Allain St-Cyr? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that's basically the focus of the phase two discussions or negotiations that are underway with Heritage Canada. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I'm just wondering if the government has any indication from Heritage Canada when we might expect to see any dollars flowing north into a project that would put a gymnasium on that school. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: At this point we don't have any formal kind of commitment for any specific amount of funding from Heritage Canada. So the discussions continue. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I'm just wondering if the Minister could let me know who is the lead from the government. Is it the Minister responsible for infrastructure? Is it in fact the deputy minister for ECE? Who is responsible for trying to get these dollars from Heritage Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Deputy Minister Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Those discussions are taking place at the officials' level at this stage. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Daniels. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How successful does the government think it can be in trying to get some support from Heritage Canada to allow a gymnasium to be built at Ecole Allain St-Cyr? I can't ask your opinion, but just give us, you know, are we wasting our time or is there any hope? What's the real story here? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff have been working I think quite well together. Though nothing formal has been brought forward, the discussion at the staff level indicates that I think they're moving into a ballpark where there's numbers being talked about, but it may be possible to be recommended. Once again, all we have at this point is the discussion at that level, but it's sounding promising. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I would expect that the government would put their best foot forward and work with Heritage Canada to try to get that money. Any support that I can give you, or I'm sure there's other Members here that we could lend our support to the discussions, you know, if there's a lobby effort or whatever it takes to try to get some of this money, I think we really need to, again, put our best foot forward and try to secure that funding. Like I said, my French isn't that good, but the word gymnase is in that letter, every letter that I've received, and I know what that means and that's a gym. I would hope that the Minister's French is such that he understands what that means and other Cabinet Ministers and government officials that are having these discussions with Heritage Canada. Thank you, good luck. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I do not have anybody else on my list. Sorry, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just on gymnasiums, I know in Fort McPherson, one the schools replaced there, the community had to pay \$400,000 of their own money to get a full-sized gymnasium. So if they were able to do it there, I think we should maybe consider that as an alternative, unless you're going to pay back the community of Fort McPherson \$400,000 to get a full-sized gymnasium because they had to come up with the \$400,000 themselves in the community. So I would just like to ask the Minister if that's been considered in regards to getting other groups, if they're interested, in getting gymnasiums and whatnot, that maybe they should be funding it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that that is a subject of conversation that has yet been broached in regard to moving this project forward. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: So I'd just like to know who do I send the bill to so we can get our \$400,000 back since we're the ones that paid for that gymnasium.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Would Minister Miltenberger like to respond?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'd just like to commend the people of his communities for their initiative and willingness to put their money where their desire was for a project like a gymnasium. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Krutko? No. Okay, Members, we're on page 8-8, education and culture.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Thank you, committee. For greater clarity, we're at Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$43.486 million. Is the committee agreed?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee, and now if we'll turn back to page 8-2, departmental summary, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$56.720 million. Agreed?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes the Department of Education, Culture and Employment capital?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Nothing, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I'd like to move a motion to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Motion to report progress is on the floor and is in order and non-debatable.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, Minister Miltenberger, and thanks to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Wednesday, October 21st, 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. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011

21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 21st, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:23 p.m.