



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**4<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 13**

**16<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2009**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Hay River North)

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(Great Slave)

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(Tu Nedhe)

**Ms. Wendy Bisaro**  
(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**  
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**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**  
(Sahtu)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, November 3, 2009****Members Present**

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 1:34 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 31-16(4):  
NWT SCIENCE AGENDA

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has always been, and continues to be, an important area for scientific research by governments, regulatory bodies, industry and academic institutions.

Later today the Honourable Jackson Lafferty will table the Building a Path for Northern Science: Government of the Northwest Territories Science Agenda. This is the first time the GNWT has clearly defined and prioritized government-wide scientific research needs. Work on the Science Agenda began in 2007 and is the result of extensive consultation with GNWT employees engaged in research, researchers and community members.

The Science Agenda is based on the principle that science is a critical component of ensuring sustainable development, health and wellness, cultural retention and economic diversification and development.

The NWT is experiencing a period of powerful changes and challenges. Climate change, new technologies, resource development, economic change and social change are all requiring the Government of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, adapt and modify its programs and services.

The GNWT needs reliable evidence-based information, derived from scientific investigations and research, to make informed policy decisions. The Science Agenda establishes a strategic framework for science and identifies science priorities, which will guide future research and science integration for the GNWT.

It sets a path for this government and the people of the Northwest Territories to play a key role in the

development and management of science knowledge and the use of traditional knowledge in all scientific and other research conducted here.

The Science Agenda will act as a guiding document in policy decisions on a number of fronts for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, including land, water and climate change.

Mr. Speaker, five core priority areas for research have been identified. They are: cultural sustainability; environmental science and stewardship, health and wellness, natural resource management, and sustainable communities. Strategic goals, sub-priorities and implementation actions have been identified for each of these core areas. The agenda also recognizes that technological advances, traditional knowledge and climate change are issues that cut across all five core priority areas.

Given the high level of scientific interest, research and activity in the Northwest Territories, we recognize the need to work in collaboration with other governments, aboriginal organizations, communities, academic institutions, industry and other organizations and agencies to make sure these priorities and the scientific needs of the NWT residents are met.

The Science Agenda, with its commitment to various forms of scientific and traditional knowledge, will build on work already being done to promote science education in our schools. We want students to get a better understanding of how important science is to their communities and lives.

Mr. Speaker, scientific needs will evolve as our Territory grows and changes, but the importance of reliable, timely and accessible information will remain essential to ensure wise and effective decision-making processes. This Science Agenda sets the path for achieving this. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 32-16(4):  
A FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I announced A Foundation for Change, Building a Healthy Future for the NWT for 2009-2012. This document will be tabled later today.

A Foundation for Change is about our future. We need to make changes to our Health and Social Services system now, to ensure our communities and our children continue to have access to affordable, quality health care and social services in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Northerners have access to some of the best health and social services available anywhere. We continue to invest extensively in the health and wellness of our people in order to build the future of our Territory. The Government of the Northwest Territories spent \$313 million for health and social services including \$217 million in funding to Health and Social Services Authorities in 2008-2009. Mr. Speaker, this plan does not call for a reduction in spending. What it does is it targets priorities and actions that will allow for more efficiency and a bend in the trend of health and social services spending in the Northwest Territories.

This plan has a vision for the health and social services system going forward, because we recognize we need a strong sense of where changes should lead us.

This vision speaks to the importance of community wellness, priorities and individual responsibility, as well as our accountability in delivering programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, the three goals of A Foundation for Change are wellness, accessibility and sustainability. The plan will include an increased focus on health promotion and prevention, so people can make positive choices for themselves. The plan also incorporates an emphasis on infrastructure and information technology to increase access to our residents, particularly in small and more remote communities. We will also improve governance, financial management and accountability for programs and services so there is a shared understanding of actual costs and benefits of the system.

Mr. Speaker, A Foundation for Change provides an overview of the priorities and actions we will take to move us in the right direction for the next three years. There are action items in this plan where our end result is very clear. For example, there will be new funding for health promotion in small communities. However, there are other areas where we will need to consult with communities or develop further plans before we know exactly what the end result will be, such as in the development of

community wellness plans. Over the course of 2010, we will travel to all NWT communities for community assessments. These will be designed to ensure that the services provided to Northerners are better balanced to local resources and priorities. There will also be an opportunity to share current information about regional and community health status and services.

Mr. Speaker, A Foundation for Change includes actions based on a number of partnership frameworks including the Action Plan on Family Violence, the Healthy Choices Framework, and the NWT Homelessness Framework. We will continue to build partnerships and work with communities and aboriginal governments through the community assessments.

Mr. Speaker, this plan has been developed through extensive work and review by staff of the Department of Health and Social Services and all eight health and social services authorities. I would like to thank all of the staff who helped develop this plan. I particularly would like to extend a thank you to the leaders in the Department of Health and Social Services, the members of the Joint Leadership Council, and the chief executive officers who have taken the challenge of developing this plan very seriously. I would also like to express a special mention of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Tom Beaulieu, chair of the committee and all members of the committee for their positive and constructive feedback and comments on the plan, which we have worked to incorporate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OUTFITTERS' LICENCES HELD IN SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a matter of great importance to my constituents in the Sahtu region. Mr. Speaker, in June of this year I raised in the House the issue of the potential sale of Arctic Red Outfitters Limited and this government's legal and moral obligations to honour the requirements of the Sahtu Land Claim. At this time, I question the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources about the proposed sale of the Arctic Red Outfitters and their right for first refusal for the licence that the people of Sahtu had pursuant to our land claim. Mr. Miltenberger committed to getting back to me on this matter, and he did so in written correspondence.

As Members may be aware, both the Gwich'in and the Sahtu land claim agreements provide that the

respective organizations have the right of first refusal for granting of a new outfitting licence. These rights were given to the Gwich'in and the Sahtu people after many years of hard-fought negotiations, and these rights are constitutionally entrenched. They are important rights; not to be lightly ignored.

In this case, the company carried on business in both the Gwich'in and Sahtu area, and they have obligations to comply with the law in both geographic jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister subsequently wrote to me, confirming that the company in question was being sold and the company had been advised by the Minister's regional staff of the need to honour the refusal rights under the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement. When I wrote and asked for more details, the Minister referred to the challenge of having dual rights of first refusal and two separate land claim agreements, and about how his department was going to review the requirements in this area so that a solution can be developed and implemented. To date, no one has approached the leadership of the Sahtu seeking the approval of the issuance of a licence which evolved in our region. This is in direct contravention of our land claim agreement.

Mr. Speaker, many months after the people of the Sahtu first heard about the proposed sale of the Arctic Red Outfitters, we are no further ahead of knowing that our land claim agreement has been complied with by this government. I appreciate that having the two land claim agreements both containing the right of first refusal can be challenging; however, this challenge does not eliminate the duty of the Crown to comply with constitutionally entrenched and constitutionally protected agreements. The fact of the law that can be challenged to comply is not an excuse for ignoring these legal requirements. The government has an obligation to respect these rights given to the people...

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

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has an obligation to respect the rights given to the people in the Sahtu and their claim. The honour of the Crown demands no less. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister questions about this matter. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CUSTOMER SERVICE AT INCOME SUPPORT OFFICE IN YELLOWKNIFE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to discuss difficulties encountered by Yellowknife residents who happen to be clients of the Income Assistance Program.

Every MLA in here has heard from constituents regarding how hard it is to get decent customer service from Education, Culture and Employment's Income Support Program. But in Yellowknife, because the office is located in the Greenstone Building, a very secure federal building, it presents special difficulties for clients who have to visit the office to meet with their client service officer, or CSO. The CSOs work in an area inaccessible to the public behind a locked door. So in order to meet with them, even if you have a scheduled appointment, you must call them from the reception area. If they are available, the CSO comes out and you are buzzed in to attend your meeting. Although a receptionist sits in front of that locked door, he or she does not call. The client must call.

Mr. Speaker, receptionists are front-line workers. They are the first people a client encounters at the income support office. They should be welcoming and helpful. They should be the compassionate, knowledgeable and concerned person who soothes and guides the client through the often mystifying and scary process of income support.

Yet, when you walk into the income assistance office in Yellowknife and ask a question, more often than not you get an abrupt response or are left to use the phone without assistance and there may or may not be someone at the other end of the phone line to help deal with your problems. Seldom will the receptionist consider it his or her job to help the client get in touch with the CSO.

There are a few more difficulties experienced by my constituents. Messages left on the CSO's voice mail asking for a call back are not actioned. E-mails sent with questions about forms, next steps, getting an appointment and so on are not replied to. Clients without a phone at home must make the trip to the office several times to meet with the CSO, often without any guarantee of success.

Why no response? Well, often it's because the CSO has been away on training, on holidays, sick leave, any one of a number of reasons and no one is covering for that staffer who happens to be away. The client, usually in need of immediate help, is left to their own devices for up to a week trying to survive some crisis on their own.

Income support should be an office, a program that provides service to their customers, that provides assistance to residents who are in need. How can the client get assistance when no CSO will meet with them? If income support really believes that

they deal with clients, then the attitude should be that of serving the customer and satisfying the customer. There needs to be a major shift in the approach used...

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues. There needs to be a major shift in the approach used by CSOs with YK income support clients, a focus on service to the client, not the CSO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today is proposed changes to the Food Mail Program. Currently, when residents of Nunakput go to the grocery store to buy groceries, they are shipped and subsidized by the Food Mail Program. They still could pay up to \$10 for a salad or even more for two litres of milk.

Mr. Speaker, given the sufficient amount of spending on the Food Mail Program, this should not be happening. This is not the original vision or intention of the Food Mail Program.

The food mail system has evolved into the largest federal government subsidy program in the North, Mr. Speaker. The current way the food mail is administered, this is less than bizarre. The federal government transfers funds to Canada Post, they contract shippers and subsidy shipping rates are passed on to the consumer. Mr. Speaker, this false hope has made the cost of living in most northern communities a luxury that only the privileged can afford. What they support in the market is a natural approach where the consumer can directly and visibly subsidize a point of sale, thus eliminating the need to have administration carried out by Canada Post.

Mr. Speaker, any revision to the current approach of using Canada Post as an inter-mediator is unacceptable. Any revision that does not allow the consumer, who has a right to be a recipient of the subsidy, to see the subsidy is unacceptable. This current approach does not really help small communities by making healthy living and healthy eating affordable.

I have recently read that the INAC report believes that 62 percent of the subsidy is actually reaching the consumer. The government must commit itself to initiating a revised program to ensure the

remaining 38 percent, of which becomes \$25 million, actually affects the process in the North.

I am encouraging the government to work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly to work progressively with the Government of Canada so the Food Mail Program works and can be adopted whereby each dollar of the federal government provides northern nutrition.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. JACOBSON:** I am encouraging the government to work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly to work progressively with the Government of Canada so the Food Mail Program works and can be adopted whereby each dollar of the federal government provides northern nutrition and results in a dollar reduction to the cost for the northern consumer.

Mr. Speaker, we owe the accountability to our constituents. We owe this to the health of northern consumers. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the appropriate Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The time has never been riper to make the most of our opportunities for northern agriculture. By now, I think we've all heard we should think globally and act locally whenever possible. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is especially true for the way we eat and live here in the North, where we face some of the highest costs of living, especially on our food.

Mr. Speaker, there is great demand to buy locally produced products. Across the NWT, we see interest and enthusiasm from northern agriculture. Just ask the Arctic Farmer, who provides herbs to restaurants and there is a hungry demand for those products.

Mr. Speaker, with the decline of the caribou, we need to find solutions for meat to supply the North. Perhaps the caribou crisis is the nexus we needed to finally consider other options seriously. We've all known and heard about the South Slave where they were raising pork, raising poultry and other types of beef products over the years that were adjusted and able to produce quite well in this climate, but they are all gone.

Mr. Speaker, the natural features of the NWT bog would be ideal for raising cranberries, which is a billion dollar industry. Mr. Speaker, I have heard that

places in B.C. don't want cranberries to suck up their bog and produce things. I want their millions of dollars here in the North, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the Minister too would feel that way.

Mr. Speaker, if you plant a crop, it will produce a crop for 35 years. Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent opportunity to market cranberries to the world. We could take advantage of the northern bog and produce cranberries to feed at Thanksgiving dinners, to produce cranberry drinks, Mr. Speaker.

The Territorial Farmers' Association estimates that 3.7 million acres of land is suitable to raising potatoes, carrots and livestock here in the North, but we only need 12 acres to produce 25 percent of our existing demand on our food, Mr. Speaker.

Expanding agriculture here in the North to meet 25 percent of our demand to produce products would only really require 5,000 acres of land, Mr. Speaker. That could turn into a \$7.4 million investment.

Mr. Speaker, that would produce 31 person years of employment. Mr. Speaker, that would be a great hoorah for our GDP. Mr. Speaker, opportunity is growing on our doorstep and all it has to do is be picked or plucked.

Mr. Speaker, the Territorial Farmers' Association needs help and I think there are a lot out there that could do a lot of great work, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time to put our hand to the plough and stop looking back and moving forward. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of ITI later today about how we can make sure the Growing Forward money gets in the hand of our agriculture industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONTAMINATED SOIL SITES AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS IN LUTSELK'E

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about supporting our local contractors when it comes to dealing with contaminated soil issues in our smaller communities such as Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in these smaller communities we have local businesses and contractors that are providing a service to the community and in doing so they are also doing their part to contribute to the employment and the economy within their respective communities. However, Mr. Speaker, from time to time, for whatever reason, local contractors are excluded or lose out on local contracting jobs to outside competitors. I can see it if elements of the contract submissions were unreasonable. If not, there is no way this should happen and if so, we have a problem with the process. Among such an area, Mr. Speaker, is that every community in the NWT has its share of

contaminated soil issues. Whether it be from local power plants, private and commercial buildings or delivery service vehicles, fuel spills do happen; more than we'd like, but they do happen.

Mr. Speaker, if local contractors in these communities have the capacity to undertake the various fuel spill jobs such as clean-up, transporting, remediation and storage of contaminated soil, then does it not make sense, Mr. Speaker, for these local contractors to be given every opportunity to take these jobs on?

Mr. Speaker, in Fort Resolution a local contractor lost out on one such opportunity to an outside contractor, I believe due to a lack of site for contaminated soil. Mr. Speaker, however, how difficult would it be to identify a plot of land, fence it off and develop it for use of a contaminated soil storage and remediation site?

Mr. Speaker, the recreation of a site would bring an immediate benefit to a local economy and possibly even create some employment opportunities. Mr. Speaker, if the community has the capacity to with its own contaminated soils issues, then the Department of Environment and Natural Resources should make every effort to work with the community to do so. Later today, I will have questions for the Minister of ENR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have another great idea. I have been talking about renewable resources, Mr. Speaker, and I want to talk about agriculture today.

Mr. Speaker, why can't we identify tracts of land for agriculture in the Northwest Territories? We have regressed when it come to the area of production of our own food. Mr. Speaker, not that many years ago, boats used to travel down the Mackenzie River and carry fresh fruit to the communities and that product was grown here in the Northwest Territories at many different locations, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, some of the richest land that we know of in Alberta today is in northern Alberta. Mr. Speaker, there are more frost-free days in La Crete, Alberta, than there are in Red Deer and there are fertile soils of the river valleys of the Peace, Athabasca and the Boyer, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, why not agriculture on the Slave or Mackenzie River valleys? This is why, Mr. Speaker: our land is on hold pending the outcome of unsettled land claims. What if claimant governments could earn money from the lease of

their lands for the growing of crops? Good precipitation with our long days of sunlight in the North with no negative impact on the land and a renewable sustainable resource plus food for our people.

Mr. Speaker, the old thinking in crop farming used to be that person only farmed what they owned, but the new and modern way of thinking about this, Mr. Speaker, is for the farmers to actually invest in the equipment, and the workforce and the seed and the product that they need and to actually lease the land so the economies of scale are greater and they can produce. So the idea of having to own the land that you would crop farm is an idea of the past. So leasing the land would not interfere with the interests that our northern aboriginal governments have in the land.

Mr. Speaker, this could be a win/win situation. It would create economy, revenue for claimant groups while land claims are being settled and so on, and the production of crops and food closer to home would drastically reduce the cost, Mr. Speaker.

So to this question today, I will have some points for the Minister of ITI and why not? Why can't we do it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak today to voice my displeasure in this government's inaction as it pertains to implementing a 911 system here in the Northwest Territories.

This is not the first time I have spoken about 911 in this Assembly and today I find myself leading the weigh-in again, because of the absolute absurdity of the argument not to take action by this government.

During debate on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Minister Robert C. McLeod said: "we have to also ensure that this service or any basic service is available to a lot of remote communities we have out there." What the government is doing, Mr. Speaker, or attempting to do, is turn what is a public safety issue and turn it into a have and have-not argument, which is completely unbelievable and completely bizarre.

If Members of this House were to bring forward a motion to get basic cell phone service in all communities in the Northwest Territories, I would be sure they would have the support to get that motion supported by every Member in here.

Why hasn't a motion like that hit the floor of this House and can Cabinet not see the forest through

the trees? How many more of our residents have to be put in peril because our government refuses to help phase in an emergency telephone number that, if implemented, could help save lives? How many coroner's reports have to get stacked upon one another recommending implementation of a 911 service?

Mr. Speaker, we have to start somewhere and if we get the service to 77 percent of our population in the near future, then we need to do that. Mr. Speaker, this should also come with a plan to address the other 23 percent of our population who will require, and absolutely deserve, the same service.

No one is saying don't do it in small communities. We are just saying, from a public safety standpoint, the government just can't continue to sit on its hands. Why can't there be a phased-in approach addressing the needs of all communities?

Mr. Speaker, looking across the floor I see Mr. Lafferty who's largest community of Behchoko would benefit from 911. Mr. Miltenberger from Fort Smith who's community would be a safer place with 911. Mr. Roland and Minister Robert McLeod represent Inuvik, another community that would be safer with 911. Minister Lee and Minister Bob McLeod from Yellowknife, why aren't they supporting a phased-in approach to 911, which would make their constituents safer?

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. RAMSAY:** This is a very passionate issue here and I want to know why aren't the Yellowknife Members on Cabinet supporting a phased-in approach to 911, which would make their constituents safer?

Mr. Speaker, six out of the seven Cabinet Ministers represent constituents that would be included in the beginning phases of a 911 service. Why, then, if you have six out of seven Cabinet Ministers who, one would think, support 911 service in their communities, is this hitting a brick wall, Mr. Speaker? I will have questions for the Minister of MACA at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING IN FORT LIARD

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak about housing in Fort Liard today. When I am talking with my constituents in Fort Liard, I hear that there are few available public housing units. With few homes to rent, there tends to be overcrowding. This has been an ongoing issue.

The community housing needs study completed in 2004 identified that 29 houses, or 16 percent, were overcrowded or did not have enough bedrooms appropriate for the number of people. I don't think that these statistics have improved very much. Residents of Fort Liard require adequate and affordable housing. Adequate housing is necessary for health, especially in this time of H1N1 concerns, as viruses spread when there is overcrowding.

Adequate housing also contributes to children's general health and the ability to learn, develop socially at school and in their community. At the same time as this scarcity of public housing, there are homes available for ownership and more homeownership units planned for construction next year.

The community needs rental housing but is being provided with homeownership units. What is wrong with this picture? Fort Liard is not the only community where this imbalance is occurring. This imbalance is created, by and large, by overdue accounts or arrears to people from accessing previous NWT Housing Corporation programs. Some of these are even decades old, Mr. Speaker. So my assessment is that these homes will be difficult to fill as we have many people in arrears. We need a strategy to address this.

Currently it does seem wrong that houses would stand vacant and become subject to possible vandalism when individuals and families need housing. When there are available homeownership units and no available rental units, can we rent out the homeownership units? There must be some way that we, the NWT Housing Corporation, could offer these homes for rent as this is the biggest need right now in Fort Liard. I urge the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation to work with the hamlet, the ADK Dene Band, to make sure that available housing is utilized in Fort Liard. Mahsi cho.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Determined individuals and groups are working to build agriculture as a new sector in the NWT economy. Success has been variable but increasing overall. Egg production is well established in Hay River and the farmers at Paradise Gardens produce a wide range of vegetables, fruit and meat products for local markets. Many recall the days of yore when fields of grain crops grew in Fort Simpson. Gardens throughout the Mackenzie Valley supply communities and schools. The Cunninghams ran commercial gardens in Yellowknife and everyone,

including trappers like my colleague's father Mike Krutko, in the '30s had gardens. Unfortunately, our Bureau of Stats doesn't monitor agricultural production, but in Yukon, 148 farms and 10,000 hectares had primary sales in 2006 of \$4.1 million. Some Yukon farms span generations, with steady and dependable production.

In August the Territorial Farmers' Association made a presentation to the EDI committee. Based on their members' experience, NWT agricultural operations could readily supply 25 percent of the NWT market for meat, market vegetables and cereals. An investment of only \$7 million into industry expansion would yield an ongoing increase of \$2.7 million per year in the territorial GDP, with dozens of jobs and increased incomes. They concluded that agriculture is technically and economically feasible and that people want to see expansion of the industry.

Obvious benefits of producing our own food extend beyond economics; for example, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, healthier foods and food security. The current lack of a GNWT strategy for agriculture with comprehensive support programs is crippling. Availability of land and an agricultural land use plan making available new agricultural land is required with cooperative interim agreements developing the possibility of leased land in land claim areas.

We have not even been evaluating the extent of agricultural land or the opportunities to provide thoughtful support. Other issues need attention. Fuel taxes for mobile equipment are currently levied on farm machinery. This pricing and the lack of off-road vehicle fuel rebates is damaging to our farming efforts. A further burden is the current restriction to using municipal lands which brings in appropriate municipal assessment rates.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of ITI on these real and abundant opportunities. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OUTFITTERS' LICENCES HELD IN SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to speak to the question in regards to the outfitters in the Mackenzie Mountains and, more importantly, in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the implications of the land claim agreement which clearly describes that any licences held in those areas, if they were up for sale, have to be offered to the First Nations groups in regards to first right of refusal for they have an opportunity to purchase or

decide not to purchase or partner with someone else to purchase a licence.

In regards to the Arctic Red Outfitters, because of the time that was allowed, that opportunity to do a fair comparison look at the possibility of requiring that licence and the cost associated with assets of that business in which you would have to travel to the outfitter's base camp, which is the headwaters of the Arctic Red River which, again, was in the springtime.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the alarming part of the process that just took place is that the licence which was basically being purchased was purchased by a majority of those directors who are Americans in regards to people who are living in Utah who basically have purchased licences who are millionaires who can afford to make this decision and have a front man in regards to how you purchase a licence.

I think that the legislation this government has in place is flawed. It has to be overhauled and we have to ensure that we do not have systems where we have a major land area which is being managed and controlled by people outside of Canada and, more importantly, that that opportunity should be given by way of opportunities to get into the tourism business, the outfitter business for the aboriginal people in those regions so that they can take advantage of an economic opportunity which is in their region or on their doorstep. Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that this government clearly looks at this issue when we review the Wildlife Act, ensure that the wording in the agreement in regards to first right of refusal, management of species and ownership of these outfitter licences has to be looked at.

In light of the circumstances in regards to the situation we see with the Barren Ground caribou issue and the licensing aspect of that and, I think, more importantly, the effects of other species that we see going forward in regards to sheep, moose or even wolverine which we have to look at in regards to how these licences are being used.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister questions on this matter and exactly where this government is going on this matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the gallery, to the presence of the consul general of Japan, Mr. Yasuo Minemura, and along with him is vice consul for information and culture, Ms. Kobayashi. Accompanying them is our very own

chief of protocol, Ms. Carmen Moore, with the Department of the Executive.

Also it gives me great pleasure to welcome constituents of mine in the gallery today, Mr. Gordon and Carol Norberg and their daughter Natasha with us.

The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Arlene Hache, executive director for the Centre for Northern Families and a constituent of Weledeh. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to recognize Gord Norberg and Carol. Gord is a fellow student from Grandin College and a former goalie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a newly elected woman councillor to the City of Yellowknife, Mira Hall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mira Hall, a constituent of Yellowknife Centre and the most recent addition as a YK1 School Board trustee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. JACOBSON:** I would like to recognize Mr. Gordon Norberg originally from Tuk, his wife and his daughter Natasha. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I would like to also recognize Mr. Gordie Norberg and his family. Gordie was the goaltender for the famous Grollier Hall finalists.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. It is always nice to have an audience in here.

Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

### Acknowledgements

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5-16(4): NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF OF DENINU KUE NATION

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to acknowledge the newly elected chief of Deninu K'ue of First Nations, Louis Balsillie.

Last night the DKFN held an election to elect a new chief and council. Louis Balsillie, who was acting chief for the last two years, was elected in a very, very close race.

Recently there had been some issues and uncertainty with respect to the leadership, so it is good to see this issue behind them.

With that, I would like to congratulate Chief Balsillie and the newly elected council. I look forward to working with him. Mahsi cho.

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

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 148-16(4): IMPLEMENTATION OF 911 TELEPHONE SERVICE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions today for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. R.C. McLeod. I guess I should apologize to Mr. Michael McLeod. I know the Hay River Reserve is in his riding, which would also benefit from the implementation of a 911 service here in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. So if you look at the entire Cabinet, every one of them touches a community that would benefit greatly from the implementation of a 911 service here in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister of MACA if he could provide me with an explanation on why the government can't come forward with a workable implementation plan on a 911 service that addresses how the service could be provided in all communities across the Northwest Territories that want it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, safety is always one of our biggest concerns as a Cabinet. The Member makes a good point. We all here have communities that would potentially benefit from a 911 service. I have said on a few occasions that the communities have it within their power and they have the means to provide the service to their residents if they decide it is a priority for their community. I have also said

that there are a couple of communities that are working on trying to enhance their emergency services before they take the next step into planning and implementing 911. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I appreciate the response from the Minister, but does the government not have an obligation to all residents across the Northwest Territories to come up with an implementation plan on a 911 service that is workable across the entire Territory? If it has to be started by being phased in in some of the larger communities, so be it. I would like to ask the Minister, why is the government not working towards a phased-in approach of a 911 service here in the Northwest Territories for communities that are ready, willing and able to participate with the government to let that happen? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, in a lot of jurisdictions across the country it is the municipal government that provides the 911 service and funds it themselves. That is a position that we have taken, is that the communities have the financial ability to implement 911 if they choose to do so. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, so I guess what I am hearing the Minister say is the size of community does matter, the ability to pay does matter. I don't agree with that premise. I guess the next question I have to ask the Minister is: can the Minister tell me which communities in the Northwest Territories today have the ability to pay for a 911 service themselves? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we provide capital funding to the communities. We also provide gas tax funding to the communities. The seven communities in question that are mentioned in the report, between them they have \$17 million in their capital infrastructure dollars and their gas tax money. They would be able to fund it. There is some concern from some of the other communities about a central dispatch not being in their community. They are just afraid that it would have the same effect as if you had to call the RCMP sometimes. They do forward you on to Yellowknife. So there is a concern with that too. But the communities do have the means to implement a 911 service if that is what they chose to do. Thank you.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister would be -- and it sounds like the government has already made a decision on this -- are they not going to help communities across the Northwest Territories implement the 911 service in the seven communities that are identified in the report? The government is washing its hands of that and letting the communities do it themselves. Is that what I'm hearing? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, washing our hands of anything is not something that we do. We provide money to the communities to look after their infrastructure. They have that authority. It is an authority that a lot of communities have wanted. We will work with the communities as far as coming up with the plan. We are always willing to work with the communities, Mr. Speaker. For us to come back and say, well, we are going to do this, I think it defeats the purpose of devolving a lot of responsibility on to the community. So, Mr. Speaker, the communities have it within their means to implement 911 service when they feel it's a priority in their community, and safety is always a priority. That's why we've had some communities say that they want to enhance their ability to respond to accidents before they have 911 services in their communities, because all of us in here know somebody or have had somebody that could have used this service, but right now some of the communities want to be able to build up their emergency services before looking at 911. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 149-16(4):  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, Mr. Speaker, are for the Minister of ITI and follow in line with Mr. Hawkins' and Mr. Bromley's statements today. Mr. Speaker, the topic of agriculture and advancing agriculture in the Northwest Territories is something that I don't feel has been given the attention it deserves, considering its potential. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI if any work has been done by his department in identifying the economic potential of enhancing and increasing agriculture in the Northwest Territories.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to think of the biggest word I could use to describe what a good idea it is to promote agriculture. So my colleague suggested I use supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. But the Department of ITI has been trying to promote and develop the agriculture sector for some time and we've done some work over the years and we do sector strategies in all areas and certainly agriculture is one of them. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** In order to conduct agricultural activities on any scale that could go some ways towards the percentages that have been referred to, land is required and, of course,

land outside of municipalities, at least in the South Slave, that would be suitable for this endeavour is land that is mostly not available for sale or for private ownership due to unsettled land claims. Does the Minister see his department having any role in identifying and perhaps brokering a deal between folks who have traditional claim to the land and those who may want to use it for a sustainable and low-impact activity such as agriculture? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The Member correctly points out the inherent challenges in agriculture and farming in the Northwest Territories is lack of access to land. The many examples that were used, I know in Fort Providence there was a large attempt at introducing farming and ranching in the 1980s and that failed mainly because of the lack of access to land, amongst other challenges. But certainly our government works through land claims negotiations. We don't have access to lands, we don't own lands as such other than the federal government owns the majority of the lands, the other large landholders are aboriginal governments. We, through devolution, are hoping to work toward getting management and control of lands and we are also working on a land use framework that would identify areas that would be utilized for agriculture, forestry, other resource development at the time when we do achieve devolution.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Not wanting to be pessimistic about the conclusion of all those kinds of activities that the Minister is referring to, I've lived in the Northwest Territories 35 years and the progress has been very, very slow. I don't want to ascribe blame to the federal or territorial governments or to the claimant groups. I mean, the fact of the matter is that these lands are not available now and yet they could be used and the claimant groups could derive revenue, the person creating the agricultural activity on the land could generate revenue and we could produce crops and food closer to the people who live in the Northwest Territories. So I would ask the Minister, given this current set of circumstances and situation, is there anything that his department could do to broker some kind of an arrangement where people could lease land for agricultural purposes? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We've already identified the municipality of Hay River, for example, the process by which they could access land for agricultural purposes and that they could tax it at a lower rate for the benefit of the farmers and that process is there.

With regard to the other land claims, the Dehcho Land Claim negotiation, the Metis Land Claim negotiation, the Akaitcho negotiations, all of those are under interim protection. So the aboriginal governments could be approached, they haven't indicated that they would be open to those kind of

negotiations. The other areas where they have settled land claims, I'm sure they're willing to negotiate areas of land that could be made available for agriculture for the right prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to know where that land is that's been made available in the Hay River area. I'm not aware of it. But, Mr. Speaker, are there already existing programs within ITI, within the Government of the Northwest Territories, because obviously it takes a fair amount of money when you're breaking land from raw land and the equipment and everything that's required. Are there funds and support and interest on the part of ITI in assisting proponents who may be interested in becoming involved in this activity? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Presently we have a Small Market Garden Initiative whereby we make equipment available in communities that are interested in participating so that they could grow potatoes, vegetables and what have you, and 18 of the 33 communities have taken advantage of that program and are growing vegetables and so on. We have the Growing Forward Agreement that was recently renewed with the federal government that provides assistance on a number of areas to promote agriculture, and those are the two primary areas that we're involved in. Also, we're trying to find ways to promote more local production in a number of food sectors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 150-16(4):  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on the questions from my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen. Agriculture obviously presents many opportunities for good jobs that last for generations, are sustainable, provide local employment, they have lots of economic spinoffs in construction, transportation, the service industry and so on. The question of land remains as a big issue and apparently the only opportunity that's readily available is municipal lands.

We met with the Territorial Farmers' Association. They need to know what lands are available, what lands had been zoned agriculture and what are available. Will the Minister commit to simply inventorying the current lands that are zoned agricultural in municipalities and make it available to the Territorial Farmers' Association, that

information along with whether or not it's available, already being used or available? Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be quite prepared to research that, although I suspect there won't be much space identified on a map. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Work currently is underway in Yellowknife through private contract to investigate how an integrated look at food security can improve living conditions for all here in Yellowknife. This is work that the department should be doing or at least promoting and participating in, providing leadership and support in all regions of the Northwest Territories. What is the government doing or what can it be doing to provide support for this beyond simply establishing community gardens? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We have our normal tool kit of business programs that are available to anybody who wants to pursue farming. We've gone and met with Arctic Farmer, for example, I've been to Hay River on numerous occasions, I've attended meetings of the Territorial Farmers' Association, so we are definitely aware of the potential for agriculture and we are looking to find ways to provide additional support to those people who are interested in getting into the agricultural activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate those comments from the Minister. I'm glad to hear he's out there and becoming aware of this issue. That's certainly the place to start. In fact, the Territorial Farmers' Association have indicated to us that better communication with the Minister and the department would help them build on the opportunities that may be out there.

The Minister has indicated that he could approach land claim governments that are negotiating land claims through the interim land agreements that are in place right now. And that's what we're all about here today, Mr. Speaker, is developing the political will to do this. There are a million things we could be doing. Will the Minister approach those governments and establish what lands they would be willing to zone agricultural under long-term lease conditions? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As a government, we have a process for participating in the various land claims and self-government organizations, and we do have a process for identifying issues for our negotiators to raise. Certainly I'll communicate the Member's interests to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that commitment. I'll look forward to that enthusiastic endorsement and some action from this department.

On the last one, the off-road fuel rebates have not been provided to the Territorial Farmers and that's a big one. Obviously they're paying the non-motive fuel tax, or the motive fuel tax and this is crippling the organization. There's clear opportunity for providing some rebates and addressing that question. Will the Minister commit to getting that straightforward resolution taken care of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** This is an issue that has been raised by other sectors such as the fishermen, the trappers, and this is something that I'll raise with my colleague, the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 151-16(4):  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to continue on this mini theme day and the spontaneity of the issue. The issue being raised today is simply how do we promote agriculture in the Northwest Territories and produce something that's of value and useful, Mr. Speaker.

One of the initiatives brought forward by the federal government, in partnership with the Minister of ITI, is the Growing Forward Program. If I understand it correctly, it's a three or four-year program. It's at \$3.2 million. But in speaking to industry people, there's a fair bit of confusion around. You know, there are five programs, are the programs tied together, and the caps on the programs of up to \$10,000, and that's a real issue, because if you're trying to invest into net initiatives, that's hardly any money to even bothering to get them started. So maybe if the Minister could provide some enlightenment around that situation so we can find out, are there caps of \$10,000 and are the programs tied together to be useful, because otherwise they're not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a number of programs that are covered under the Growing Forward Initiative, and I could go through and list them all or...These include small scale foods, which has a budget of \$700,000 over the period of the agreement; northern hydro foods, which has a budget of \$380,000; commercial game harvest, \$320,000; traditional harvest, \$1.160

million; inter-settlement trade, \$120,000; environment, \$40,000; Bison Strategy, \$200,000; national strategic initiatives, \$334,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for providing that type of detail. Mr. Speaker, I think part of that speaks to some of this problem. As I said in my Member's statement, there is potential to produce beef, pork, chicken, et cetera, and, as we all know, there is reindeer farming and even the Minister had highlighted, probably from his time of knowing about the cattle industry in his home area of Providence, Mr. Speaker. But in the programs that he described, there's very little money set out for the traditional aspect of agriculture and development, of growing things and producing farm animals. Mr. Speaker, how much money is there available for those types of activities and is there a cap on that, that \$10,000 cap I referred to? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I thought the Member was asking me about the Growing Forward Agreement, but I guess he's looking at other programs that are offered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Certainly we have other programs through our SEED program, and I think that's where he's come up with this \$10,000 cap. One of the programs under SEED, there's a cap of \$10,000.

We have other contribution programs, applications programs. We even have loan programs. So we have flexibility in working with the different people that are interested in agriculture.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister describes the program as SEED, and that's quite rightly so, because that's how some of the folks producing things sort of say that the grants are, about this big, because they seem pretty small. That's a good description, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, trying to get some understanding of this Growing Forward Program, why is hunting and trapping under the Growing Forward Program? If it is so, could you clarify that here today? Because that's a real issue for somebody out there who wants to tap into this and, as I mentioned, there's the cranberry industry out there, and those types of things need real solid investment. So could we get some clarity on that? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I think the definitions of traditional harvest can be interpreted quite broadly so that it's not restricted to specifically hunting and fishing, for example. So on that basis, it can be used for a number of different purposes. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there was someone out there today in this existing market, or I should say in this existing climate,

wanting to make this type of investment to develop a greenhouse, produce local herds, maybe some vegetables, potatoes, that type of thing, what type of program would the Minister recommend to be useful without a cap in order for them to be able to get enough money to do something useful? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Certainly we would like to approach it on a businesslike basis, so we have a number of loan programs, a number of contribution programs that we can work with interested individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 152-16(4):  
OUTFITTERS' LICENCES HELD IN  
SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Arctic Red River Outfitters and, more importantly, the Mackenzie River Outfitters who through the land claims process there were lands negotiated in those areas, there were agreements signed in regard to access agreements with the outfitters who were present at the time of the claims being settled. There were agreements made and also in the land claim agreements, in the Gwich'in agreement in regard to 12.7.4 which talks about commercial natural activities and commercial guiding outfitting activities respecting hunting and sport fishing which gives the Gwich'in exclusive rights to get into that business, but also to be able to obtain those licences once they, basically, come up for sale. Yet, Mr. Speaker, this process has happened three times in the Gwich'in settlement region and every time the economics were just not there in regard to the price that was being requested. But yet, Mr. Speaker, in the land claim agreements it also talks about the right for employment and opportunities with those outfitter businesses, and yet very few aboriginal people and Gwich'in individuals have been hired by the Arctic Red Outfitters to work in this field and also take advantage of those opportunities.

So, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the land claim obligations, the access and benefit agreements that give them access to the Gwich'in lands in their area of operations, with these licences changing it does not transfer those access agreements to those licensed holders. In regard to the existing Wildlife Act and the land claim agreements, there's conflict in responsibilities in which you have an outdated Wildlife Act, you have a modern treaty. So I'd like to ask the Minister, what is this government doing to ensure that those legislated, protected rights and the land claim agreements are upheld regardless if we have a new Wildlife Act or not, and what is this

government doing to ensure that those rights are being implemented? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to this particular issue referred to by the Member, due process was followed and the Gwich'in exercised their rights and declined to exercise their right of first refusal. But it has pointed out some other issues and, as the Member indicated, we have an outdated piece of legislation -- the Wildlife Act -- that needs to be remedied, which we are doing, and we intend to have a new Wildlife Act before this House, hopefully passed in the life of this Assembly.

We also recognize the circumstance between the Gwich'in and the Sahtu. There's an overlap issue in that you can only have right of first refusal, by definition, once, and it's pointed to an area that I've committed to the Member for the Sahtu that we are going to sort out over the coming months of fall and winter and hopefully have it resolved by spring. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, again, these land claim agreements are constitutionally protected, they clearly describe what rights the First Nations groups have. Again, as part of those negotiations there were access and benefit agreements negotiated with the operators at the time to have certain rights to access, cross-use and also that there were also obligations from the outfitters to the land claim groups that they would provide certain opportunities to the land claim organizations. So where does this government stand on those access and benefit agreements that were negotiated with the outfitters and if the outfitter changes hands they have an obligation to negotiate a new access and benefit agreement?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** It's our intention as a government to honour all our obligations. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, again, I think that the information that's now coming to the surface in regard to the sale of the Arctic Red River licence to a new operator, which we find out that the majority of the directors of that business are Americans and live in Utah, and they are seen as the proponent of the purchasers of this licence because they have deep pockets. So I'd just like to ask the Minister, will you look at the whole area of eligibility and ensure that these licences are held either by Canadians or people in the Northwest Territories or First Nations to ensure that whenever you issue a licence that you scrutinize exactly who the directors are and ensure that those people are either Canadian citizens or look at exactly how these licences are being purchased and who is

purchasing these licences during the review period? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As I indicated, we are intent upon honouring all our obligations, recognizing that there are other considerations when it comes to who can own licences, the need to recognize the trade between different jurisdictions and such. But I take the Member's point and we are working it. On this particular issue there have been a number of things that have been brought to light that we've committed to clearing up in the coming months. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of his directing to change the Wildlife Act, can some of these changes be done to date in regard to changing the regulations that a lot of these obligations fall under? They don't follow under the Wildlife Act, they follow in regard to the obligations under the outfitter licensing act. So I'd like to ask the Minister, can he consider looking at the obligations under the existing legislation and change those without having to have a thorough change of the Wildlife Act or do a combination of both? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The process we've embarked on when this issue came to light is to consult with, of course, other departments, the aboriginal governments, the stakeholders, the management boards, to come up, over the coming months, with, hopefully, some resolution, advice and recommendations of how to remedy this issue in its entirety. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 153-16(4):  
OUTFITTERS' LICENCES HELD IN  
SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, in terms of the questions that Mr. Krutko, the Mackenzie Delta MLA, has been asking in regard to the outfitters. The bigger picture here that I want to ask this Minister is confirming that the government is taking all the appropriate steps to ensure that full legal compliance with the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in regard to this issue and probably to other issues that are going to be looked at.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are taking the steps, attempting to take the steps to be in full compliance, recognizing that this particular licence issue has brought to light

the complexity of the right of first refusal in two jurisdictions where there's an overlap of the licence. I've committed in writing to the Member for Sahtu to the process I just outlined to the Member for Mackenzie Delta of what we intend to do over the coming months to try to remedy this situation. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, certainly the Member for the Mackenzie Delta has brought some issues here. Mr. Speaker, I've been reviewing the access agreement between the outfitters and the respective land claim organizations and there is certainly a lot of compliance that the outfitters have not done in the Sahtu region. So that's why I asked this question.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister again for his definition in terms of first rights of refusal, you have two constitutionally protected land claim agreements called modern treaties, they both have right of first refusal clauses. Who, I guess, within his department is saying we should look at the Gwich'in, because the majority of the outfitting licence is operating in the Gwich'in, or we look at the Sahtu where a small percentage of the outfitter licence is operating? How can the Minister, again, by the definition, say, well, we'll look over one agreement in terms of another agreement and say, okay, that will also apply in the Sahtu? I ask the Minister again in terms of that definition, could he help me with how did he get to that and talk to the people?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member has laid out the legal challenge that we have before us where you have two competing rights of first refusal and a licence holder and a licence that overlaps in the two regions. We have, as I've indicated, people in our department, we are working with the Department of Justice, we are working with the aboriginal governments, we're going to talk to the stakeholders and the management boards about how do we deal with this situation that in all probability was not anticipated as these agreements were all signed off. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** When I was with the Sahtu Tribal Council as chief negotiator and negotiated these agreements in good faith with Canada, the GNWT, and certainly we fought hard with the outfitters in terms of these rights here. So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to discussion with the Minister on how to resolve this particular legal issue here.

I would ask the Minister, can he confirm that any changes to the ownership by an outfitter requires that a new outfitter's licence be applied for?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I don't have the detail that the Member has referred to, but I will, once again, commit that we want to honour all our requirements and our obligations in this process within the land claim acts and within all

the policies and regulations that govern us, to make sure that we avoid this kind of circumstance in the future. We've indicated we have some work to do and we are going to do that. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the Member for Mackenzie Delta and probably myself look forward to working with the Minister on the new Wildlife Act. Certainly, in between now and then, as the Member for Mackenzie Delta has alluded to in terms of some of the changes that we could foresee in terms of working with the land claim organizations, these are the aboriginal governments for our region.

In this issue here with the outfitter, would the Minister be committed to coming to sit down with the two respective land claim organizations and look at the issues that we need to resolve? How do we protect the constitutionally protected document in terms of honouring the agreement and stating that the agreement as it was intended to be is protected by the Constitution?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I have stated in the House that we have committed and initiated a process involving other government departments, the aboriginal governments, management boards and other stakeholders over the coming months to put this issue on the table, peel this complex onion to see where it takes us and look at what happened, what steps we need to take to resolve the circumstance and the situation to ensure we comply with the land claim agreements and all our other obligations. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### QUESTION 154-16(4):

##### NEED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING IN FORT LIARD

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation some questions in regard to my Member's statement. I was speaking about that I am pleased that there is a nice, strong housing program in Fort Liard. The residents are very pleased to see all of these units coming up, but during my last visit, the concern was that, okay, we have lots of people in arrears. Have they got active clients for these new homeownership homes in Fort Liard? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We currently have 12 applications for the homeownership units in Fort Liard. We are just doing another intake as we speak. We will be

processing the applicants and hopefully finding some that are qualified for homeownership. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** As I said in my Member's statement, the concern in Fort Liard is actually we would like to see more public housing units. I know that we are not building those, but as a suggestion and perhaps as part of the strategy for delivering homes in Fort Liard, do we have the ability to convert these homeownership homes should they continue to remain vacant? There are already three of them boarded up there, Mr. Speaker, due to the lack of clients. Can we convert these to public housing units? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The boarded up units are ones that there is an issue going on with those. I am not at liberty to speak about them right now. If there are no clients identified for some of the homeownership units, I can tell the Member there are six public housing units that will be going up in Fort Liard too. If there are no clients for the homeownership units, then we will need to have that discussion with the Housing Corporation and see how best we can put people in the units. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** That is the kind of flexibility that we need with the NWT Housing Program. Fort Liard is a community of about 500 people. There is overcrowding. There are homes with about two or three families. They are waiting for these units. My issue is that a lot of people do have arrears, Mr. Speaker. Some of them are decades old, from some old programming, but it still remains on the books. I would like to ask the Minister, when they come across this issue, can they develop a strategy to address this so that we get people into houses and not let an old arrear bill be a hindrance to access our affordable and accessible program? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we understand the Member's concern; it has been a concern raised by many Members before. We are trying to come up with and working on a strategy to work with clients to address some of the arrears and they can then qualify for some of the housing programs. One thing we want to be sure is that we need to have the engagement of the clients to come up with a repayment plan that is workable for them and workable for the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Does the Minister or does the NWT Housing Corporation have the ability to convert these homeownership houses over to public housing if there is an opportunity? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we are trying to be as flexible as possible in putting people in units. These are homeownership units. If clients cannot be found and if every avenue is exhausted, then we will need to have that discussion as to what to do with the units. If there are some creative ways we can work to get people in the unit, then obviously we'd be more willing to have a look at that and work with the Member.

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

QUESTION 155-16(4):

CONTAMINATED SOIL SITES AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS IN LUTSELK'E

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about a site for contaminated soil. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Can the Minister advise this House who has the responsibility for cleaning up spills such as fuel spills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would depend on where the fuel spill occurs, in municipal boundaries, outside municipal boundaries, private property. There is a significant responsibility as we heard from the Member for Great Slave when he talked about leaky fuel tanks when it goes on your own property. Chances are you are going to be charged with that responsibility. There are a number of questions that we would have to figure out the answer to, to clearly answer that question. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Can the Minister advise me if he is aware of who has the financial responsibility for fuel spills that are not necessarily within people's properties or maybe within the areas outside people's properties and more on the municipality roadways or ditches and so on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** If it is on GNWT property, then the GNWT would be responsible. If it is on federal property, the federal government would be responsible. I think back to the major spill at the college in Fort Smith where they had tanks that leaked for a number of years. It was a massive clean-up. I would suggest that the owner of the property would have a primary responsibility. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise us if there are any deterrents to creating a contaminated soil site in Fort Resolution? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Without knowing the specifics, I could just indicate to the

Member, I know that when they had the major fuel spill at the college in Fort Smith, out at the landfill site they fenced off a fairly large area and they dug it out. They put in a big membrane and they did all the things necessary under that particular policy to set up a contaminated site area and they put all the dirt out there and they turned it over the years. It is possible. It has been done just down the road in Fort Smith. It is an issue of finding some assistance to get it done and identifying the land where it would occur. Thank you.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit to having the environmental protection staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources work with the community of Fort Resolution to work towards creating a contaminated soil remediation site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** My first commitment would be to work and talk to the Member to get a bit more information. The contaminated site area in Fort Smith was done to help remediate a very specific major spill. If there are issues in the community that would justify that kind of investment, what the Member has in mind in terms of a plan going forward, those are all the types of things that we need to talk about first and then we can involve the appropriate staff, instead of a meeting with myself and a deputy, to further discuss this issue. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 156-16(4):

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT IN COME SUPPORT OFFICE IN YELLOWKNIFE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I spoke in my Member's statement about some of the difficulties that some of my constituents have encountered in trying to access their client support officers at the income support office here in Yellowknife. I did want to express these are difficulties my clients have encountered. I don't mean to say that all the staff that work over there create these difficulties, but there obviously are some problems that are encountered. My first question to the Minister is whether or not he can explain to me, or I hope he can explain to me, the rationale for the hands-off approach or the hands-off action that income support reception desk takes. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we deal with a number of

clientele within the Northwest Territories and specifically for larger centres such as Yellowknife, we do have individuals that, whether they be a receptionist or a secretary at the front desk, should be able to assist clients whenever they approach the office, assisting them to connect to client service officers. They are certainly there to assist. There are certain hours of the day that they operate under, because it is under the federal building within the hours of operation. Those individuals should be there to assist with the clientele to forward them to client service officers. Mr. Speaker, they are there to provide services. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** I thank the Minister for the answer. I guess if that is the policy that the receptionist or the secretary is there to provide assistance, perhaps the Minister ought to check in to see what actually happens and send in a few secret shoppers, so to speak. Because my information is that income support clients are not necessarily being assisted.

I mentioned in my statement that many clients have difficulty getting in touch with their client service officer, or their CSO, when they happen to be away. There doesn't seem to be any sort of file backup or whatever. When a client's officer is away, nobody else seems to take charge. What policies are in place to help those clients who are in need when their own CSO is not available? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, we currently do not have a written policy specific to those individuals if the client service officer is away. But we do have a backup plan where in a larger centre such as Yellowknife, we have an on-call duty officer that takes those calls. If there are inquiries, then that individual follows through with that. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, that on-call duty officer also takes calls and is accessible any time, even without appointments. But in those communities outside Yellowknife, certainly we have client service officers going to the communities from a regional perspective. They do provide services in that venue. Certainly with the Yellowknife perspective, we have individuals who are dedicated to answer those calls that are coming in. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I accept the explanation of the on-call system, but again I would have to say that this is a system that is not working. The experience of the constituents that I have heard from is that they go to reception, they are told to make a phone call, they phone their CSO who doesn't happen to be there. There is then no opportunity for them to speak to anybody else. The receptionist doesn't help them. They are not transferred to the on-call duty officer. Again, I think the Minister needs to do some investigation into this.

I understand that there's confidentiality issues and that not anybody can speak to particular clients, but I guess my question again to the Minister with

regards to this on-call system is: if I phone my CSO and he or she is not there, how then do I get through to the on-call person if the receptionist won't help me?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, the on-call duty officer can certainly assist those clientele whenever a client service officer is not available due to whether it be vacation or on sick leave. So those areas and the filing system is also taken care of. There is strictly a confidentiality that every client service officer respects and takes into consideration. So whenever there's a client that's calling into the receptionist, the receptionist should provide assistance, support, and also the phone numbers of certain individuals that they can contact. I do believe that they should provide those services. If not, then certainly I'll commit today to look further within my department. If there's an issue there, we should deal with it. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the commitment from the Minister to look into this. It's my understanding that clients very often have to leave the office without ever having talked to a CSO when their own is away, so there's something wrong with the system.

Lastly, it suggests to me, from the experiences that I've heard about, that there are a few basic office procedures which aren't being followed or aren't evident from within the office. I come from a service background myself, so I find it hard to understand why there's no things like an e-mail out of office reply which is automatically used, why there's not a voice mail message on people's phones which indicates that they're out of the office. So I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not that's standard practice for this office in Yellowknife and/or all income support offices. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, yes, the auto reply, whether by e-mail or phone call, is a standard procedure that we use in our office, whether it be Yellowknife or other communities. If it's not being used, certainly those areas need to be looked at. Mr. Speaker, the procedure is in place and it's just a matter of following through with that. So I'll certainly make a commitment again to look into those areas. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 157-16(4):  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE  
FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I was speaking to the Food Mail Program in my riding of Nunakput and more or less all over the Beaufort-Delta and the

Sahtu in the small communities. Considering there's northern nutrition and considering that only 62 percent of each dollar spent within the Food Mail Program actually results in reduced prices, the rest is being lost between Canada Post and they say the airlines, but I think it's more the local stores not passing it along to the person who's buying the groceries, the retailer.

Will this government work progressively with the Members of this Legislative Assembly and the Government of Canada to adopt changes to the Food Mail Program that will ensure that each dollar of the subsidy is visible and accountable to the northern consumer to actually assist residents in the small, remote communities to eat healthy and live healthy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister responsible for...Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the Food Mail Program is probably long overdue for an overhaul and I think many Members in this House have recognized that. We've had some discussions over the years as to possible changes. Our desire was to see this review finally come to reality in the last couple of years. In 2008 there was a review through the federal government with an assignment with a number of consultants to do an evaluation and, more recently, there were further reviews that are ongoing that we are hoping will make the necessary changes.

At the request of the Members of this House, we did talk to INAC and they responded to our request that was posed for them to come and make a presentation to the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning on September 21<sup>st</sup>. They did come and do that and reported a number of the findings and recommendations that they are looking at.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, there are three scenarios, three options that they are reviewing and will be considering and making a decision on in the near future. The first one is the concept of using a point of sale system that would allow the retailer to discount the item based on the INAC subsidy level. The second option is the freight retail subsidy where the retailer would claim a subsidy for eligible food shipped to retail locations, and the third is a revised transportation subsidy and that would allow for a number of changes to the existing program such as modifying the eligible food, modifying entry points and adjusting the current subsidy rates and dealing with some of the shipping issues and rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Given the cost of living in most northern communities, it makes healthy living a luxury only for the privileged that can afford it. Currently the residents of Nunakput could pay up to \$10 for a small bag of salad. Given the current

approach, it seems just not to revise the status quo. Mr. Speaker, this government has to place the current review changes to the Food Mail Program a priority and get involved in regards to the point of sale. That is what I would like to see, an actual...When you go to the store, you will have two prices, the price that the store paid and the price of the cost of shipping. Would the Minister work with us to see if that could happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** The Department of Transportation has taken the lead role on this whole review and also has been providing oversight on the Food Mail Program for quite a few years now, and we are working and have partnered up with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and the Department of Health, and we are looking at the options and looking to see what are the benefits and the pros and cons of each option that has been put forward.

Indian Affairs has had their representatives come and make their presentation to committee. I am sure every Member will be in a position to make their comments directly to INAC.

We, of course, will be happy to accommodate any Members that want to make a recommendation or have discussion with our staff. Of course, Mr. Speaker, there has been some indication through the Rural and Remote committee to have further discussion. I believe there was a real desire to have a recommendation brought forward from them and we are still waiting to see if that discussion is going to take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. JACOBSON:** I really want to work with the Minister with regard to this and Rural and Remote committee. We know how important this is to our people in the small, remote communities, people on income support, people with big families that are having to struggle with the high cost of living and trying to feed their kids right now, Mr. Speaker. The biggest thing is getting in to speak with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to get this rectified sooner rather than later. People are going hungry in the communities, Mr. Speaker, and we have to do something soon. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** We are always looking for opportunities to reduce the costs of living in the communities. This is an excellent way to do it. We have roughly 18 communities that take part and take advantage of the Food Mail Program as it exists. However, we are still a very small percentage in terms of the overall budget that is set out for the rest of Canada and we'd be very happy to see what the recommendations are from the Members. If there was a submission the Member wants to make, we'd be glad to forward that. We'd also be very pleased to share our recommendations, once that's formalized and presented to committee, and have that brought

forward for the federal government's consideration. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a final, short supplementary, Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to let the Minister know I sent a letter about two and a half weeks ago to Indian and Northern Affairs regarding the point of sale concept. I'd like to see that implemented in the local stores in the communities. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister that anything he's going to do with Indian and Northern Affairs, if he could keep me apprised as he goes forward and any updates from the Minister. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** We'd be pleased to include all the Members that are involved in the program and all the Members that represent communities in the program and the appropriate committee as to our next steps and our actions that we'll be following through with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 7, oral questions.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

### Oral Questions (Reversion)

#### QUESTION 158-16(4): SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTING TO FORMER MINISTERS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and they follow up on the issue of contracts let at the ministerial level to prior Ministers and high-level government officials.

Recent revelations on the practices of sole-source contracting point out an absence of definition in contracting and verification of deliverables, poor or meaningless justifications for granting contracts on a sole-sourced basis, a lack of consideration or ignorance of possible conflicting interests of contractors, very slow disclosure of contracting activity, weakness of restrictions on acceptance of contracts by former senior politicians and senior officials, and sole-sourced contracts going to southern firms for services that might have been supplied by NWT businesses.

I'll be raising some of these issues through the Board of Management, through a letter, to see if

those can be addressed, but in the meantime can the Premier say what measures he will be putting in place now to ensure that contracts are written to provide detailed and explicit definition of services and deliverables, and that the decision to sole source is justified with detailed and meaningful justifications as to why the sole-source recipient is the only possible source of the service, and including specific justification of the need to hire southern rather than northern firms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has asked a number of questions in that one item. There was a fair bit of information there and I'll have to get back to the Member once I have a chance to review the Hansard as to all the details he's requested in that question. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that that was quite an extensive question. Perhaps to start with, what are the mechanisms for tuning up our contracting processes at the ministerial level? I'll just note that when talking to bureaucrats they have to jump through a lot of hoops before they issue a sole-sourced contract, for example. That doesn't seem to be the case here. It's a rubberstamp, identical wording on all of them. So what are the tune-ups? What are the options for tuning up this process that the Premier can envision? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Instead of going into a process of what my opinion might be on some of this work, what we would be prepared to do is take the items, for example, we have a number of contracting sources or ways of getting services from contractors out there, sole sources. One of them is by invitational tender, negotiated contract, public tender, RFPs, RFQs. What I'd be prepared to do is, if Members want to see a particular area looked at, I would be prepared to go to my Cabinet colleagues to see what areas were there and bring a paper back for discussion through committee. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I'll assume that when the Premier does review the Hansard, he will have my list of suggestions for him and his colleagues in Cabinet to look at. Can the Premier also state his view on whether or not we should establish a registration for lobbyists to declare their various interests for the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Once again, the Member is asking my opinion, my view on something. Again, we have a contracting process in place. If Members want to see something like a registry occur in the Northwest Territories, we'd have to have that discussion as a full body and decide where we would go with that. Thank you.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that my having raised this, then, will cause the Premier to bring it forward for discussion.

The last one, really, is the justifications on sole-sourced contracts, the unbelievable hoops that our bureaucrats have to jump through to let a sole-sourced contract and yet we're using a rubberstamp with the same old wording saying these are uniquely qualified companies here. That doesn't do it, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking for how the Premier will investigate ways to bump that up in a transparent and a much more accountable way so that we can have confidence in our sole-sourced contracts. Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** As a government, we're prepared to work with Members of the Legislative Assembly. I know there's a lot of interest in different areas by all Members, whether it is a contracting issue or an income security question and so on and so forth for ourselves. If Members of this Assembly want to see some changes, we're prepared to work with Members.

The Member has raised this issue on a number of occasions during this sitting. We've provided him information. I've said that if Members want to see a change to this, we would work with members of the committee. So if standing committee wants to write a letter to us to suggest changes, we're prepared to look at those. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 159-16(4):  
LICENSING OF OUTFITTERS HELD IN  
SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue on my questions to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources in regard to outfitter activities in the Mackenzie Mountains. Mr. Speaker, the magnitude of this issue is that there are eight outfitters licensed by the GNWT that cover 51,000 square miles in the Mackenzie Mountains. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the outfitters' activity there, does his department monitor the agreements between the GNWT and the groups there in terms of an outfitter's agreement, in terms of employment or in terms of agreed things that should be happening between the communities and the licensed outfitters?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wherever ENR has a role to play, it's my understanding that we are complying. If there are other departments involved in terms of

monitoring the employment and those types of things, I'm not in a position necessarily to speak to that. But I know, as a government, our intent is to fully comply and monitor where we have an obligation. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** In terms of the monitoring, I would ask the Minister, if his department could review the obligations in terms of this government, the aboriginal governments and the invited guests, the outfitters, in terms of the agreements here? In terms of monitoring, there are certain provisions within our regulations that would be very helpful in terms of working on a committed agreement by our communities and the outfitters in terms of employment, in terms of wildlife meat coming into the communities. Can the Minister look at having a review if all parties could sit down and see where we could strengthen this agreement?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** On the outfitters in terms of the ownership, can the Minister confirm if there have been no changes to the ownership of the Arctic Red Outfitters and that there's no licence that needs to be changed in terms of this issue? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** My understanding was that the issue of concern was that in fact the licence had changed hands and there was concern about whether due process was followed. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd certainly be anxious to look at the due process in terms of this licence. I'll ask the Minister again in terms of the outfitters and in terms of the wildlife officers that do monitor the outfitters in terms of wildlife meat, my understanding is there's just over 8,000 pounds of meat that's being taken out by the outfitters and that is equivalent to about \$75,000 worth if you were to buy that in a retail store. Can the Minister confirm to me or answer to me in terms of this wildlife food that's being taken out, that every part of this wildlife food is being distributed to the communities in the Sahtu or Gwich'in or Deh Cho communities?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As far as I'm aware, that is the practice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 160-16(4):  
OUTFITTERS' LICENCES HELD IN  
SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the questions about the outfitters, I think one

of the integrated regulatory boards that we seemed to have missed here or, basically, I just noted, is the green resource boards in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the Sahtu. We have a regulatory system that's changed the management of wildlife and the regulatory boards that we established under the land claim agreements. I'd just like to ask the Minister exactly what is the role of the boards when it comes to outfitter licence? Because under the land claim agreements it specifically states that they would be an instrument for wildlife management in the settlement areas where the boards shall have the following powers: to establish the policies and report regulations in respect to harvesting of wildlife by any person, and it also lists under three commercial activities relating to wildlife, including commercial establishment of facilities, commercial harvesting, and then it also goes on to B, which is guiding and outfitting services. So under the land claim agreements, the boards have responsibilities in that general area.

So in light of the situation that happened between the Gwich'in and the Sahtu regions where you have two regions where an outfitter licence overlaps, you have two boards which overlap, I'd like to ask the Minister what role do the renewable resource councils play in the decision of acquiring a licence and also overseeing those licences?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're talking a situation that involves dual jurisdictions, it involves conflicting rights of first refusal. I've indicated in this House that we've initiated a process within the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the aboriginal governments, with the management boards and stakeholders over the coming months to look at this whole issue in relation to how we do business, our obligations under the land claims and the roles of the boards that are creatures of those land claims, and we expect to have, hopefully, a resolution to that in the coming months. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** If the Minister is serious about resolving this issue and where the dispute is between authorities and jurisdictions and, more importantly, an outfitter, I'd like to ask the Minister if he's willing to facilitate a meeting between the different regions, the renewable resource councils, the aboriginal organizations, to talk about this particular matter and try to find ways to resolve this issue from happening in the future by having a meeting sooner than waiting a couple months down the road and coordinate a meeting within the next couple of weeks.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Work is underway to get this process going, recognizing the complexity of the situation and the circumstances,

the two land claims, different jurisdictions, a number of questions to be resolved in relation to aboriginal governments, management boards, the full role of the GNWT. We started this process, we just anticipate that the discussions may take some time, but we are on this one already.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Not even close to giving me an answer. Again, the question is: will the Minister intervene and try to coordinate a meeting between the parties with regard to the renewable resource councils and the aboriginal organizations to discuss this issue with regard to the outfitters between the Sahtu, the Gwich'in and to find resolutions to this problem going forward?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I have been involved in this issue since we first became aware of it. We've had discussions with the deputy and we've agreed on a course of action. The deputy, the most senior official in the Department of Natural Resources, is on this issue. We are getting the folks to the table and we are going to have this resolved hopefully through the process I have been talking about in this House today. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister have a date for this particular meeting and can he keep myself and the Member for the Sahtu in the process going forward? Does he have a time for the prescribed meeting? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, we will keep the Member for Mackenzie Delta and the Member for Sahtu fully informed. As well, I will get to them a timeline and a work plan of what is being planned in terms of the meetings required to resolve this issue. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 161-16(4):  
SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF  
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Department of Executive regarding residential school survivors, more specifically to the parents who went to the school. Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Minister what type of programs this government is doing to support the residential schools survivors.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have to touch base with the appropriate Ministers and get that information or have those Ministers reply back to the Member in this area. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Some of the parents had sent their kids, or were told to send their kids, or kids were taken to these residential schools. Some of these parents, when they wanted to visit their children, had to stay outside the building and put their camps there and visit their children. There are lots of issues that need to be resolved there. I want to ask the Minister, the Women's Advisory office provides a point of contact within the GNWT on issues of concern to women, would the Premier consider appointing a residential school advisor who would have a similar mandate to be a point of contact with our government for survivors of residential schools?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** There are a number of organizations involved in the residential school area between the federal government, our government and outside organizations and agencies. Before I could respond to that, I would have to see what's happening out there. Again, I would go through the appropriate Ministers to get the information and respond at that point.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Would the Minister, then, inform the House and people of the Northwest Territories that he would seriously consider this position is not in the territorial government and is something he would seriously look at in terms of helping healing and reconciliation of residential school survivors and the parents of these children that were taken to these schools?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Again, before I can respond to that, I would need to get all the information as to what's been done, what resources have been in place, the supports that are in place right now to make sure we don't create an overlap or divert away from what other groups have there, what mandates might be established out there. So once we get that information we will be able to respond to the Member and get additional information as well. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the residential school survivors have an interagency committee within this territorial government. This has been supportive in ways that are beneficial. I want to take it a step further. I do know there is not a resident residential school advisor to the Department of Executive. Again, I would ask the Premier, once he does research this request, would he come forward to the House and have suggestions to appointing an advisor to the Department of Executive such as the Women's Advisory Council had?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Again, without having the background information what other agencies and what some of our departments are involved in, supports in this area, it's hard for me to commit to establishing a position. We would have to go

through our business plan process. We would have to see what this position would be doing and advocating for and what would be required. Whereas, right now, we do have some supports through our departments, Education, Culture and Employment being one of those. Again, I would have to get that information and provide that to the Member and decide where we would go with something like this. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 162-16(4):  
LICENSING FOR OUTFITTERS HELD  
IN SETTLED LAND CLAIM AREAS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to get clarity on a question to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources in regards to the process in terms of the sales of the outfitters. The Minister has indicated there are two rights of refusal. I just want to get it very clear for my people. You have two land claims that have two specific clauses for two rights of refusal. The Minister has, by definition -- I don't know which definition -- it seems the Department of Justice has given some clear definitions that there is only one you could use. However, you have two constitutionally protected modern agreements. Will the Minister go back and see what is the definition...We in the Sahtu have not been consulted in terms of the sale of this outfitter. Has the Minister gone to the Sahtu leadership and said what are your thoughts on this sale?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "What if" questions are always difficult to answer. As I have indicated to the Member in this House and in writing September 10<sup>th</sup>, we have initiated and embarked upon a process with the aboriginal governments, the management boards, our own departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories and stakeholders, to try to resolve that issue; two competing rights of first refusal. In this case, the Gwich'in were given the right of first refusal first. It can only be offered once and then it's no longer first refusal. So that's the question we have to try to answer between two land claims and overlapping licence. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Certainly as I stand here with my friend from the Mackenzie Delta in terms of this issue, I want to again say when this issue came up...Has the Minister considered going to an arbitration panel in terms of this important issue? It's very important in my region. Has the Minister thought to look at a process through an arbitration panel?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** It probably would be one of the questions we'd ask. Who helped negotiate these agreements that left us...

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Ohhh.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** ...in this circumstance? Do we go to an arbitration panel? That might be where we end up once this process goes through the steps and we consult and we talk to the aboriginal governments, the management boards, the stakeholders and see how we resolve this, because it is an area where there is an area of dispute and we need to come up with a way to resolve this. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I guess, then, in terms of the interpretation of these negotiations with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories and the interpretation of these agreements, sometimes that also needs to be discussed. Regarding this agreement that was interpreted by a definition of the government, when the Minister found out, did he inform the Sahtu leadership that we have an issue here rather than just say because the Gwich'in has a majority of the ownership, they have the first right to answer to the first right of refusal?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As the Member asked again, I will answer again. We recognize that there is an issue here between the Sahtu and the Gwich'in and a licence that covers overlaps in two regions. We have embarked upon a process, as I have indicated to the Member in this House and in writing, that will involve the Sahtu government, Gwich'in government, stakeholder, management boards, the Government of the Northwest Territories and gather around and sort out the issue that I am sure will have some complexities to it and will take some time. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Mackenzie Delta has stated, the owners of this sale are mostly the foreign people, Americans, in terms of this new outfitting business. Now I want to ask the Minister in terms of the licensing of the outfitter areas, we have a percentage in the Sahtu. Again, does that automatically make a new licence or amend the licence so this new outfitter can operate in our region without getting the proper consent from the Sahtu people under our land claim that is constitutionally protected?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, we started this process to resolve those issues and they are increasingly complex questions the Member is posing in this House. We are not going to be able to resolve that level of complex question in this House in question period. I am not an expert,

unlike my colleague from the Sahtu, on negotiating land claims. It's a question that is going to have to be resolved, and we set up a process to answer those questions and all the others that are going to come forth as we look at this issue. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 163-16(4):  
INCREASING MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS IN YELLOWKNIFE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I would like to raise today is how we can get more boots on the ground, from an enforcement point of view, than in the cars driving by. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to the Minister of Justice about this issue where there is a call out there by the public wanting to see more activity from our enforcement side on the ground, speaking to people, meeting people and developing that personality and presence in the community. We know that in the city of Yellowknife we have municipal enforcement, also known as bylaw, and many other communities and regions have bylaw officers. One of the problems we have is resourcing this. So in bringing this problem to the Minister of Justice, I talked to him about finding ways to help deter some crime, in partnership with the RCMP, before it turns into that negative aspect of crime actually happening, and then the processing of the crime, and then it goes on and on and the cost to the justice system.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Justice is: would he be interested in opening up a dialogue that we could come up with potentially -- and I stress potentially, Mr. Speaker -- some seed money to try to get more enforcement officers on the ground accessing the resources of municipal enforcement through some type of cooperating agreement with the RCMP and help develop a model that we can push out to the regions that this would be a program that we could develop together with both the City of Yellowknife and the regions to see if we can get more activity from our enforcement side to help deter crime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is one area that certainly was addressed at last week's FPT meeting that I attended in Fredericton. Out of that meeting, the three territorial Ministers did discuss a strategy with the federal government to increase policing in the remote communities such as the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and also Nunavut. Out of that

there is a plan in place which I'll be sharing with the Members.

There is also a plan in place by the federal government, Mr. Speaker, a community officer program. There's a pilot project for our jurisdiction and we are certainly looking forward to that. I know that's just one small piece, but this is the area that we have improved on over the years. We are open to ideas and suggestions but, as you know, Mr. Speaker, nationally there is a shortage of RCMP officers. There has been an announcement of 2,500 officers through a recruitment fund and out of that we got our portion, but it was on a per capita basis so we got small seed money out of that. At the same time, we got some money out of federal, so we continue to work with that. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you to the Minister of Justice for that important answer, Mr. Speaker. What I'd like to do is to see if we can seize that opportunity to help use the resources that exist in the city of Yellowknife such as they already have an enforcement division, but as the Minister knows very well, they're not a policing division. So in other words, they don't have the same powers and authority that the RCMP would have. Yet, that said, they are public officers in their own right and, of course, they have those types of responsibilities, again, different but similar in their own form. So there is a certain element of where they could help patrol, but work with the RCMP to help deter activity. That's what I'm looking for from the Minister, if he sees an opportunity here in this somewhat compilation of ideas here. Can we work out an idea of potentially helping develop some seed money, create a program that could work regionally in the larger centres, whether it be Fort Smith, Behchoko, Inuvik, and accessing these types of resources. Does the Minister see an opportunity here? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of opportunities and those opportunities, certainly, we can work with. We have agreements with the RCMP "G" Division through the federal government and working with municipalities in the communities such as bylaw enforcement. So there are agreements in place already, but going beyond that, having foot patrols into the communities, we have to keep in mind that this is a territorial-wide initiative and we need to focus on all communities. That's why we're aggressively approaching the federal government to see our uniqueness, our remoteness, our geographic challenges that we're faced with on whether it be foot patrols or patrolling the communities. So we continue to strive for that with the federal government.

Certainly we, as a territorial government, can look forward to developing an action plan to see what kind of enforcement could we provide. We are providing excellent services in the Northwest

Territories, but we continue to improve in those areas. So we will continue to strive towards the federal government even more. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is correct; RCMP are providing not just excellent services, exemplary services, without any doubt in my mind. I happen to be one of their biggest fans.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Minister that any program developed, it would have to be territory-wide and I would not assume in any fashion that it shouldn't be. But crime is a problem and I don't want to shock this House by making that statement, but a lot of crime, in my view, could be deterred by a visual presence. That's really what I'm after, Mr. Speaker. I'm after do you think we could find a way to come up with a measurable program, one that we can work through, at the very least, our larger regions, our larger communities and seize on the opportunity.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the Justice Minister, that is if I was able to forward some of the officials from the City of Yellowknife to the Minister's office, do you think he'd be open for some type of discussion to find if we could build a partnership, one that we can model across the Territories and certainly find useful information and measurable information? Would he be open for that type of meeting and discussion? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, our department is open to any discussion that will certainly benefit all the communities of the Northwest Territories. This particular area, we have to involve the RCMP "G" Division in any discussion that is focused on enforcement or foot patrol, because they're the ones who have the liability in that area, and also the agreements that we have in place with them through the federal contribution. So any meeting that needs to take place is not only the municipalities but also the RCMP "G" Division needs to be involved in those areas. So we'll continue to work in that dialogue. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's funny, last session I said that for the first time and I'm starting to use it a lot, which is would the Minister be open to visiting my riding and meeting with the officials, perhaps next week to make time with meeting the RCMP, speaking with the mayor on this issue to see if we could speak territorially as well as regionally on this issue, again, to move forward on visual presence and, hopefully, to deter crime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly those areas of discussion we can certainly have within my department, "G"

Division and the municipalities of the Northwest Territories to strive towards trying to get more access and also resources and federal funding, and then also strategic thinking of territorial government funding in this initiative. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 8, written questions. 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 Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 38-16(4):  
ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES  
2008-2009

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document titled Annual Report on Official Languages 2008-2009.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

TABLED DOCUMENT 39-16(4):  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LIQUOR  
COMMISSION AND LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD  
2008-2009, 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document titled Northwest Territories Liquor Commission and Liquor Licensing Board 2008-2009, 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Report.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 40-16(4):  
BUILDING A PATH FOR NORTHERN SCIENCE:  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES SCIENCE AGENDA

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document titled Building a Path for Northern Science, Government of the Northwest Territories Science Agenda.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-16(4):  
A FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE: BUILDING A  
HEALTHY FUTURE FOR THE NWT 2009-2012

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document titled A Foundation for Change, Building a Healthy Future for the NWT 2009-2012.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 42-16(4):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES 2008 PUBLIC SERVICE  
ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document titled Government of the Northwest Territories 2008 Public Service Annual Report.

TABLED DOCUMENT 43-16(4):  
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR THE  
PERIOD MAY 27, 2009, TO OCTOBER 14, 2009

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Colleagues, pursuant to section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' Absences for the Period May 27, 2009, to October 14, 2009.

Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 6-16(4):  
HIRING PREFERENCE FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2009, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the government provide clearly articulated preference for persons with disabilities and clearly articulate how persons with disabilities fit within the existing priority hiring categories; and further, that the Department of Human Resources develop and publicize an awareness campaign outlining all categories of the Affirmative Action Policy and the responsibility of candidates to self-identify; and furthermore, that this Legislative Assembly recommends the government provide a response for this motion within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION 7-16(4):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE  
TO JANUARY 27, 2010

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 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 Thursday, November 5, 2009, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, January 27, 2010; and further, that any time prior to January 27, 2010, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the 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. 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. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 4:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD AND FAMILY  
SERVICES ACT

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill includes amendments to the Child and Family Services Act that would:

- clarify terminology describing plan of care agreements, care plans and case plans;
- exclude from the requirement to report information about a child needing protection, such information as is received in the course of a judicial proceeding;
- shorten the time after which a child protection worker must apply to the court for a declaration that a child needs protection and for a child protection order where a plan of care committee has not made a plan of care agreement;
- make it an offence for any person to disclose child protection information received, obtained or retained by a person required to keep that information confidential;
- establish requirements for obtaining a witness subpoena;
- make other minor changes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, has had second reading and will be referred to a committee.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

BILL 5:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
COMMISSIONER'S LAND ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill includes amendments that would require the posting of security on a lease of Commissioner's land for a commercial or industrial use.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, has had second reading and will be referred to a committee.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010; Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010; Committee Report 1-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports; Committee Report 2-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories; and Committee Report 4-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We are in consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010; Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010; Committee Report 1-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of

the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports; Committee Report 2-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories; and Committee Report 4-16(4), Report on the Review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'd like to start off with Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010, and then move to Tabled Document 18-16(4) following that and then, time permitting, I guess we could revisit what the wish of the committee is, but we'd like to start with those two, please. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Do you want a break? Okay, we'll 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'll begin with Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance for his opening comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I am pleased to present Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010. This document outlines an increase of \$1.025 million for capital investment expenditures in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

This supplementary appropriation includes:

1. \$480,000 for the Legislative Assembly for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of a biomass heating system for the Legislative Assembly building;
2. \$460,000 for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for three community learning centres. The costs will be cost-shared on a 50 percent basis by the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program Fund.
3. \$86,000 for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the costs associated with the purchase of a lightning location sensor within Wood Buffalo National Park. The net effect on government operations is nil as the costs will be funded by Parks Canada.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** General comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Detail? I'd like to ask the Minister if he'd like to bring in witnesses. Mr. Miltenberger.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Committee agree the Minister brings in his witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Minister, can you introduce your witness?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary to the Financial Management Board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witness. Turn to page 5, Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010, Legislative Assembly, capital investment expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$480,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is one I am happy to see happening. I am wondering will there be savings as a result of this purchase in fuel cost and do we know what those would be.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fuel savings are estimated at 82,800 litres per year and \$41,400 per year based on the fuel oil price of a dollar per litre.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I am happy to hear that and I think that, in combination with the additional benefits, obviously, of reduced greenhouse gas emissions, exemplifies the sort of project I am happy to see happening. Just a comment. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We estimate a savings of 232 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year and an eight-year payback. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Better and better.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Okay. Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$480,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$480,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Next page, page 6, Education, Culture and Employment,

capital investment expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$460,000. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to see some investment in our smaller communities in terms of three community learning centres. Costs are partially offset it says by the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Fund. Perhaps the Minister can correct me if I am wrong, but when they came up with these three projects, they had to kind of be spur of the moment. I think this is part of the Stimulus Fund from the federal government.

In terms of lack of facilities in the smaller communities, I have been speaking at length with regard to the library in Fort Simpson. I am just wondering if they are looking for new projects or if this Knowledge Infrastructure Fund project will end this fiscal year or is that something that can be taken up next year and will they consider assisting rebuilding the library in Fort Simpson as a potential project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program was over two years looking for the term of shovel-ready projects focussed on assisting post-secondary institutions. So this fund is very specific. The issue the Member has raised about his library is going to be addressed through ECE through other processes and other funding pots. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** The Minister is absolutely right; there is ongoing work and some of the parameters around some of the stimulus funding has always been shovel ready, which means all the groundwork and all the costing and all the preplanning pretty much had to be done. I look forward to the work that's going to go in putting a package together, at least assessment-wise, for the Fort Simpson library.

Just in terms of looking forward, will our government be accessing this fund next fiscal year? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, these projects, from what I understand, are going to carry us over the two-year time frame of this program to get them in the ground and up and running. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$460,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Just to follow up on Mr. Menicoche's questions, the Member for Nahendeh, in terms of projects and getting a response from the Minister. The specific area they are looking at is post-secondary institutions, so would the government be coming to the committee in terms of

looking at other projects that would be beneficial in the communities in the Northwest Territories? Some communities do not have learning centres, so would this be forthcoming in a year or so?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's our understanding that this program is now considered fully subscribed to and there won't be any further availability for it to access or advance projects under this time-specific pot of money. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$460,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Total department, not previously authorized, \$460,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Moving on to page 7, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$85,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Total department, not previously authorized, 85,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree that Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010 is now ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree that Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010 is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 2-16(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT  
19-16(4), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
NO. 3 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2009-2010,  
CARRIED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010, now be concluded and that Tabled Document 19-16(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Question is being called.

---Carried

I would like to thank the Minister and thank the witness. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the witness out?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The committee has agreed the next item we will deal with is Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2. I would like to ask the Minister if he has any opening comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010. This document outlines an increase of \$17.15 million in operations expenditures for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The major items in this supplementary request include:

1. \$18.3 million for the additional costs to be incurred as a result of the Collective Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers;
2. \$550,000 for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide contribution funding in support of NWT participation in the 2009 Canada Summer Games and the 2010 Arctic Winter Games;
3. an overall negative adjustment of \$1.975 million in operations funding associated with the reprofiling of previously approved cash flows for projects being undertaken in the government's Energy Priorities Investment Plan;
4. A negative adjustment of \$470,000 in operations funding due to the deferral of initiatives approved to address pressures associated with the Mackenzie Gas Project.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any comments in regards to the Minister's remarks? Detail? Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going over the details. One of the patterns I am seeing is, for the first time, the return of dollars that aren't meant for the Mackenzie Gas Project in recognition of its delay. Of course, it has been delayed for quite a number of years. We have been throwing a lot of money at it. I am happy to see that, with the input from Members pointing out this glitch

in the system, particularly the Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs and ITI are responding by returning some of these dollars to the fold for appropriate expenditure at some other time. I just had a general observation that I wanted to make. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Minister, do you want to respond to his comments?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** No, Mr. Chairman. It is just a comment. I am very aware of the Member's concern about this project. I will take his comment as offered. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in any witnesses.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary of the FMB.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree that he brings in his witness?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness in.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary of the FMB.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witness. As we agreed, can we move to page 3, 2009-2010 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$118,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Office of the Speaker, not previously authorized, \$5,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Expenditures on behalf of Members, not previously authorized, \$48,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, not previously authorized, \$8,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Statutory officers, not previously authorized, \$18,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$197,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 4, Executive, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$213,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ministers' offices, not previously authorized, \$85,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Executive operations, not previously authorized, \$139,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Public Utilities Board, not previously authorized, \$4,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Cabinet support, not previously authorized, \$64,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$505,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 5, Human Resources, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$107,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Human resource strategy and policy, not previously authorized, \$168,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Management and recruitment services, not previously authorized, \$296,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Corporate human resources, not previously authorized, negative \$782,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Employment services, not previously authorized, \$195,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$16,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 6, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$54,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Negotiations, not previously authorized, \$91,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Implementation, not previously authorized, \$18,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Intergovernmental relations, not previously authorized, \$29,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$192,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 7, Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$676,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Fiscal policy, not previously authorized, \$34,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Budget, treasury and debt management, not previously authorized, \$110,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Office of the comptroller general, not previously authorized, \$149,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Office of the chief information officer, not previously authorized, \$22,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$991,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 8, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$11,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Community operations, not previously authorized, \$71,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** School of Community Government, not previously authorized, \$1.040 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Lands administration, not previously authorized, negative \$61,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Sport, recreation and youth regional operations, not previously authorized, \$582,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$243,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.864 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$310,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Asset management, not previously authorized, \$651,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$961,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 10, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$209,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$679,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$3.150 million

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$68,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$1.4 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$5.506 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 11, Justice, operations expenditures, services to the government, not previously authorized, \$291,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Legal aid services, not previously authorized, \$124,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Court services, not previously authorized, \$237,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$1.324 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Service to the public, not previously authorized, \$123,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.099 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 12, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, directorate and administration, not previously authorized, \$186,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$1.618 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$1.184 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Income security, not previously authorized, \$388,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.376 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 13, Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$336,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Airports, not previously authorized, \$409,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Highways, not previously authorized, \$421,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Marine, not previously authorized, \$115,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Road licensing and safety, not previously authorized, \$104,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.385 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 14, Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$246,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minerals and petroleum resources, negative \$164,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Energy, not previously authorized, negative \$560,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$122,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Economic diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$274,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$82,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 15, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$703,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Environment, not previously authorized, negative \$1.278 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Forest management, not previously authorized, \$406,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Wildlife, not previously authorized, \$341,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$172,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree that Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010...Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if we could return to an item on page 15.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree that we go back to page 15?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had some questions on the \$86,000 to provide funding for the costs associated with the Government of the Northwest Territories participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference. I

would like to ask the Minister for more detail of what comprises the \$86,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We budgeted \$50,000 for travel, \$29,720 for accommodation, \$6,170 for per diems, which gave us \$85,890 and was rounded up to \$86,000.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** How many people will be attending on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories at the climate change conference in Copenhagen?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We'll have one of our staff tied to the federal delegation paid for by the federal government and then we will have seven people: Premier Roland, myself, three MLAs and two staff. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** So, Mr. Chairman, at \$50,000 for travel, is most of that airfare or is that for ground travel and everything when they get there? Because seven people at \$50,000 for travel, that works out to over \$7,000 per person and I don't think it costs that much to fly to Copenhagen.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I would assume it covers the ground transportation and everybody is going to be travelling economy, so if we don't spend all the money, then it will be returned unspent. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Well, that's good. Then we should expect to see about half of that money from the travel come back into the budget. So we'll look forward to that when we see what the returned amount is when they return from the trip, because I think \$50,000 is probably a little overestimated on the travel piece. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We're all travelling economy, so we're going to try to put the taxpayers' money to the best possible use. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** That's good and I appreciate that and I thank the Minister for that. Initially when we were trying to get a third member from our committee to attend, we were told that we should pay our own way and I asked how much it would be and he said \$86,000 divided by six. So it looks like they've got their budget under control here and apparently a slight change in schedule and more people can go and they're paying less money for airfare. Travelling economy, that is truly impressive and I'd like to thank the Minister for that. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member is welcome.

---Laughter

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. Just on the question in terms of the amount we're spending and the magnitude of this conference, I guess I want to ask

the Minister what are we going to get in terms of this budget item here, participating at the conference.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a meeting of global proportions to do with one of the most pressing issues of our time, which is global warming, climate change. There's going to be a whole host of critical meetings from the heads of states for the countries to meetings that will involve the Premier, meetings that will involve myself and the MLAs that are going to be attending. There's going to be an opportunity to have meetings with all the circumpolar countries to talk about issues related to climate change in the circumpolar world. There's going to be an opportunity for us to make the case about the North and it's going to be a unique gathering of people from all around the world trying to come to a consensus and it's going to set the stage, I believe, for probably another major meeting. But it's an opportunity where, given all the concerns we have with global warming and climate change, all the things we're struggling with, that we think it's very important to be there along with the federal government. All the jurisdictions are going to be sending delegates and it's an important opportunity and venue where we want to be there so that our voices can be part of the discussion. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I was watching the Knowledge Network TV the other day and they did have a segment on the upcoming Copenhagen conference and they're expecting delegates from around the world to be there. They're going to showcase some of the alternative energy initiatives that Denmark is going to do there. Certainly if there's any that may enhance the North in terms of this issue here, I'm supporting the Members to go over there and see what kind of impact they would have at the Copenhagen conference.

Mr. Chair, I'm also aware of several of the governments having various promotional events to signify the upcoming conference. A couple of governments had their Cabinet meetings at various unique locations. Just a thought of even this government here having their Cabinet meetings somewhere in the Arctic just to showcase that we mean serious business. I'm not sure if that's something that this Cabinet wants to do in terms of going up to the Arctic and having a Cabinet meeting there on the Arctic Ocean to signify the importance of this Cabinet. Just a comment.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, I've been just thinking about this \$86,000 budgeted for the trip to Copenhagen. Now I understand at some point in time the supplementary appropriation has to go to print, but wow, \$25,000 out of \$86,000 is going to be put back. That's a big percentage off on

the estimating of this trip. I know maybe at first they were going to fly business class and now they're not and they're taking an extra Member, but \$25,000 out of \$86,000 off on this and I guess what I'm wondering about is the Minister says, well, they'll put the money back. How do they put the money back? Is he sure it just doesn't turn into, like, some kind of mad money for the Department of ENR? Because, I mean, this would involve having to put a supplementary negative number back in here to ever show this. Like, how do we track that? If they are \$25,000 off on an \$86,000 supp, I mean how many of the other ones have they been 25 percent off and when did that money ever come back to the department? Because that's concerning.

What process, what transparent process would we actually see that? How would we ever know if that money came back? Because you'd never enter a \$25,000 return of the funds for that one particular activity on as a negative on a supplementary appropriation. So I'm just curious about process here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can provide a detailed accounting of the cost of the trip and in one of the supps coming up we could come back, if necessary, with a negative supp.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, and I would appreciate that and it would be good to see that, but I hope this isn't indicative of a regular practice of overestimating stuff that comes up in a supplementary appropriation and then that money just going to the department and we never ever track it or see it again, because we rely on those estimates that are given to us. We take them at face value. So I hope this is an irregular, extraordinary situation and not common. Perhaps since the Minister is the Minister of Finance, he could comment on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking back over the years it would seem that our bigger challenge is the tendency, especially on capital projects, to underestimate and it's something that we've worked very hard to come up with a process to be more accurate. This particular trip is unique, one of a kind.

A couple of years ago I was in Italy and I remember paying \$10 for a cup of cocoa. So when I looked at the per diems, I thought for the amount of time we're all going to be there it may not be a lot and I know our hotel rooms, for example, are to us very expensive but the norm, probably, in Europe. But we'll do an afore counting for the Member and just a reassurance that we take our budgeting very

seriously and try to be as accurate as we can. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. I normally wouldn't be encouraging the government to spend more money on international travel, but since there does seem to be a \$25,000 surplus, I was wondering, well, actually, Mr. Menicoche is wondering if he can come too.

---Laughter

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number we have will fully use all our rooms that we do have booked and we're trying to keep our costs down and because it's there, as we indicated prior to this and we had this discussion as well in Cabinet, because the money is there we shouldn't feel compelled to spend it all if we can avoid it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree that we do need to put a limit on it to be looking after the taxpayers' dollar here and it's a good debate on where that limit is. I just want to bounce off my impression of what's happened here. Had the travel been first class I suspect we probably would have used that \$50,000 and I believe the rules would allow first class travel here. So I'm seeing quite a good effort on behalf of all those travelling, to minimize the impact on the public purse and reduce those costs by 50 percent, perhaps more. So I just want to acknowledge that and encourage that whenever those of us travelling are young enough and healthy enough to be able to stand the rigours of regular travel that our public mostly uses. So would that be an accurate statement I guess is the question for the Minister and was it budgeted perhaps on first class or business class? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 15, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$172,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Does the committee agree that Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010, is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 3-16(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT  
18-16(4), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
NO. 2 (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
2009-2010,  
CARRIED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010, may now be concluded and that Tabled Document 18-16(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Question is being called.

---Carried

I would like to thank the Minister, thank the witness. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness out? What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I will now rise and report progress.

### Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010, and Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010, and would like to report that the consideration of Tabled Document 19-16(4) and Tabled Document 18-16(4) are concluded, and that the House concurs on those estimates and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. There's a motion on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

---Carried

Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

---Unanimous consent granted.

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills (Reversion)

BILL 8:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) NO. 3,  
2009-2010

BILL 9:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES) NO. 2,  
2009-2010

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2009, I will move that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2009-2010, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2009, I will move that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2009-2010, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Priorities and Planning committee at adjournment.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 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
    - Motion 5, Hand-Held Devices Ban for Motor Vehicle Drivers
  18. First Reading of Bills
    - Bill 6, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2010-2011
    - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act
  19. Second Reading of Bills
  20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Committee Report 1-16(4), Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports
    - Committee Report 2-16(4), Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories
    - Committee Report 4-16(4), Report on the Review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner
  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, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:07 p.m.

