



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, March 4, 2011****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, 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 10:01 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. David Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 125-16(5):
DEVOLUTION OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution is another step in an ongoing process that has seen the Government of the Northwest Territories take more and more responsibility over the decisions that affect all of us. Decisions about our land and resources should be made by people who live here, by a government that is accountable to NWT residents.

The devolution agreement-in-principle, or AIP, allows negotiations to continue towards a final agreement which will benefit all residents of the NWT. If the deal were in place today, approximately \$60 million from resource revenues this past year would be staying in the NWT. This is the money that could be directed to programs and services that directly benefit all residents of the NWT.

More importantly, devolution is about the transfer of already existing authority over public, or Crown lands from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. It will not create any new powers. Only lands and resources that are already subject to the development decisions of the federal government will be affected. These are powers already exercised on behalf of their residents by the governments of 10 provinces and one other territory. Residents of the Northwest Territories deserve the same opportunity that the people in the rest of Canada take for granted. Devolution will bring important decisions closer to those who will be most affected. This is something that can be celebrated by all residents of the NWT.

No deal is perfect, but even the report recently released by the Gwich'in Tribal Council recognizes that the current deal will be beneficial to the people

of the NWT. If we wait for the perfect devolution agreement we will never have one and millions of dollars will continue to flow out of the NWT. We still have some details to work out, like the issue of increasing the A-base funding offer originally made in 2005, but that is something that can be addressed during negotiations towards a final agreement.

Some leaders understand this urgency and are willing to continue working together towards a final devolution agreement. Others aren't ready to take that step yet and I respect their position, although I hope that they will soon join us in working to pursue this long-outstanding goal of our people.

The GNWT fully recognizes and supports Aboriginal and treaty rights, and the GNWT has involved all Aboriginal governments who are willing to participate in devolution. That said, Aboriginal governments cannot have a veto over what happens to public lands and resources by simply choosing not to get involved. The settled Dene claims also make it explicitly clear that nothing in them shall prejudice the transfer of authority from Canada to the GNWT, a fact often overlooked in public comments about devolution.

Obviously, the GNWT will continue its efforts to include Aboriginal governments and wants as many Aboriginal governments as possible at the table, but it must be appreciated that devolution is about transferring public lands and resources from Canada to the GNWT and it is not about settling Aboriginal or treaty rights disputes.

The fact is that devolution does not impact treaty or Aboriginal rights. These rights are recognized and affirmed under the Constitution. The AIP clearly notes that any legislative authority that is transferred will be subject to those rights just as the Government of Canada is subject to them now. The AIP also makes clear that the settlement of land claims and self-government agreements will remain a priority and those processes will not be affected by devolution.

The GNWT takes its commitment to consultation seriously, a commitment that we have honoured. With the right to be consulted comes a reciprocal duty to participate. Aboriginal governments that decided to walk out of negotiations or to boycott the

process cannot demand a veto and expect to overturn the AIP.

Mr. Speaker, as a public government, the GNWT represents 100 percent of the residents of the NWT and must consider the interests of the Territory as a whole. The GNWT and Aboriginal government might not always agree on our positions in standing up for the best interests of our Territory; however, this does not mean the GNWT is being disrespectful. All residents of the NWT should be given the opportunity to manage public lands and resources through their public government. That is the objective of the devolution negotiations.

It is my sincere wish that respectful and constructive dialogue among the GNWT and all Aboriginal governments will carry on. I offered to meet with regional leaders on January 25th and 26th, before the AIP was signed, but they did not take me up on that offer. I have since written to them offering to meet with them in their regions to address their issues and concerns about the AIP. Last month I had good meetings with the Sahtu leadership and look forward to meeting with them again. The GNWT will continue to invite Aboriginal governments to join devolution negotiations. Those that choose not to get involved will be kept informed and Aboriginal and treaty rights will continue to be respected and protected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 126-16(5):
VICTIM NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In support of northern victims of crime, I am pleased to announce the NWT Department of Justice implementation of the Victim Notification Program.

The NWT Victim Notification Program is designed to give victims of crime information about the convicted offenders who have harmed them. Many of the provinces, as well as the federal corrections service, offer programs like this. Victim notification programs are designed to give victims the information they need to plan for their safety and assist with the healing process. Information that is provided to the victim includes things like:

- where the offender is being held in jail;
- when the offender is being allowed to leave jail for a short time, such as for a funeral;
- when the offender will be permanently released from jail; and
- where the offender plans to go once the sentence comes to an end.

Victim notification programs are important for the protection and well-being of Northerners who are victims of crimes by helping them feel safe. The

NWT Victim Notification Program is for victims of adult offenders who are sentenced to less than two years of jail time in an NWT correctional facility. The program complements the Corrections Service of Canada Victim Notification Program, which is for victims of adult offenders who are sentenced to federal time.

The NWT program allows information to be given to victims who apply and meet eligibility requirements. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but generally an applicant for this program should be a victim of a crime, and the offender who committed the crime should be serving their sentence in an NWT corrections facility. There is also consideration given to the privacy of an offender when reviewing applications for a program.

Mr. Speaker, since the program was initiated in May 2010, the Department of Justice corrections division has received three applications for information under this program. I am sure that as we provide more information about the program, more victims will take advantage of it. This program fits in the 16th Legislative Assembly's priorities to create safe communities.

Information and application for the NWT Victim Notification Program can be found on the Department of Justice website under the corrections division. Those individuals who are interested in this program can also contact community victim services representatives for assistance in making applications or information on the program. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 127-16(5):
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A diversified economy providing opportunities to all communities and regions, along with sustainable, vibrant, safe communities are the two goals of this Legislative Assembly. An all-weather highway running the length of the Mackenzie Valley will be a major step in achieving those goals. The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to do work to prepare for the future construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk. Since I last updated this Assembly on the highway, we made significant progress.

Through the government's efforts, we have secured the support of each of the Aboriginal organizations along the proposed highway right-of-way. Memoranda of understanding have been signed with each one, permitting representatives to work together with the Department of Transportation to plan and prepare for construction.

MOUs are in place with the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk and the Town of Inuvik and a project description report has been prepared for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion of the highway. This PDR has been used to prepare an environmental impact statement, which is currently being reviewed by the Environmental Impact Review Board. We hope to have all the other PDR work from Wrigley to the Dempster completed within the next year.

I want to acknowledge the federal government contribution to the funding of these PDRs, which will prepare each leg of the highway for regulatory review. I look forward to a continued positive relationship with our federal counterparts as we move to put in place the resources required for this important undertaking. At the same time, under our strategic initiative of Reducing the Cost of Living, we continue making improvements on the winter road which will benefit the eventual all-weather highway.

One considerable accomplishment this past year was the completion of the 300-metre-long Blackwater River Bridge. This bridge is the largest of the all-weather road crossings that are already in place. The all-weather bridge crossings await the construction of the all-weather road while helping to extend the current winter road's season.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a motion identifying the Mackenzie Valley Highway as a priority for this Territory. We are moving forward with a purpose to help ensure this highway comes to fruition to ensure the benefits and access that could come from this highway are achieved. Once in place, the Mackenzie Valley Highway will not only strengthen the connections to our communities, but will also support economic developments in the Mackenzie Valley.

Future large projects in the valley, such as Mackenzie Gas Pipeline, energy and mineral exploration, or the installation of fibre optic cable to the Delta, will benefit considerably from the construction of this highway. Year-round access would lower project costs, help mitigate river shipping issues and provide much more reliable transportation system for projects such as these. Public infrastructure that supports economic development projects will help our Territory grow stronger and more capable of supporting itself.

Mr. Speaker, the all-weather Mackenzie Valley Highway has been a dream of our residents for many years. Important progress we made in the past year has brought us closer than ever before to realizing this dream. The partnerships we are building today with Canada and Aboriginal groups to undertake the project's engineering and environmental work are the same partnerships that will get this highway built. I have met with the federal Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure on a number of occasions throughout the life of this

Assembly and I will continue to do so to move this highway forward.

Mr. Speaker, as this project progresses, I will continue to update the Assembly on new developments. I hope one day to drive the Mackenzie Valley Highway all the way up to Tuktoyaktuk. I am sure that is something we all look forward to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Yakeleya.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONCERNS WITH FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today has to do with the failure of the Food Mail Program in my region.

Mr. Speaker, having enough healthy food to eat is necessary to have healthy people and healthy communities. I'm hearing concerns about a shipment of food to the Sahtu communities, especially Deline. Right now Deline's groceries are packed in Yellowknife and shipped through the air through Buffalo Airways to the Sahtu. As soon as they arrive, someone goes up to meet the plane and picks them up, but lately somewhere along the line the boxes of fresh products are freezing, sometimes boxes even go missing. No one is taking responsibility for these frozen, fresh products. Mr. Speaker, we are trying to promote healthy diets and healthy living in our small communities. It's hard when most healthy foods go to waste even before they reach the store of the persons. The price of food keeps going up and we can't afford to waste any more.

I am pleased that communities are starting to produce foods locally. There's support available for people who want to harvest on the land, but we can't expect fresh vegetables and fruit to grow in Deline in February. By the time bananas, grapes, potatoes and blueberries reach Yellowknife, they have already made a long journey. It's a terrible waste when the order doesn't get to the people who pay for it and who want it in our small communities.

As a Member, I will monitor this situation, Mr. Speaker. I hope someone will take the responsibility so this situation can be resolved so situations like this can be prevented.

Mr. Speaker, people in Deline have used this Food Mail Program and when the order comes in and the family goes up to the airport to pick it up, the bananas are frozen and the grapes are spoiled. No one is taking responsibility to say who is going to cover the costs. The people are losing out in this situation.

Mr. Speaker, I'll have questions for this government in regard to helping our people in our small communities.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reducing poverty in our Territory has been a priority for this Assembly and very much a priority for me in this job. We've made some progress as a government, but certainly not enough.

The high cost of housing and housing shortages are a big part of the poverty problem. Many of our residents who work hard but earn low incomes simply cannot afford rent in Yellowknife and the regional centres. We're fortunate to have some transitional housing in Yellowknife, most notably the YWCA's Rockhill Apartments and the Bailey House for men run by the Salvation Army. There's also plans to build Betty House, transitional housing for women.

This is all good, Mr. Speaker, but there's still a problem. We are able to find or construct buildings for transitional housing, but financial help is limited for the people who actually live in them. I refer specifically to the working poor, those who cannot afford to pay market rent at Rockhill and who are not eligible for income support. I refer to the people who literally can't afford to buy food after the rent is paid.

The YWCA operates 39 transitional housing units at Rockhill. What is desperately needed is a small contribution to support the Y tenants so that the Y can charge the rent geared to the tenant's income. This small contribution would reduce a tenant's rent by 10, 20, 30 percent based on their income. The Y estimates that an investment of just \$100,000 a year would keep the breadwinners in these families working in 40 to 50 families, and it would prevent them turning to income support.

This is helping people to help themselves, Mr. Speaker, and many provinces do it. I believe the \$100,000 expense would be recovered by a reduction in income support payments.

We have to begin funding modest but effective programs like this, programs that serve people better and save the government money. We have to start before Betty House is built because the problem the Y has experienced at Rockhill is sure to repeat itself at Betty House. At the other transitional housing, Bailey House, the Salvation Army charges its occupants \$800 or \$900 a month for their single units, but it's nowhere near enough to cover the cost of running the facility. Even with assistance from Health and Social Services, Bailey House is facing a substantial annual deficit. Theirs

is also an important program, one that encourages sobriety and responsibility.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: The people in Yellowknife's transition housing come from all over the Northwest Territories. Many are trying to rebuild and regroup after troubles in their lives. I use Yellowknife examples because it's my community, but I know there are people in other communities who also cannot afford to eat and pay market rent.

Samuel Johnson once said that a decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization. I hope to hear some civilized answers from the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation during oral questions.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POTENTIAL SPRING FEDERAL ELECTION

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, has announced that the federal budget will be tabled on March 22nd and accordingly there is a great deal of speculation about what the budget may contain and whether the opposition will support it in the end. As the budget is a confidence vote, then, clearly, if not one of the opposition parties support it, the government will fall and there will be an election this coming May.

As far back as 2004 I have spoken in the House about the importance of the Premier providing the Western Arctic candidates for the Member of Parliament with our priorities from a legislative point of view. That year then-Premier Joe Handley provided a copy of our strategic plan to candidates, and the following election, two years later, he joined the other groups to ask national party leaders and Western Arctic candidates to commit to four key important issues; important to the North, that is.

In 2008 Premier Roland followed suit. These questions and subsequent responses were posted on the Premier's website. This was a very effective exercise and I believe we should continue this practice.

If an election is called in March, it would occur prior to our next sitting, which is in late May. Given the strong possibility of a spring election, I believe that the Premier should lead a discussion with all the Members of this House while we are still sitting, to determine what key issues should be raised with the national party leaders and all the potential candidates for Member of Parliament in the Western Arctic.

We should use our collective voices to promote northern values, issues and objectives, and what better time to get those types of commitments from the potential candidates and parties than at election time? I will have questions for the Premier later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to discuss the simplification of the Business Incentive Policy. Today the current Business Incentive Policy local preference has a local percentage of 5 percent. This is not enough for the small communities. For example, in Fort Resolution a local contractor lost a contract to another business by just over \$100 and that contractor brought workers from out of the community.

I think the GNWT should change the Business Incentive Policy to a single 15 percent local preference calculation. This will make it very simple and it will give the small communities a much needed advantage over contractors from the larger centres and southern companies. However, the larger centres will not lose their advantage over southern companies as they will also have a local preference over southern contractors in their home communities.

I believe the original objective of the BIP was to keep the GNWT capital dollars from flowing to southern Canada. This change will maintain that objective. The current 5 percent local preference is also insufficient on small local contractors competing against specialized contractors in larger centres or southern companies. By specialized contractors, I mean workers who work on siding only, or flooring, cabinets, and specialize in those areas, or even large contractors that have a bigger customer base and a greater buying power and are able to keep their costs down well below the 5 percent that's allowed in the BIP as a local preference.

Every cent that is spent in the small communities by the GNWT should go to local contractors. This recommendation will go a long way to ensuring that. In the small communities there are very few jobs and the jobs that are available to local contractors should be for the workers that live in the small communities. They already have very few jobs and this change will go a long way to building the economy in the small communities.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR HAY RIVER COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee for Persons with Disabilities has been operating in Hay River since May of 1994. In 2005 they opened an office and in 2008 they began operating a handi-van service, offering people with disabilities access to public transit. They have a governing board and are a non-profit organization operating on donations, fundraising and NGO funding from the GNWT.

The committee provides assistance to people with disabilities in areas such as acquiring adequate housing, locating employment, educational programs, social activities, income support assistance and family support. The committee office is open daily, operating with one part-time staff member and numerous volunteers working countless hours year after year. With the stability of the Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities, services and support are readily available in our community.

Funding has become a difficult process for non-government organizations. A small non-profit organization such as the Committee for Persons with Disabilities cannot carry the cost of operation without GNWT assistance. Last spring the committee found it necessary to cease services, as their proposal for new year funding was delayed in being reviewed and approved. Although the office was closed for three months, committee members did remain actively involved, volunteering, checking for messages and assisting their clients.

In previous years the committee received multi-year funding. What used to be a three-year contract is now a one-year agreement, which was not approved or received until halfway through the year. As a result, line item spending was deferred to other expenses and then declined upon submission. For instance, in not having the funds to retain their half-time employee, laying her off accrued a certain amount of dollars in that section of their budget. When they applied to have the re-hired person work increased hours for the remainder of the year, their request was denied. Another unforeseen change was requested on an expense adjustment and was denied. As a result, there will be thousands of dollars in their budget which could have been utilized. They will leave that money on the table.

While we need to ensure accountability when providing funding to non-government organizations, there needs to be some flexibility to allow them to access funding that was approved for them. If they need to make changes, we need to accommodate those requests wherever reasonably possible.

There are two things here to consider: the Committee for Persons with Disabilities in Hay River needs to be on multi-year funding. They do not have the manpower to prepare proposals every few months.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: We need to be more flexible in understanding and processing budget expenses for this committee. We need to appreciate the time and energy that our volunteers have put into organizing and operating NGOs. They are not usually qualified accountants; these are volunteers and we need to be flexible in approving their requests. Without these organizations in our communities, we would not have any of the services they provide.

I would like to extend my thanks to the many volunteers who operate NGOs in our communities and in Hay River. We need you and we appreciate you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak again today about the Deh Cho Bridge Project.

Earlier this week the Minister of Transportation provided this House with a statement on the Deh Cho Bridge Project. In that Minister's statement he mentioned a revised construction schedule that the department was evaluating and that he would update the House when that review was complete. I'm having trouble understanding how I'm supposed to believe this.

When the Levelton Report was completed, the department kept that report to themselves for months. They did not share it with Members before it was actually posted on-line. Just yesterday I read on the CBC that construction is behind schedule with the Deh Cho Bridge Project.

Why is it that Members seem to be the last ones to know what is happening with this project? I'm having trouble understanding what the Minister said in his statement the other day, when just two days later the project manager seems to be saying something much different.

The Minister has said to the public and to Members of this House that the work would get done. The contractor was to launch the superstructure from both the north side and the south side, to ensure that work would start on the decks in June. This apparently has not happened. Construction has not

even started on the south side and it looks as though construction crews will have to remove temporary bridges from that river during breakup and then put them back in weeks later. This will come at a huge cost.

Yesterday I asked the Minister who would be responsible should the project go past November 2011 and cost us more money, which is exactly what it looks like is going to happen. On a straightforward question you would think I would get a straightforward answer, but the answer the Minister gave me left much to be desired and spoke nothing about responsibility, of which I will continue to ask him questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONGRATULATIONS TO FORT SIMPSON ARMY CADET CORPS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the Fort Simpson Army Cadet Corps and how proud I am of them.

Congratulations to the cadets and staff of the 2860 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps of Fort Simpson on their recent Interprovincial Cadet Exchange trip to Hamilton, Ontario. An Interprovincial Cadet Exchange is an activity in which one cadet corps visits another corp from another area of Canada. The aims of the exchange are to expose cadets to the multicultural composition of Canada and to promote active living. The exchanges are fully funded by the regional cadet support unit, which for all northern corps is located in Whitehorse, Yukon.

From February 24th to March 1st of this year the Fort Simpson cadets were hosted in Hamilton, Ontario, by cadets of the 2814 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. Cadets from both corps spent their days together touring the sites of southern Ontario. Highlights included Niagara Falls, a swim park, Canadian Heritage War Plane Museum, a shopping mall, the Toronto Zoo and the famous CN Tower.

In addition to many activities, the cadets dined together, giving the groups plenty of time to mingle, talk, and discover what they had in common. Cadet Warrant Officer Jennifer Gast reflected: "We went to interact with other cadets. I enjoyed the meals best because we got to meet everyone. A few had stereotypes of Northerners and we were happy to disillusion them." Cadet Corporal Devon Horassi shared his viewpoint: "It was fun. I had a great time at the House of Frankenstein in Niagara Falls. The other cadets were just like us. They were surprised that we dressed the same." For Corporal Robert Harold: "The trip was a chance to meet new people and see what their lives are like. The CN Tower's glass floor was the best." He went on to add: "The zoo was fun too. We got lost and found kangaroos."

The 27 cadets were accompanied on the exchange by the commanding officer, Lieutenant Steve Nicoll; and Lieutenant Diane Porter. Congratulations to them.

The exchange is just one element of a highly successful army cadet program in Fort Simpson. Thirty-four cadets are registered with the corps, and a staff of six volunteers. Furthermore, two cadets were recently selected from Fort Simpson and are currently participating at the National Biathlon Championship in Val Cartier, Quebec.

Well done to the cadets of the 2860 Fort Simpson. Keep up the good work.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
V-DAY NORTH CAMPAIGN TO STOP
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past three years V-Day North has been working in Yellowknife to run fundraisers for and increase awareness about the issue of violence against women in the Northwest Territories and around the world.

V-Day North is a grassroots movement and over the past two campaigns they've raised over \$25,000, 90 percent of which has stayed here in the Northwest Territories in the form of donations to the Alison McAteer House and the Centre for Northern Families. For that I applaud them.

The Alison McAteer House and the Centre for Northern Families are organizations that offer unique emergency counselling and safety services to women and children in need of shelter and are sorely needed in our Territory.

The additional 10 percent of their funds raised are donated to the annual V-Day Spotlight Campaign. The 2011 Spotlight Campaign is for women and girls of Haiti, with a focus on social advocacy, safe shelter and grassroots economic sustainability in the wake of the devastating earthquake of 2010.

This year V-Day North has an ambitious fundraising goal of \$25,000. They have been organizing events since December and will finish off this year with the play "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and a Prayer." It's being held at the Top Knight on March 10th and 12th and I encourage Members to get tickets at For Women Only.

We should all be striving for the day that we don't need to have organizations like this in our community; a day when violence against women is over. We need to start looking at the big picture and find ways to resolve violence before it begins. Eliminating poverty, tackling addictions like drugs and alcohol, and increasing education rates in the

Territory are a few ways that we can reduce violence against women.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CANCELLATION OF FUNDING FOR
SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've all heard the concerns raised in media reports this week about cancelled school nutrition programs. On Wednesday I tabled messages from Kaw Tay Whee School students describing how much they need and enjoy the meals and snacks provided at schools. Comments such as "having enough food makes my brain smart so I can learn" state the benefits of this program poignantly and eloquently. When a child says, "I like to eat breakfast," what do you think that says about whether a child usually gets breakfast?

In every session I've spoken on the vital need to concentrate our greatest efforts on early childhood development. Studies, results and our own experience prove that failure to give a child adequate nutrition can cripple intellectual and physical development, lifelong health, educational and occupational achievement and the prospects for a productive life.

As even our meagre statistics on the extent of poverty show, too many people in this Territory are simply unable to provide their children with a healthy diet. Many are too poor to buy food. The damage to parenting skills at residential school experience, family and personal problems...the reasons for misfortune are many. No matter what the reasons, the reality is many children simply don't get enough to eat.

Our responses to business plans, motions in this House, requests for a milk subsidy and for funding reallocations have repeatedly called on this government to make adequate food for young children a first priority. What do we get? Cancelled programs by ECE and empty words from the Health Minister on Nutrition Month. Yes, parents must be responsible, but for those who can't be, must we insist that our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, our children, pay the lifelong price?

School nutrition programs use existing institutions, our daycares and schools, to cost effectively deliver a service exactly where it can have the most long-term benefit. We talk about efficiency and effectiveness of delivery. What could be simpler?

This year we spent close to a million dollars on the Premier's questionable consultation process Creating Our Future Together. The predictably ambiguous results were hardly food for thought. The Premier likes consultation, so his Cabinet colleagues agreed to the money. Then let them all

go back and read what comes from the mouths of babes, Mr. Speaker. They are doing nothing to put food into those mouths. Happy Nutrition Month. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to use the opportunity to recognize a couple of Pages that were delayed coming down because of a storm in Inuvik, but they did make it down. We have Alison McDonald here from Inuvik Twin Lakes. We also have Rachel Watters, who is here from Inuvik Twin Lakes, along with their chaperone and my constituency assistant, Leah Ipana. Welcome to the Assembly, and good job. Thank you.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize the Pages from the Deninu School in Fort Resolution: Kathleen Fordy and Breanna Mandeville, and their chaperone Ramona Fordy. I don't think she's in the House. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It makes me very proud to use the opportunity to recognize two of our youngest guests we have in the gallery today, my sons, McKinley Hawkins and his younger brother, Hudson Hawkins. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 577-16(5):

SUPPORT FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned at the end of my statement, my questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

During the review of the budget of the NWT Housing Corporation, the president of the Corporation, Mr. Polakoff, made a couple of statements. He said, in terms of transition housing, the Housing Corporation has provided significant funding to a number of facilities in the past. Further on he said there's an opportunity for transitional housing through the overall housing continuum. I'd like to ask the Minister for Housing, the transitional housing is typically operated outside of the GNWT,

so I'd like to ask him what types of support exist within the Housing Corporation to provide support to the operators of transitional housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Housing, Robert C. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that particular information right now but I'd be happy to get it and relay it on to the Member. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that commitment. I look forward to that. Further on in his remarks, Mr. Polakoff mentioned that NGOs can provide a good source of support in terms of administering things like transitional housing. I'd like to ask the Minister, and hopefully he has at least some of this information, but under what program could the Housing Corporation provide operational funds to NGOs who provide transitional housing, new programs, existing programs, programs from another department? Any information would be helpful. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, there are some programs that we administer, on behalf of CMHC, that assist some of the folks that provide some of the houses with maintenance and upkeep on the units. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I guess I'll have to ask the Minister if he can commit to provide me with that information since he hasn't mentioned what that is. One of the things that happened during the building of Bailey House was that the units were designed to a certain size and the Housing Corporation came along and said that they needed to be larger. By making those units larger, that increased the cost of running that facility. It led them to the situation where they are right now, where their revenues don't meet their expenses. The tenants at Bailey House can't afford any more than the \$800 or \$900 that they're being charged at the moment. I'd like to know, in terms of that situation, where the Housing Corporation requires units to be larger and, therefore, more expensive than what the building is originally designed for, what will the Housing Corporation do to help the people operating the transitional housing to have their revenue meet their expenses. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member has provided me with a lot of detail and she's looking for some answers on some of the detail. If I had an opportunity to meet with the Member and listen to some of her concerns I'd be in a better position to supply the detail that's she looking for, but I can assure the Member that we do what we can to assist those folks that are operating units. We have money that we sometimes do allocate to them, on behalf of CMHC, for some of the repairs on their unit. I would imagine if the Housing Corporation said the unit had to be larger,

then we would have to look at maybe how we would be able to support that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister, I think. As Mrs. Groenewegen has said once or twice, it would be nice if you just sort of said, yeah, that's a good idea, we'll look into it. I heard the Minister say that he'd like to sit down and talk. Absolutely. I'm going to ask him if he would commit to meet with me to talk about this idea so that we can try and find some sort of a solution. I would also like to ask the Minister if he would commit to work with other departments within the government to find the right funding for NGOs so that the people within transitional housing don't have to go on to income support.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the fact that there are some good ideas over there, we don't have to say it. Obviously, the fact that we're willing to sit and meet with Members and try and address some of the concerns shows them that there are some good ideas and we're willing to listen. I will commit to the Member that we're willing to listen to any ideas, any suggestions. It helps us do our job, it obviously helps the Members do their jobs, and most importantly, it helps the folks out there that we're representing. I will commit to the Member that I'd be more than happy to sit down and meet with her. I will meet with whoever I need to, to try and find a good resolution to some of the issues that they're facing. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 578-16(5):
BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the Business Incentive Policy as it's applied in the local preference adjustment. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI questions on this.

Will the Minister go back to the department to see if the current BIP is working in the small communities in the sense that the small communities are getting the majority of the contracts within the small communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister responsible for ITI, Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We see a priority for this government to try to get as much of our expenditures into the smaller communities. We have a number of tools that we use to try to do that. Obviously, we use the Business Incentive Policy. Of course, we have a Negotiated Contract Policy to allow us to do that, but I would be very pleased to go back to the department and find out whether contracts are

making it to local businesses in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister look at the total impacts of changing the Business Incentive Policy from what it is currently to my recommendation? Just a paper exercise. I am looking for my recommendations of applying a flat 15 percent across the board for local adjustments only. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we are quite prepared to do that analysis. I should mention that the Business Incentive Policy was set up to provide a level playing field for northern businesses that invest in the North and have their offices and their workforce and buildings in the North, to give them a level playing field with southern contractors. That is the primary purpose of the Business Incentive Policy. With regards to providing incentives to small communities versus other northern communities, that is not the primary purpose, but we are prepared to do the analysis and provide the Member with our preliminary findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I thought the main objective or primary purpose would be to keep the GNWT dollars in the NWT. I thought the level playing field was a result of trying to do that. Will the Minister go back to the small communities, maybe not every small community, not a full consultation process, but to some of the small communities to hear first hand from the small community contractors what the issues are with the BIP? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, if there is an indication from the Members here that it's something that we should do, we would be prepared to do that. Right now we haven't had any indication that this is something that the majority of Members want us to do. I would be prepared to put that forward as part of the transitional arrangements with the next Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he could do more analysis on BIP. I would like to ask the Minister if they can do adjustments to contracts that were already let in the small communities, a new set of adjustments based on 15 percent local preference only and maybe discuss the results with me so that I am able to also determine what the issues are when I am talking to local contractors in Fort Res and Lutselk'e. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we would be prepared to provide the Member with some information as to what the issues would be with proceeding with what the Member is proposing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Next I have Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 579-16(5):
FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is probably to the Minister with Intergovernmental Affairs to deal with the Food Mail Program when they are meeting with... Sorry, maybe to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health, then, for the Food Mail Program. When a constituent of mine phoned Yellowknife and got the order, the order was then delivered to Buffalo Airways. When it was shipped to Deline, the food was pretty well all frozen and it was pretty well spoiled. In terms of this Food Mail Program, if there is a monitoring as to where can people go to register a complaint or to get reimbursed for the food that is spoiled due to the Food Mail Program system.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, this is a federal program administered by the federal government, but I would be happy to just sit down with him and get the details and inquire on his behalf. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, when the Minister sits down with the federal Minister on this program here, can the federal Minister and the Minister talk about this type of situation that can be blamed here and simply for residents in my region when situations like this happens, that they can pick up the phone, either in their own language in Denewa or in English, to register a complaint or can say the food that they have received is spoiled and they need to do something different right away?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I would be happy to get detailed information and get back to the Member, as well as finding out perhaps a process in place that people could inquire to. I will get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I am hoping this cold weather would be cleared up as soon as possible, because one of the situations that the Food Mail Program runs into in this 40 below, it is very hard to keep the products warm and fresh. It is no fault of anybody. That is the situation that we run into with the Food Mail Program. When the Minister has the opportunity to talk to the federal Minister, when she gets the details from me that she could again relay this to the federal Minister, when will the Minister have the first opportunity to discuss this with the federal government?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I need to first get the information. I am not sure if I will be talking to the Minister on a specific situation like that, but I would be happy to inquire on the basis of facts to

get the answer for that specific situation and, in terms of a process, where could a person go to inquire when something like that happens.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope it doesn't take a week or three weeks. I hope the Minister and I could talk right away after this session here, get the facts and she can come back saying I can get a hold of the Minister tomorrow or next week and we will have this discussion. It is not too complicated. It is very simple. That is what I am asking the Minister so I can go back to Deline and my constituents and say we are acting on the issue right away. I hope it doesn't take a long time. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I know some things take longer than we would like, but the Member knows that we have been able to have pretty quick turnaround on things, understanding, though, in this situation, that I need to talk to a federal body. I need to have my officials talk to the federal body about the specific situation he is asking. I will undertake to look into it as soon as possible. I will get together with him as soon as possible as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next I have the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 580-16(5):
POWER OUTAGES IN JEAN MARIE RIVER

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation some questions with regard to Jean Marie River. The chief had called me today and they're really having issues with a lot of power outages in that community with the generators. I'd just like to ask the Minister if he's aware of it and what exactly is going on with these generators. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been kept up to date on the outages that have occurred and some of the concerns around there. I know, for example, in February there were a number of outages, some from a 10-minute outage to about a 40-minute outage. Some of it is equipment related and we're investigating what's a growing concern.

I do know that in our past in our discussions about alternative energies, the Jean Marie facility was looked at I'll have to get information of where that sits. I'm looking at replacement of our engines there to a newer model, but we are investigating if that was feasible, because we do know that we're

coming up to retrofit time. But I'll get additional information back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. Does the Minister know if it's still in the capital plan then, and if so, is it slated for replacement this year? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. I'll have to get back to the Member on that, because the Power Corp has its capital replacement process as part of its rate structures as to when it can replace equipment. I do know that overall, from our side looking at the old Energy Coordinating Committee process, that Jean Marie River was looked at as a possibility of looking at biomass operations and I'll have to get the latest on that. I don't believe replacement is for this coming year, but they are looking at when that actual replacement comes up to look at what we can do. But I'll get the latest from the NWTPC and then get that back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. Also, just given the importance of the power outages for the residents of Jean Marie, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could come up with a plan and have his staff get over there and come up with at least an interim solution to all those power outages and monitor their generators. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. The issues of the outages is one that I've asked to get some additional information on from the Power Corporation and I'll get that back to the Member, as well as I'll have them communicate with the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Next I have Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 581-16(5):
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got some more questions today for the Minister of Transportation, getting back to my Member's statement where I talked about delays in construction. Going back to some of the things the Minister has said in the past, he had mentioned to the House and to Members that construction would take place from both sides of the river on the project to ensure the completion date of November 2011. It would appear that that's not happening, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister why construction hasn't taken place on both sides of that river so that it could meet in the middle as the Minister had told this House previously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan is to still meet in the middle, but the approach has changed somewhat, as the Member has indicated. The delay in steel has caused the approach to change. The plan is now to

work on the north side and things are going very well. The contractor has been doing some very good work in launching the steel. We should be hitting the fourth pier or the final pier on the north side relatively soon and construction will continue with the tower as we deal with the breakup of the ice. The plan is to have all the trusses be worked on and put together during the breakup time and be ready for launching as soon as the river is clear.

Mr. Speaker, we still are working towards our goal of having the bridge opened in the fall and there's no denying there are challenges out there. The delay of steel is one. The breakup of the river is another one, and as I indicated the other day in questions during question period, the ability for us or for our contractor to do work that was planned for warmer weather that has to be done in the cold season or the latter part of the fall is something that we have to work out.

There are many things that are out there that challenge us almost every day. If the weather is colder than minus 35, then we for sure have to take into consideration the safety of the workers and I think there's a policy that restricts them from working in that temperature. If there are strong winds, they can't be up on the towers. Those towers are way up in the air on top of the ice and that's an issue. Also, we were challenged this year when we were caught off guard with the ferry shutting down. That was also cause for delay.

So there are many things. We are in continual contact with the contractor and I'm very confident we have a good team and things are continuing to move forward.

MR. RAMSAY: I thank the Minister for that. Part of the initial budget on the \$92 million contract between the Deh Cho Bridge and Ruskin would not have included the need to take out that temporary bridge and put it back in again a few weeks after breakup to allow construction on the south side. I'd like to ask the Minister how much is taking the temporary bridge out and putting it back in going to cost and who's going to pay for that. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. It's a difficult situation we're in. We have our contractors that are listening to this discussion, we've already been contacted by the contractors raising concerns over some of the Member's comments that are in the contract. There's a proprietary issue that we're dealing with here. These issues are dealt with in the contract. I'm not in a position to disclose it at this time, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to reassure the Member that these issues were things that were taken into consideration. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I appreciate the work the contractor is doing there. My apologies for trying to get some answers on the \$200 million that the taxpayers of the Northwest Territories have hanging out there on this project. So, again, I'm going to ask questions

and continue to ask questions about this project in an effort to protect the taxpayers here in the Northwest Territories and find out what our real risks are with this project.

I'd like to ask the Minister again, yesterday I asked him a pretty straightforward question: who would be responsible for cost overruns and construction delays on this project? Would it be the Government of the Northwest Territories or would it be the contractor? The Minister mentioned something about potential loss of revenue due to the contract going past the completion date. It wasn't what I was looking for. I just want to know whose responsibility it is. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: It would depend on who the responsibility of the delay or the cost overrun, who it would apply to. If it was the contractor's issue, then they would have to eat those costs. If it was the responsibility of our government, if it was an issue that could be attributed to something we did or we were responsible for, then we'd have to pay for it.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the Minister for that. In the interview the project manager did with the CBC he said the bridge's general contractor, it will be up to them to figure out how to make up the lost time and pay for any added costs. I'd like to ask the Minister, is that exactly how this is going to work? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, but, Mr. Speaker... Mr. Speaker, that's correct, but if there are any issues that arise that are attributed to something we've done or that are under our responsibility, then we would have to absorb those costs. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 582-16(5):
MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR HAY RIVER
COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about NGO funding, multi-year funding. We have a fine group of volunteers in Hay River who went to some amount of work out of a genuine concern for offering services and programs to persons with disabilities in Hay River. We should have multi-year funding. They ended up with funding for one year. The funding was late in coming. There was no discretionary latitude applied to the money that they had received to allow them to re-profile some of those funds for the months that had been lost while they waited for approval.

I realize that we need to have accountability for contribution agreements that we make to NGOs. There needs to be accountability, but we need to find a balance between burdening those NGOs down with endless compiling of statistics, and reporting, and report writing, and application proposal writing, with actually doing the work that they want to do and that is on the front-line helping those people. I can tell you that the program in Hay River has been extremely successful.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities, what can we do in the future to avoid this?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to her questions as well as the Member's statement, I want to say first off that we do provide multi-year funding to organizations. We review them on a case-by-case basis. So I want to state that to start with.

There are two issues the Member is raising. One is there are some specific situations here that happened with respect to this organization whereby they asked to make adjustments specifically, and I would like to look into that and I can commit to look into those details and see how we could accommodate. Secondly, I will undertake also to see if we could look into doing multi-year funding with this organization.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: It seems like it would be a lot of work to judge each application, each proposal, each funding agreement individually. Are there not guidelines, parameters that, for example, four months into a fiscal year an NGO has their funding approved? In the meantime they have not been able to procure the services of an office manager or Internet services or different things that they would have on a monthly basis. Then they receive their funding four months into that fiscal year for the full year, but they're only allowed to spend per month what was in the proposal. Is there not a standard? Would it really require the Minister to judge those individually or could there not be a standard policy whereby if the NGO was seen worthy of that contribution, that they would also been found to be worthy to make a judgment call about, for example, increasing the hours for the remainder of that fiscal year for their office personnel, for example?

HON. SANDY LEE: Ideally when a group gets funded they should be given enough notice to make adjustments between fiscal years and to be able to plan. I'm not sure if you need a multi-year arrangement to do that, because an argument could still be made that even if you had a multi-year, if there's some kind of an operational and

procedural delay, that's the issue there in what the Member is saying. Without knowing details of the situation, I don't know what happened to have the delay and also why some of those very specific adjustments that were requested were denied. I think we should leave room for some of the financial accounting rules or some other rules that we're not aware of in this Chamber that our officials are asked to follow. This is why I'd rather undertake to look into this and get back to the Member with a more detailed answer. I am willing to be open-minded to look at some options.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: In the case of this particular NGO I would certainly be happy to provide the detail to the Minister on the delay in approval, the delay in commencing the services that would normally be carried out by this office, and the amount of money that was related to that delay and get the Minister's approval, I guess, if that's the level that we have to take it to, to get the Minister's approval to have that money re-profiled and reallocated for the remainder of that year. I'm happy to provide that to the Minister. I'm just hopeful that an NGO would not have to in all instances make such an application, that there would be something within the framework, within the policy of the funding and contribution agreements that would, when we know it's a delayed approval, it's a delayed receipt of funds in that year and so many months have gone by, that there would be a way of making a more blanket policy that that funding could be spent by that NGO in that remainder of the fiscal year.

HON. SANDY LEE: I think I can safely state that just for our department there are lots of NGOs that we fund that are delivering many, many really substantive programming, like YWCA, Sally Ann, all of our...I don't know. I don't want to exclude anybody. They have the stability of funding. All those applications do not come up to my office where I need to review them. So I think we need to accept that there are different types and sizes and characters of NGOs and I want to assure the Member that I don't micromanage in that way. This is why I just want to undertake to look at this situation and see what happened from an accounting and procedural point of view. I will look to see if this group is one that could be considered for multi-year funding, if that's what could have prevented what's happening here. It's because there are so many kinds of NGOs it's hard for me to say that we could just do a blanket approach in this way.

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

QUESTION 583-16(5):
SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and follow up on my Member's statement. I looked at the Minister's statement on Nutrition Month and I see a real focus of programs on obesity. Poor nutrition during the youngest years for people, though, is a likely reason for nutrition-related issues like obesity in older children and adults. Yet the Minister's statement offers no programs that actually put nutritious food in the mouths of our youngest citizens. Why is that?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member knows that it's the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that has programming for providing support for food in schools. Education, Culture and Employment has extensive school nutrition programs.

MR. BROMLEY: I'm certainly aware of a number of programs that have been dropped from our programs. This House is on repeated record calling for providing nutritious food or subsidizing milk for our youngest people that are not receiving a nutritious diet. What has the Minister done either within the Department of Health and Social Services or in concert with her ECE colleague to serve the will of the House on these directions?

HON. SANDY LEE: A large part of the work that we do in the Department of Health and Social Services is health promotion. Our staff is out there promoting healthy eating habits, dangers of child obesity, just eating healthy and not abusing things that are harmful to us. The pre-natal and post-natal health; there is so much work we do. In the past the government has reduced the power rates in the communities and that really helps with the cost of food in our smallest communities. As well, we have increased food mail programs. Not food mail, food basket. I think it's important that we understand that there are many departments that are involved in the issue that the Member is raising.

MR. BROMLEY: There was a brief program for a school nutrition coordinator to serve three school boards, funded under the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative. Is this program still running or has this gone the way of other programs and, as the dodo bird, is extinct?

HON. SANDY LEE: I would need to look into that specifically, but I am aware, in visiting a lot of schools in our communities, that they do serve these programs and we have lots of food programs in the communities. The information from Education, Culture and Employment is that under NWT funded programs we have spent almost

\$600,000 and that under federally funded, with resources managed by GNWT programs, we have provided funding to almost every region to help with Healthy Food for Learning, Drop the Pop, Health Promotion Fund, Together for Healthy Living, Breakfast for Learning. There are lots of programs that Education, Culture and Employment provides, as well as Health and Social Services.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost all of which seem to be ending or dropping out of our routine programs. We need responsible parents who provide their children with proper nutrition and breakfast before school, but for those children with parents who cannot meet this responsibility, for whatever reason, does the Minister agree that we should just let the children suffer the consequences or, indeed, should we work on both fronts and work with both parents and children until that capacity can be achieved?

HON. SANDY LEE: Of course not. I could tell you that under NWT funded programs, under Healthy Food for Learning Education, Culture and Employment provides: \$94,685 for Beaufort-Delta; \$6,867 for Commission Scolaire; \$50,488 for Deh Cho; \$49,000 for Tlicho; \$44,000 for Sahtu; \$64,000 for South Slave; \$23,989 for YCS; \$45,000 for YK1. That's just one column. I could provide the Member with the list. While we speak about the need to do things, I think we should be careful about just sweeping generalizations, saying that in a very kind of very mean way, I must say.

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

QUESTION 584-16(5):
RAISING GNWT PRIORITIES WITH THE
FEDERAL CANDIDATES FOR
WESTERN ARCTIC

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about past efforts to get northern issues on the table for discussion and certainly commitments during federal campaigns. In the past, former-Premier Handley has done this as well as, I'd like to note, even Premier Roland during the last election followed suit on the particular issue of raising questions to get responses from both candidates who are striving for that much coveted seat of Western Arctic and of course getting it from the national parties.

My question for the Premier is: does he intend to follow this particular practice if an election is called in the next while, while Members are between sittings of the Assembly of the House, and how will he discuss this particular issue with Members to get

their points of view to ensure that the right questions are asked to the candidates in these parties on commitments for the North?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed we have made it a practice as the Government of the Northwest Territories when a federal election is on, to put our positions forward on where our key concerns lie. We've done that, for example, around climate change and our infrastructure in the North. We start by using the goals and vision of the Assembly and follow up through clarifying it as we have usually, through a Caucus process. I'd be prepared to go to Members with what our positions are existing, as we have them, and follow up with e-mails so that if an election were to be called we'd have some framework that we could send out to potential candidates.

MR. HAWKINS: That's the exact type of answer I'm certainly looking for and certainly constituents of mine. Recognizing that the Assembly is a non-partisan Assembly, it makes it very difficult to support one party over the other.

Would the Premier have any specific plans on how to articulate the answers provided by both the national parties and the individual candidates to make sure that, first of all, our questions are out there and certainly that the answers are meeting the needs of Northerners? That's part of the issue out there, is people want to know what the national parties will bring to the table to show that they're committed to supporting the North.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We'll follow up. Again, we don't know if an election is going to be called, when an election is going to be called and all that timing, but we have made it a practice as the Government of the Northwest Territories to get our issues out there so that they can be discussed, part of commitments made, hopefully, by potential candidates in a federal election, and we follow it up with Members in writing, I believe, to that rule. We'll continue to use the same practice. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: It may be difficult to answer today, but I certainly wouldn't mind hearing some creativity from the Premier on this particular issue. How do you think we could get the commitments made by the national parties out there to our northern citizens? I want to make sure that they earn the seat of Western Arctic. I don't want anybody to get an easy ride and realize that the Government of the Northwest Territories is standing by supporting either one candidate and not another or, of course, making sure that the people have a full digest as to the commitments people are willing to make from a national point of view of how to support this Legislature and the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't mind hearing some possible ideas as to how the Premier can get that message out from the federal parties, if there is an election called, on their clear commitments on how they plan to support the North. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Again, because, as the Member stated, we're non-partisan in this Assembly, we have the same questions go to the candidates and we follow it up with the leaders of the parties with our positions. Much of the work on implementation to see the proof in the pudding, I think what the Member is looking for, is something we make it our job as a government to follow through on. Our request for infrastructure commitment requests, for some political leadership on some files like climate change, like infrastructure, like the Mackenzie Valley Highway, like the pipeline. Those things, again, we follow through with and we follow through with notifying Members. I believe we had a practice of trying to put it out there for responses and, again, we'll look to the practice and precedent we've set in the responses received. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'd like to define the Western Arctic seat is a much coveted seat by all the parties in their desperation to get a majority. I wouldn't want to give them an easy ride and assume that it will go one way or the other, I think they should fight hard and earn that seat, Mr. Speaker.

I guess my last question to the Premier would be: would the Premier see either good value of the territorial government publicizing all answers provided by national parties on northern particular issues as they respond to questions from this government about how they plan to commit and further support this government on its endeavours to work for the people of the Northwest Territories? That's the kind of thing that I think the everyday citizen of our North deserves, to find out what the actual parties are willing to do, because, Mr. Speaker, elections don't come every day and we want clear commitments we can hold their feet to the fire. Even though it's one seat, they all want this seat, and it's an important one we should consider and not forget. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The Member does have a flair for making statements in this Assembly. Clearly, as the Member is a veteran of elections and election processes, he knows that any election process is a very difficult one, whether it is at a constituency level for the Legislative Assembly or the bigger picture of the Northwest Territories. Of course, we have an interest, as representatives of the people of the North, to try to get the best voice out there and a commitment to what we're trying to do as the Legislative Assembly. We have, I believe,

established a past practice of communicating with potential candidates, leaders of those parties, and then providing that information to residents of the North, so we'll follow past practice. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 585-16(5):
ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS TO
BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are to the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice and are a follow-up on my Member's statement.

I talked about V-Day North today, where a local organization over the last two years has raised \$25,000 to help increase awareness on violence against women and also to help break the cycles of violence in the Northwest Territories. Clearly, prevention and treatment are critical to helping break the cycle of violence. To that end, V-Day North has actually asked me to ask the Minister of Justice today: what is the Department of Justice doing to help victims break this cycle of violence here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Through our consultation with the communities and also our partners with various organizations such as the RCMP and NGOs and other organizations and interdepartmental as well, we provide various programs. One of our priorities, of course, is prevention and preventive measures, and also the Member referred to the treatment, how we can have a program in place that those individuals, the victims who are seeking out some sort of support from our organizations in the Government of the Northwest Territories. Through that, there have been some programs such as I just highlighted today in my Minister's statement, the Victim Notification Program that's going to be rolled out, the program for men that's going to be rolled out, we're hoping, this fall, and also Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, which is scheduled to be rolled out this month as well. Those are just some of the captions of the programs that we deliver to develop a preventative measurement in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

MR. ABERNETHY: I listened, with interest, to the Minister's statement today and I'm very happy that this Victim Notification Program is going to be implemented. I didn't catch the title, but it's the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court that's going to be rolled out later this year. Can the Minister tell us how that is intended to help break the cycle of violence? What is the value in that program in breaking that cycle? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the Domestic Family Violence Treatment Option Court Program has been developed through the court proceedings and it has the involvement of a chief judge, Chief Judge Gorin, Judge Gagnon. The Department of Justice, my department, is working closely with them. The Public Prosecution of Canada, the RCMP and the defence bar are the parties that are involved in developing this program. The program will be delivered here in Yellowknife, working closely with the offenders and also the low-risk offenders.

Mr. Speaker, we feel that this is a great opportunity to work within the court system that will provide some sort of a preventive measure. Those individuals that are going through the court proceedings, certainly we don't want them to come back to face those crimes again. Again, this is just one of those programs that we're going to be rolling out this month and we're looking forward to successful results, based on the discussions that we've had.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thanks to the Minister for that. Is this program, the Domestic Violence Treatment Option, starting off as a pilot or is it a fully established program? The Minister did say that it's going to be rolled out here in Yellowknife. Violence doesn't just occur in Yellowknife. Can we expect to see this program rolled out into other communities throughout the Northwest Territories so that we can get some people who are committing these violent acts the treatment and the support they need to break this cycle of violence? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, this program, as I stated, will be rolled out this month. It will be a program for the Northwest Territories that will be delivered here in the capital of the Northwest Territories. At the same time, I did commit to the standing committee, when I presented to them on this specific program, that one of our goals is to deliver this into the regions outside the Yellowknife jurisdiction and potentially going into the communities. That will take some time, Mr. Speaker, but that's one of our goals as the department, that we want to roll out the program into the regions. The communities will be offset, covered in that respect. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Your final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward, like I said, to seeing the results of this program. It sounds good. Between that and the Victim Notification Program, I think some good work has really been done in the department. But as I talked in my statement, the V-Day North has been rolling money into the community to help break the cycles of violence and one of the organizations that they have been giving some money to help them break that cycle of violence is the Centre for

Northern Families. I know that many departments in this government are supporting the Centre for Northern Families in different ways and I know that there are some difficulties there. I'm wondering what, if any, money the Department of Justice is flowing to the Centre for Northern Families to help them break this cycle of family violence and what this department could do to support the Centre for Northern Families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The Member is correct that a number of departments are providing funding to the Centre for Northern Families. ECE, Health and Social Services, NWT Housing Corporation and the Executive provide just over \$600,000 to deliver programs and services such as the Early Childhood Program in different areas, outreach workers and the shelter funding, emergency shelter. Within the Justice department, through community justice programming, we are going through the review or programming of the dollars that are being contributed to the communities. We have to work with the organizations such as the community government or the band council. Through that venue, there's money available. Again, there are other possible funds that may be available to various organizations. I can provide some of the programming that we may have available to the organizations. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 586-16(5):
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have some questions on the Deh Cho Bridge for the Minister of DOT. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if the entire management structure for the Deh Cho Bridge is the sole responsibility of DOT or is there any management outside of DOT for the Deh Cho Bridge? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, Transportation and our officials track all expenditures and have the monthly reports, the daily reports and the annual auditing of all revenues and expenditures. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'll assume that means that management is standing by the Department of Transportation. I was wondering if the Minister could provide me with some information in the sense of looking for schedules versus stages of construction. I was wondering if the Minister could provide me with a project status report on the Deh Cho Bridge. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we do have status reports that are compiled on a daily

basis by the different companies that we have. We also do our own. We do it on a weekly and monthly basis. We certainly can provide a reconciliation of where the expenditures are versus the construction schedule. Mr. Speaker, we are a little over 80 percent, moving towards 85 percent of our expenditures, of our budget being spent, and we're probably at the same level with our construction schedule. So roughly a little more than 80 percent of our budget is spent and a little more than 80 percent of our contract schedule is concluded. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'm not trying to suggest how something of this magnitude should be managed, but I'm wondering if the department did a cash flow of the original budget, original cost of the bridge, if that was cash flowed from the beginning to the end of the project was supposed to be intended to come to an end, I guess, so to speak. I'm wondering if the budget was turned into a cash flow during the construction stage. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We are closely tracking all expenditures. We have a breakdown, we have cash flow charts, we have variances, we have spreadsheets that provide all the information that the Member has brought forward, we have a breakdown of the budget by various components, we provide year-to-year expenditures on each item and we forecast each expenditure to the completion of the project, so we do have all the information and we do track it very closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I consider the variance report to be part of project management, especially huge project management. I'm wondering if, since the Minister did refer to a variance report but saying verifying variance report is what I'm hearing, I'm wondering if the Minister could provide us a variance report, one variance report that compares a cash flow with expenditures so the House could determine where we're at, like, if we're on schedule with the construction, if we're on schedule with the flow of money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Some of this information is available publicly. Our financial audit is done on an annual basis. It's reviewed by the Auditor General. The information is something we can certainly share. Mr. Speaker, we've asked for some committee time to talk about some of the details regarding schedules, regarding budgets and things of that nature. I believe we've managed to secure some time so we can have an opportunity to sit down and look at some of these things in depth, including the risk matrix and things of that nature that maybe will provide some comfort to the Members with further detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 587-16(5):
BIDS FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION
ON PARCELS IN THE SAHTU
AND BEAUFORT-DELTA

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, last week the very big news that came out of Indian and Northern Affairs that the largest parcels of land in the Northwest Territories were up for grabs: 11 parcels in the Sahtu, a couple of parcels in the Mackenzie Delta and I think there's a parcel up in the Beaufort Sea. This is historical, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of ITI, in light of these bids that are going up that have been an issue in a nine-year period, what is ITI doing to anticipate possibly a big boom in terms of oil and gas exploration and development?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of ITI, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, too, see it as very good news, the fact that 11 land parcels were put up for bid. But I also want to advise the Member that our government had no prior notification or input or advance notice that these bids were going forward and although we are aware of it now, we are preparing for the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline and, as we've said many times, the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline will be a basin-opening project for the Northwest Territories, and in due course you'll see more money spent on exploration than spent on the pipeline itself. So we have a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office and we are getting ready for future development in the oil and gas sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: I think the federal government caught a lot of people off here in terms of announcing these bids here. The bids on these parcels, on one parcel had a minimum bid of \$1 million, Mr. Speaker. Two of these parcels of land are right on the Sahtu land, surface and subsurface rights belong to the Sahtu people and we must get ready for it such as finalizing the Sahtu Land Use Plan and preparing other agreements, and also for training and employment. I want to ask the GNWT how do these work bids fit into the overall land use planning framework.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd just like to recognize the clock. I'll allow the Member to conclude his questions and also the Minister to respond. Minister of ITI.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no connection between these bids and the land use framework that we are developing as a government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: I want to ask the Minister what are the implications of the devolution AIP for this development.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I think the implications are quite significant. Our Premier has spoken to the Prime Minister's office and a number of federal Ministers as well, so have several Ministers on this side. What we indicated is that with the signing of the devolution AIP, that we have to be involved in these kinds of decisions that affect lands and resources and we are asking that we develop transitional arrangements so that we are part and parcel of these decisions that will affect us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. So with that, I'd just like to rise and take a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to call the House back to order. Prior to the break we were on written questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Minister of ITI, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 171-16(5):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ECONOMIC
REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Economic Review and Outlook, January 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 25:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012, has had first reading.

---Carried

Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 26:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011, has had first reading.

---Carried

Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 27:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, has had first reading.

---Carried

Bills 25, 26 and 27 have received first reading. Item 18, second reading of bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 25:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations expenditures for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012, has had second reading.

---Carried

Minister of Finance.

BILL 26:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011, has had second reading.

---Carried

Minister of Finance.

BILL 27:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, has received second reading.

---Carried

Bills 25, 26 and 27 have received second reading.

Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy;

Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to "Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future"; Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts Over \$5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010; Tabled Document 135-16(5), GNWT Response to CR 3-16(5) Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Minister's Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights; and Minister's Statement 88-16(5) Sessional Statement, with Mr. Bromley in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of committee, or my wish, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Your wish is our command. Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 16:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE DOG ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak a bit to this bill. I do feel that the Dog Act as presented is a far improved act from what we had before. There are certainly provisions in there which are going to make things much easier for prosecutions to happen.

I do have a concern, however, with the section that deals with accepted activities and the section which allows for exceptions and exemptions to certain activities. I don't feel that part of the bill is necessary. I stated that yesterday and I just wanted to restate it.

That said, the bill as a whole is far better than what we currently have and I do support this going forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, has received third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 25:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012, has received third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 26:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. Bill 26, Supplementary

Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011, has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 27:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, has had third reading.

---Carried

Before we continue on I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Pages that have served us over the last number of weeks and for their hard work and an opportunity for them to take part in our legislative process. I'd like to thank the principals and schools that have offered them the time to serve us here in the Legislative Assembly. I'd like to thank them all personally and on behalf of the Members here in the House. Thank you very much.

Mr. Clerk, we'd like you to ascertain whether the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable George Tuccaro, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to bills and prorogue the Fifth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

Prorogation

Assent to Bills

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. George Tuccaro): Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act;
- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act;
- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act;
- Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act;
- Bill 18, An Act to Repeal the Settlements Act;
- Bill 19, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act;
- Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act;
- Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012;

- Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011;
- Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011.

Prior to proroguing this Fifth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly, I wish to announce that the Sixth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly will convene on Monday, March 7, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Fifth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, qnanami, mahsi cho.

---PROROGATION

The House prorogued at 12:29 p.m.

