NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6th Session
Day 1
16th Assembly

HANSARD

Monday, March 7, 2011

Pages 6401 - 6420

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
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Early last week I paid visits to the schools in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic and met with groups of students and their teachers to talk with them about making positive, healthy and productive choices now and in the future. I hope that I reinforced the message that getting a good education is an important foundation to building their careers and making happy, healthy lives for themselves.

I also had the opportunity to visit two new facilities under construction in Inuvik, with the guidance of Public Works and Services project manager Mr. Ramesh Koirala and two site foremen.

The school complex, which will accommodate students from kindergarten to grade 12, and the new government office building and records centre are both very impressive, and residents of Inuvik and the Beaufort-Delta region will be very well served when these facilities open for business.

Due to the blizzard the week that I was in the Delta, I was unable to make a school visit to Tuktoyaktuk, but look forward to visiting the community sometime in the next year.

I must compliment the people of the Beaufort-Delta on their northern hospitality. We liked it so much we stayed an extra three days in complete isolation from all forms of long distance communication due to the biggest blizzard in many years. I would like to thank Peter Clarkson and RCMP Staff Sergeant Wayne Norris for offering the use of their satellite phones.

Over the next few months I am looking forward to attending several high school graduations across the NWT.

Like most residents of the Northwest Territories, I am eagerly awaiting the visit in July by Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton. As Northerners, we are honoured that they have chosen our Territory as one of the places they will visit when they come to Canada so soon after their marriage. The royal tour will be an opportunity for us to share our renowned northern hospitality and to showcase the beauty of our lands and waterways.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the Sixth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.
Thank you, merci beaucoup, quanami, mahsi cho.

Speaker’s Opening Remarks

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon colleagues. I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of all Members to the Honourable George L. Tuccaro, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, for opening the Sixth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to extend the Assembly’s thanks to Mr. Daniel Gillis for his beautiful rendition of O Canada, and to Pastor Chris Watkins of the Cornerstone Pentecostal Church for leading us in prayer today. Thank you, gentlemen.

Also, colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the attendance in the House today of one of the two honourary presiding officers of this Assembly. I would like to welcome Mr. Tony Whitford, former Commissioner, former Speaker, former Minister and former Member of this Legislative Assembly, as he takes his place today as honourary Clerk of this House.

Colleagues, I understand that much work remains to be done, so let us begin this Sixth and final session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

Item 3, Ministers’ statements. The honourable Member for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Ministers’ Statements

MINISTER’S STATEMENT 1-16(6): COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to update Members and the public on the Community Access Program administered by the Department of Transportation.

Communities and residents are benefiting greatly from this program, especially in our small rural and remote communities.

The Community Access Program provides funding contributions to communities for local access roads, trails and winter roads to nearby attractions such as hunting, fishing and wood gathering areas and recreational sites. The 16th Legislative Assembly significantly expanded this program through the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiative, based on recommendations from the Committee on the Sustainability of Rural and Remote Communities.

Beginning this fiscal year, the Community Access Program has provided contributions to communities for a wide array of projects, now including local boating and marine projects and winter access to granular resources. Also, the available funding was significantly increased from $320,000 to $1 million so that a greater number of projects can be done each year and more communities can benefit.

Mr. Speaker, our regional superintendents have been working closely with the communities in their regions to support projects that meet local priorities, and I am pleased to report that our communities have seized the opportunity. In 2010-11 the Department of Transportation is funding 21 community-based projects across the Territory. The program has created community jobs and training opportunities that has helped build project management capacity in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of this program extend far beyond the construction phase. These trails and dock projects provide healthy recreational opportunities for our youth and improve access to the land for traditional activities. There is also a sense of community pride and accomplishment that comes along with delivering these community-based priority projects.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation is doing its part to deliver on this Assembly’s goal of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities through the Community Access Program. This has always been a very popular program for communities and now that we are able to fund even a greater number and variety of projects that is even more popular.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of my colleagues in the Assembly for making additional funds available so that this important program could be expanded. While the program is fully subscribed for 2010-11, the Department of Transportation staff are continuing to work closely with community leaders to identify future projects that will be considered under the Community Access Program in 2011-12. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, Members’ statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Members’ Statements

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON TALTSON HYDRO PROJECT

MR. BROMLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Deze’s decision to pause the Taltson Hydro Project to the diamond mines is undoubtedly necessary because the guaranteed market is simply not there and because they did not successfully grapple with routing issues. But there are more important and larger lessons to be learned here.

High costs and competing demands for government revenue indicate we must focus scarce public dollars on developing energy that serves our communities and directly addresses our cost of living. As well, with what we know today, we cannot continue permitting resource development projects knowing that they will add to our greenhouse gas emissions. It is equivalent to shooting ourselves in the foot.

These facts highlight two essential points. First, from now on, resource development must be
required to develop their own renewable energy sources, ideally with an eye to leaving a legacy for communities. Government’s role is to assist them with a legacy potential. Second, any project receiving public dollars must serve the public interest, reducing cost of living by expanding local and renewable energy for residents, businesses and communities.

The misplaced but well intended Taltson project ignored both of these core points. Any review that NT Energy Corporation now takes must recognize this and respond in a way that provides a sound, responsible and credible way forward. Fortunately there is already a good basis on which to found such a new direction that addresses these requirements.

Studies by the Arctic Energy Alliance prove that all of the additional power produced from an expanded Taltson could be used economically within the South Slave region itself, heating buildings and powering ground-source heat bumps where one unit of energy is used to produce four equivalent units.

Con Mine built Bluefish Hydro in the days of $5 a barrel for oil and now it is part of Yellowknife’s sustainable energy portfolio. What made economic sense then is economically and environmentally essential today, and obviously it doesn’t kill projects.

Tyhee, Avalon, Fortune Minerals, et cetera, our Hydro Corp should be suggesting viable hydro options to develop sustainable solutions with the extensive time frames they have had, which also contributes to improve community service. We are developing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. Industry has development proposals. Let’s get out front on producing economically attractive energy and build our renewable energy future. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON CAPACITY BUILDING IN SMALL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Capacity building in the Northwest Territories is more than bricks and mortar. Mr. Speaker, the whole idea of building capacity is building the most fundamental resource we have: our people.

Mr. Speaker, in a lot of our small, rural, remote communities, we are struggling to basically see the benefits of these developments, regardless if it is government contracts and services, building of houses and homes, and like the Minister of Transportation mentioned, improvement to the community access programs. Mr. Speaker, all of these programs are needed to build capacity.

Mr. Speaker, The fundamental building block of any community is its human resources and making sure that we have the human resource capacity to take on programs and services delivery and ensure the wealth remains in our communities and provides people with jobs to sustain their independence from government programs and services, and to be able to take advantage of homeownership programs and access programs to be able to get government services and build capacity for our younger students, who we have all seen an all-time increase in graduation rates in our communities. It’s one thing to graduate students, it’s also important for ourselves to ensure that through that graduation and education process we find jobs that are sustainable, meaningful and we retain those young people in our communities.

I think it’s critical as a government that we take a close look at our statistics and where we have high pockets of unemployment and high pockets of social dependency through social programs and services, whether it’s income support, and the safe, viable communities that we all talk about, are we realistically meeting that objection knowing that we have some communities well in excess of 40 percent unemployment yet other communities have less than 10 percent?

We have to look at the government’s investments in the Northwest Territories and make sure they really are achieving the goals and objectives that we set to have an economically diverse and trained workforce in the Northwest Territories. That means 33 communities in the Northwest Territories have to meet that objection and we, as government, have to do a better job to ensure that’s happening.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON INCLUSION OF NATUROPATHIC PRACTITIONERS IN PROPOSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LEGISLATION

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the life of the 16th Assembly the Department of Health and Social Services has been working towards the development of legislation for health care professionals in the Northwest Territories where only a few practitioners are employed; professions such as psychologists, chiropractors and other related allied health professions. It’s my understanding that this legislation is intended to protect these professionals’ titles as well as require the practitioners to be licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction before she or he can work here in the Northwest Territories.

As the department moves forward with this legislation, I believe it will be important to include naturopathic doctors. Naturopathic medicine blends
modern scientific knowledge with traditional, natural forms of medicine. The naturopathic philosophy is to stimulate the healing power of the body and treat the underlying causes of disease.

Across Canada more and more people are seeking and benefiting from naturopathic medical care and the number of licensed naturopathic doctors is increasing. This is true in the Northwest Territories as well. Recently, a third naturopathic doctor, originally from the South Slave, opened office here in Yellowknife. A fourth, also originally from the Northwest Territories, is expected here shortly. Residents both in Yellowknife and throughout this Territory have expressed an interest in these services.

If nothing else, the increased demand for these services and increased number of providers suggests strongly that naturopathic doctors should be included in the legislation currently being considered by the Department of Health and Social Services. Personally I suggest it be taken a step further, with more specific legislation developed towards naturopathic doctors themselves. The current legislation being developed will likely protect the titles and require certain education and licensure for practitioners, but it will miss important items which should be included to ensure that naturopathic doctors can provide optimum care to patients.

To optimize care to patients and ensure utmost safety, four things are required: first, title protection; second, clear definition of scope or practice accepted in the Northwest Territories; third, allow naturopathic medical visits to be medically tax deductible expenses; and, fourth, restricted access for scheduled natural health products and basic primary drugs which naturopathic doctors are trained to dispense as a last resort.

Later today I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions on this topic.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON BILL C-530: AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT

MR. MENICOCHE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. On March 8th the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development will begin hearings into our Member of Parliament’s Bill C-530 which changes the way the Northwest Territories borrowing limit is determined.

As all Members of this House know, right now in order to increase a borrowing limit we have to lobby Ottawa for years, a process which is unacceptable for a mature jurisdiction and a government like ours. Under Mr. Bevington’s bill, this would change to a straightforward formula of 70 percent of all estimated revenues. This process is commonly used to determine borrowing limits. For example, under Section 7(1) of the debt regulations under the NWT Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the debt limit for a community like Inuvik or Yellowknife is set through the following formula: two times the municipal corporation’s revenue for the fiscal year minus the principal amount of the municipal corporation’s short-term debt. This process eliminates unneeded red tape and provides for fiscal capacity, which allows NWT communities to act quickly to meet the needs of its residents. Why can’t the Northwest Territories be treated the same way?

Speaking to his bill in the House of Commons, Mr. Bevington said: “It is not in the interest of people of the Northwest Territories to have its government come forward on a regular interval to beg Ottawa for an increase to the amount it has to borrow. This is not responsible government. This is not the kind of relationship we want to have with Ottawa. This is not the way that Canadians should be treated in this land today.”

Last year Moody’s Investors Service gave the NWT an Aa1 rating. This rating is the second highest in terms of credit risk. It places the NWT in line with most of the provinces and, in fact, better than many of the provinces. This is the second year in a row that Moody’s has issued the NWT such a high rating.

Our Territory is responsible; it is acting in a manner that many other provinces should emulate, yet we do not have the fiscal capacity to do the things we need to do for our Territory. Our constituencies have many needs and we have limited dollars. I hope that the Members of this House will support this bill, which gives the Northwest Territories the tools we need to continue to build a strong and beautiful part of Canada.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON NORTHLAND TRAILER PARK WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I’d like to speak about the situation taking place at Northland Trailer Park located here in the city of Yellowknife. Northland Trailer Park is home to 1,100 people, including close to 600 children. The issue of the aging water and sewer infrastructure is again front and centre as the trailer park continues to battle frozen lines and freeze-ups.

For the last three weeks some residents have gone with intermittent water service; water a couple of hours a day with no set schedule. The water has been out for some for a full week. This has taken a
toll on its residents. Like I said, there are close to 600 children in that trailer park. There are day homes, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and families trying their best to cope with a life with no water.

The infrastructure in the ground should have been replaced 15 years ago. Last year the City and territorial government applied for funding from the federal government. Well, who is applying the pressure in Ottawa to get that funding? The thought of a spring federal election is making the residents of Northland Trailer Park very nervous. The infrastructure has to be replaced this coming summer. Our government might not think it’s their problem, but if there’s a catastrophic water or sewer line failure in that trailer park, we will have close to 1,100 people, 600 children, being displaced from their homes. It will become our problem.

Residents of Northland can’t even sell their homes because CMHC stopped insuring mortgage loans for homes in the park almost a year ago. To add insult to injury, residents are paying property taxes on their properties, but what is the assessed value of something you can’t sell? When Northland residents see how quick the City is to jump at the Con Geothermal Project, trying to borrow $49 million and grab the available federal dollars, just how do you explain this to people who are living without a basic service like water and can’t sell or refinance their home?

In closing, this issue has got to be addressed. We cannot continue to just hope that there is not a catastrophic failure of that water and sewer line. The breaks are occurring with much more frequency, which comes as a sure sign that a catastrophic break is not far off.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON CHILD CARE SUBSIDY FOR AURORA COLLEGE STUDENTS

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Today I wish to speak about the students at Aurora College and the support they get from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Our students are our future and this government must do all it can to support the students. The success of the students is essential. Many of the students are mature students and have costs associated with family and children.

Currently, a family of three that needs child care services to attend school receives about $1,700 to $1,900 per month, if supported by Aboriginal organizations through the ASETS program. However, in order for these students to get child care subsidies from the government, they must make under $1,500 per month. I’m not 100 percent sure on all of the amounts, but it takes very little income to make students ineligible for the child care subsidy.

There is a situation where constituents of mine are going to school in Fort Smith at the Thebacha Campus. They receive $1,900 a month and the department considers the total needs of only $1,500, and they, therefore, are not eligible to receive a child care subsidy. At $1,900 a month they are considered to have a budget surplus. A budget surplus. These constituents, like many other students, have to attend the food bank every two weeks because they do not make enough money to feed their families and themselves.

It is difficult financially for students to go back to school, especially with children. Total needs have to be taken into consideration, especially if child care costs are involved. Something is wrong if a student has to struggle to get a child care subsidy and if they have no choice but to go to a food bank every couple of weeks to feed their family. The bottom line is that this government must do what they can to support the students. Remember, most of these students do not get any financial support from their parents.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON HOUSING FOR SACHS HARBOUR STUDENTS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member’s statement is on a school in Sachs Harbour for students. We found a solution. We found a unit in Inuvik that we could rent for the last three months of this last semester for $1,400 a month. It's a four-bedroom house that we could probably put bunk beds in every room, we could have 16 kids in that house in Inuvik from Sachs Harbour for high school. So I think it beats the market rent for housing for tenants and it certainly beats having students having to leave school in Inuvik and even quit school due to inadequate housing. Basically these students have already lost a year. We need to get them back on track.

Certainly, of course, the Beaufort-Delta Education Council has to cover the costs. The students will need a supervisor to keep them on an even keel. We need to have some flexibility to ensure that the students of Sachs Harbour are getting the support to succeed. This is the only right thing and the only fair thing to do.

There used to be a boarding home in Inuvik, but that closed when grade 12 was added to the school program in Paulatuk. This is wrong. This is a disadvantage to the school students of Sachs Harbour and some students in Paulatuk since the community did not get grade 12.
We say in this House that educating our young people is our top priority, yet even day to day we see young people struggling in our small communities like Sachs Harbour. High school students do not have the same opportunities that other young people do here, either in Inuvik or in Yellowknife. I want to see some action. These students from Sachs Harbour must succeed in school in Inuvik starting this fall, or getting a high school teacher in Sachs Harbour this coming year. These kids are the future. We must help them. As a government, this government must help.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON HEALTHY EATING AND NUTRITION PROGRAM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March is Nutrition Month and according to the statement made by the Health and Social Services Minister last week, this government believes it’s adequately addressing healthy eating programs by providing support, as she put it. The Minister named a few programs which provide that support. Programs which are fine in and of themselves, but they hardly represent a coordinated targeted approach to improving healthy eating amongst our youngest children or to the significant issue of the need for prevention and early intervention amongst the same group of children.

In this budget year of 2010-2011, Members were very smart and allocated $400,000 to a nutrition and healthy eating program, a program that was delivered by Food First Foundation through our education system. What could be simpler? Minimal administrative cost because the distribution system is already in place and a contractor with a proven success in this program area. But as we heard during the 2011-12 budget review, this funding was a one-time shot never to be seen again it seems.

That is truly disturbing, Mr. Speaker. There have been many positive comments about Food First from educators in schools all across the Territory. They’ve seen the huge benefit of the program run by the Food First Foundation. Yet without any real evaluation of the pros and cons of this program, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment scrapped it without any replacement program. To quote one Yellowknife teacher: If they’re thinking of the kids, this is not a good program for them to cut.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, during budget review, said “I’m sure we provide funding through various programming to the schools to deliver things such as the breakfast program and other programs.” But is it enough funding? Are the programs addressing a demonstrated need? Is the funding available to child care and day home programs? Is it a coordinated approach across all departments? Is the focus on early intervention and prevention? The questions are many; the answers are few and far between.

Mr. Speaker, it’s well documented that the most formative years of our lives are the ones from birth to six or seven years of age, yet this government consistently applies piecemeal band-aid funding to this cohort of NWT residents. Four hundred thousand dollars is a drop in the bucket for this government’s budget, while the benefit to be gained from a $400,000 nutrition program is a tsunami.

Education, Culture and Employment must reconsider their decision to sunset the $400,000 and reinstate funding for a nutrition program in the 2011-12 budget.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education later on. Thank you.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON CONDOLENCES ON PASSING OF FORT GOOD HOPE RESIDENTS EDWARD GARDEBOIS AND TONY GRANDJAMBE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to speak about the naturopath doctors and the new legislation that’s going to be coming to the Northwest Territories, but, Mr. Speaker, I will save my questions for the Minister in question period. I want to talk about two elderly gentlemen from my region: Mr. Edward Gardebois and Mr. Tony Grandjambe, that recently passed away over the weekend.

I was very saddened to hear over the weekend that these two members from Fort Good Hope have left us. I want to say, what can you say with a two and a half minute statement of these two men here. I do want to say that Mr. Gardebois was an older gentleman in Good Hope, well known for his drumming, well known for his comical approach to situations, a very traditional man and one that never stopped learning. A couple years ago his wife was unable to scrape moose hides and do moose hides. He needed the money -- the family -- so he learned how to do moose hides. He said my wife sat there and taught me how to do the moose hides and so that’s how we make money, he says. I learned to do that. He said she’s a really good boss, so she tells me right on how to do them.

Edward was that kind of a man. He was very good. He knew what he had to do to make a living for his family, but he also looked at the good side of life.

I want to also say to the family of Tony Grandjambe that Tony was one of the original people that was involved with the Groller Hall sexual abuse trial that happened in Inuvik in the early ‘90s. Tony was one
of them that came forward as a survivor and said this is what happened at Grollier Hall. He was one of the leaders that put together a national program with his help. Tony was a very proud man. Even though he went through this difficulty, he looked up and said I'm going to keep on going.

These two people that Fort Good Hope has lost and the Sahtu has lost, again, I want to say our prayers are with the families; our prayers are with the friends of Tony Grandjambe and Edward Gardebois. I want to say how lucky I've got to know them over the last couple of years. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REGULATION OF ALTERNATE HEALTH THERAPIES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About three-quarters of Canadians seek some type of alternative therapy. Therefore, I'm standing today to speak in support of fair and reasonable regulations over alternative therapies such as chiropractic, massage, acupuncture and naturopath therapy.

Mr. Speaker, regulation has been called for many times by many of these people and these organizations. It's been calling out to this government by both therapists and clients. These people would like the government to move forward on regulations and protection measures that would ensure both the therapists and the clients are protected through safeguards. Safeguards such as mentioned earlier that the government would come up and define a scope of practice, standards, a code of ethics; as well, it would help regulate through the licensing and registration of these types of therapy practices, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of our lack of legislation and regulation at this particular time, five provinces regulate naturopathic therapy at this present moment and only three regulate massage therapy. Mr. Speaker, there is a real need to ensure our northern citizens are protected by fair and reasonable regulation. That's something that they want to ensure; that they're getting protection, getting help in the most safe manner as possible. Mr. Speaker, many people feel strongly that the government has not moved fast enough on this particular initiative. I can tell you, specifically, myself, I've had people approaching the government through my office for well over four years on this particular matter and wondering where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard that a complementary medicine legislative proposal that will work as an umbrella piece to help protect our Northerners under these types of therapies will be coming forward. Mr. Speaker, today is more of a call of action to ensure that we, first of all, do it right, make sure we cover enough of these therapists, and at the same time ensure that we do the due diligence by talking to our northern citizens who want this.

But mainly, Mr. Speaker, I just want to finish off by saying, as I understand, it is looking at things like chiropractic therapy as one of its particular areas it wants to cover, but I want to stress that we need to ensure that we consider naturopathic therapy and massage therapy at the same time. We don't want to miss this particular window, and as we all know very well, legislation discussion doesn't happen very often, so let's take our time, ensure we do proper consultation and get it right. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome to everyone in the gallery today. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 1-16(6):
CHILD CARE FUNDING FOR AURORA COLLEGE STUDENTS

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke of students at Aurora College and specifically the Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith; students from Res and Lutselk'e having some issues with childcare subsidies. I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment questions on that.

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister agree to complete an assessment or an examination of the child care subsidy for effectiveness? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This particular issue has been brought to our attention about the student that's at Fort Smith Aurora College taking a program and being subsidized through our SFA programming. From what's been shared with us, the funding has not been adequate, according to them, but we did receive some information on what they're eligible for through SFA programming. I believe there has been additional funding assets and a child care subsidy, as well, through family allowance, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, after child care and all the expenses being paid, there is a small amount of surplus that they can easily take advantage of. At the same time, we will be reviewing the Student Financial Assistance throughout this year and we will be seeking input on how we can deal with these
Speaker, we are currently going through steps to start reviewing the SFA program. Mahsi.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the particular issue I speak of is not really a student financial assistance issue but rather an issue with the subsidy pertaining to child care. The Minister is right; the needs seem to be met through student financial assistance, because rents subsidies and other things are given to the students at a lower cost than the other people that are just in the community. However, what I am hoping that the Minister would do is examine the child care subsidy and consider how it accommodates the students. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, over the years we have looked at our policy, our programming on child care subsidy units. There have been some changes to the policy. We do look at these regulations that are before us. If we need to make changes that reflect on the needs of the students, then we have looked at those in the past as well. Since we are going through the SFA programming, we can relook at our child care subsidy, as well, to see where the challenges are.

Mr. Speaker, I did commit in this House already about the SFA programming. SFA does cover a vast area of subsidy programming for students. There are also the other subsidies, income support subsidy, as well, and child care subsidy. Mr. Speaker, we have looked at it in the past and we can look at it again. Mahsi.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, during the review of the subsidies or assistance and so on, would the Minister be prepared to look at increasing the income threshold that allows people to apply for child care subsidy? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, those are the discussions that will likely take place when we seek out information on SFA from the students and from the general public at large. We are going to be waiting for general response that we receive and then move forward on that, what needs to be changed within our current policy based on what has been asked from the general public, if we could pursue that. We will be waiting for those types of responses from the public. Mahsi.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Although this is a constituent of mine that brought the issue to my attention, there are many other students with similar problems. Would the Minister commit to going to Fort Smith to meet with the student body on this issue of child care prior to the end of April? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I already did commit to visiting those students who are willing to sit down at the Thebacha Campus. I am probably going there the first week of April when we are having a tour of the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative in Hay River. We figure we might attach a trip to Fort Smith. We are still working on the logistics, but once that is confirmed, we will let the Members know. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 2-16(6):
INCLUSION OF NATUROPATHIC PRACTITIONERS IN PROPOSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LEGISLATION

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my Member’s statement of earlier today on naturopathic medicine, in particular naturopathic doctors. I know the Department of Health and Social Services is working on some regulations and some legislation now for kind of an umbrella legislation to cover a wide variety of professionals. I am wondering what it would take to get the naturopathic doctors included in that legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right; we are considering an omnibus legislation on various health or allied health professions and it is possible that this could be inputted in that. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that it is possible that it can. I am wondering what it would take to get it included in the first round. Can we actually get the naturopathic doctors included in this legislation that will be coming forward at some point either later in this Assembly or early in the next one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I need to caution the Member and anybody else who is discussing this naturopathic medicine, that we do not refer to anybody as a doctor. That is actually the issue in question, because under the NWT legislation, no one other than a doctor, physician or surgeon is allowed to call themselves a doctor. Naturopathic doctors are not recognized as doctors in the Territories and of they were to call themselves a doctor, that is illegal. That is an issue here. I need to let the Members know, and the public know, the naturopathic medicine, people can practice that right now without regulation, it is just that they cannot call themselves doctors. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister nicely gave us the reason why we need to get these positions in regulation. There are naturopathic doctors in at least five provinces in Canada. There
is a Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors and these people that we are referring to do take a significant amount of education, often degree based. So, clearly, we need to get them into regulation which would protect their titles and would allow them to use the titles that they have worked so hard to get over the last couple of years or over the years.

In the regulation, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that the regulations that are going to be covered through this legislation will cover things like scope of practice so we know what kind of practice these individuals can legally do in the Northwest Territories. Right now, the individuals she is talking about, their scope of practice is undefined. Would the Minister commit to including the naturopathic medical providers in the legislation and include a scope of practice so everybody can have a sense of comfort as to what these people can provide in the Northwest Territories?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to just reiterate that the department is reviewing the possibility of including this group of practitioners into omnibus allied health professional legislation. Each of them have very, very few numbers and this has been in the works and it will take some time to develop, but it is under review.

Secondly, it’s the Medical Profession Act in the Northwest Territories that defines who are doctors and who can call themselves doctors, so there is conflicting legislation that we need to work through.

The third thing is what is important is that for those people who are practicing naturopathic medicine, they are allowed to practice that as they exist now. So no one is interfering with their practices. They could have clients, they could do the work, because I have been getting lots of letters from the general public who would like to continue to have that practice offered to them. I want to assure them that they can continue to have that. It is just that those people who are practicing this field cannot call themselves doctors. Thank you.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again she is explaining so clearly why we need to get this into regulation legislation. It’s my understanding that this legislation, if it comes through, will protect titles, it will require people to have a licensee in another jurisdiction and those types of things, but it doesn’t talk about scope of practice. The Minister does say that they will be able to practice here in the Northwest Territories, but what comfort do both patients and providers have that their role is understood and they have to operate within some set parameters?

We need some scope of practice work done on this as well. I was wondering if the Minister could commit, as they move forward with legislation, that will include these naturopathic medical providers. Will it include some definition around scope of practice for the safety of our residents and the providers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member is drawing a clear picture of the complexities involved in this. Our staff has met with the people that practice naturopathic medicine in the Territories. They were advised that they should continue to keep their licence in other jurisdictions, then they can continue to practice naturopath medicine here. They can continue to provide services to their clients. It is just that they cannot call themselves a doctor. In order to do that, we need to do some more work. We will continue to do that, but this will be something that would require more work and it is under review. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 3-16(6):
BILL C-530, AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance questions on my Member’s statement on our Member of Parliament’s private member’s bill, C-530. What is our government’s position on this current legislation that is before the House of Commons? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has a clear position on the borrowing limit and as with the Member of Parliament’s private member’s bill, C-530. What is our government’s position on this current legislation that is before the House of Commons? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has a clear position on the borrowing limit and as with the Member of Parliament, we both think there’s a need to have our borrowing limit adjusted. We are working on a government-to-government basis with the federal government to in fact engage and conclude that process hopefully by April. At the same time, the Member of Parliament has a private member’s bill that is now before the House of Parliament raising the same issue, but we are continuing to focus our attention on trying to conclude our arrangements and discussions with the federal government. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you. I’d just like to ask the Minister maybe if he can explain that to the public that’s out there. What exactly composes our current debt limit? I think it was about almost $500 million right now. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Our current borrowing limit is a specific number. It’s $575 million. The $575 million is good for another four years after which it will revert at this point back down to $500 million. Of that money, about $350 million is what we call self-financing debt, which is
debts of the Housing Corporation, Power Corporation and the bridge when it comes on-line. It will be paying a majority of its own way as well. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much. Should this bill pass, what would be the benefits to our Territory as a whole? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. As we fully intend to conclude the discussions with the federal government hopefully by next month, that’s the target date that both our government and the federal government have agreed to. Similar with intent to the private member’s bill, it would see a revised borrowing limit that will reflect the fact that we are a mature and responsible government, and we are now on the path of devolution with the agreement-in-principle and that we need the flexibility in our borrowing limit to be able to manage our affairs more effectively. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill will also be long term. I would presume it would necessarily cancel out our previous agreement with the federal government of a borrowing limit. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. The route for a private member’s bill is fraught with many challenges and hurdles to clear. It has made some fairly good progress. It’s now before a committee after second reading. If, for example, a federal election comes, then the bill will die on the Order Paper. In the meantime, I think we want to keep our attention firmly fixed on the work that we’re doing with the federal government in terms of trying to resolve the borrowing limit. Thank you.

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

**QUESTION 4-16(6):**
NORTHLAND TRAILER PARK WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs getting back to my Member’s statement where I talked about Northland Trailer Park located here in Yellowknife, home to 1,100 people. Approximately 600 children live there as well. They’ve had intermittent water service in that trailer park for the last three weeks. Sometimes the water comes on for a couple of hours a day. There’s no set schedule. Some residents of that trailer park have been without water for one week -- a full week without water. We’re talking about elderly people, disabled people, day homes. The situation is getting dire, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to ask the Minister of MACA what exactly is MACA doing to stay in touch with the federal government on accessing the necessary funding to see the infrastructure get replaced at that trailer park. Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the Infrastructure Minister, he’s on three occasions raised the issue with his counterparts in Ottawa and I know that Minister Bob McLeod has raised the issue. The answer they got back was the projects were still being looked at and if they decided to proceed with the projects, then the organization would be given a formal response to submit the formal application. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you. Obviously, time is of the essence. It looks like there might be a federal election sometime in May. I’d like to ask the Minister what plans are in the works to ramp up the efforts to ensure that that federal funding does become available so that we can get the infrastructure replaced in that trailer park this coming summer. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. It was the City that submitted the proposal and we as a government had supported the City’s proposal. We, as a department over at MACA, had supported the City’s proposal. So we would have to be in contact with the City and see if anything is being heard or what’s the status on the proposal. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you. The situation at that trailer park is very serious. The frequency of line breaks is happening more often and, again, we’re probably only months away from a catastrophic line failure at that trailer park. I’d like to ask the Minister if he would entertain even talking to his federal counterpart in Ottawa or even going to Ottawa himself with pictures and stories of people who have been without water at that trailer park for three weeks, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to ask the Minister if he’d take that challenge on and try to get this federal funding for the City of Yellowknife and for the residents of Northland Trailer Park. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. It’s unfortunate of the situation out in Northland. I had an opportunity, earlier this winter, to meet with the residents out in Northland along with MLA Bisaro and Mayor Van Tighem and we had a very informative meeting. They outlined very eloquently the amount of problems that they’re facing out in Northland and we understand, I mean they understand it’s a privately held corporation, but we as a government are doing what we can to support the City’s application for accessing some of the funding that could be available. But I will assure the Member that I’ll do what I can to try and send word to Ottawa or meet with my counterparts in Ottawa and see if there are any opportunities there to advance the application. Thank you.
MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m wondering if the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has considered any alternative funding that our government might be able to provide to the City of Yellowknife so that the infrastructure can get replaced at that trailer park this coming summer. There’s got to be another approach. Have we thought of everything that we possibly can in order to get that done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. Municipal and Community Affairs doesn’t have a mandate to fund condominium corporations. I mean, we recognize the fact that they are facing some challenges out there and we’re working with the City to try to do what we can to advance the proposal that they’ve sent down to Ottawa. Again, it is a privately held corporation and we understand that there are a lot of issues out there and we’re hopeful we can do what we can to help the residents of Northland access some funding so they’d be able to get on with some overdue and needed repairs. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 5-16(6):
TALTSON HYDRO PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier. They bounce around a little bit, but I’d like to follow up on my statement about the Taltson project and some of the implications.

I’m glad to see this project being reviewed, but given that there have been early indications, the early studies showing that all of the power produced by the Taltson project could be absorbed effectively within the local and regional communities in the South Slave, will the Premier ensure that the hydro corporations, whoever is doing the review of the Taltson project now, ensures that it focuses on meeting local and regional markets that both efficiently displace fossil fuel and help to reduce the cost of living and doing business in that region? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we’ve done our work around the previous draft Hydro Strategy and beginning to look at that strategy once again, the issues of connectivity in the grid, to greenhouse gases, to helping reduce the cost of living are all those pieces that will be looked at as we look forward to a solution that will work for an expansion to the Taltson.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate those comments from the Premier. I think it’s a better way of going about business, a good comprehensive approach. I’ve noticed that many of our development projects that are proceeding are happening slowly, often with five to 10-year time frames, perhaps even longer. With this is an opportunity for suitable hydro development options to be proposed and considered and assisted. Yet we seem to either go for the huge, get-rich-quick schemes, like the Taltson to the mines, or we sit idly by and allow time to pass so that they’re finessed into using diesel generation. Will the Premier commit, will he direct our Hydro Corporation, our Energy Corporation to start assisting in identifying options for these projects on the appropriate scale that will ultimately leave a legacy for our communities?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: In fact, the Power Corporation with the new chair and the new president/CEO are beginning to look at the ways the Power Corporation can be more involved across our Territory with the customer base, whether it’s residential or industry side, to look at a balance and to see how we can be more proactive in looking to the solutions that we may be able to find here in the Territory and provide that it meets a number of targets that we would set towards a Greenhouse Gas Strategy, towards reducing the cost of living in the North and being sustainable.

MR. BROMLEY: I again appreciate the comments from the Premier. The Premier mentioned the greenhouse gas already. I’m wondering, could the Premier confirm what I’ve heard, I believe from the Minister of Finance before, that GNWT does indeed have the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from development in the NWT should they choose to use it.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I believe that is affirmative that, yes, as we begin to look at that area and establish our strategies and implementation of those strategies, we are able to put targets in place and the requirements to meet those. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources along with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment are working on coming forward with a strategy as soon as this summer, I believe.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ve often been told that only the federal government can regulate industry proposals through the environmental review process, but here we now have evidence that there are two ways to skin a cat, so I appreciate that. Will the Premier ensure that in fact the Greenhouse Gas Strategy does include the ability to regulate carbon emissions from the development project as one of the key tools obviously required in such a strategy?
HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The work that's being done with the consultations that need to go out, with the work with Members of this Assembly, all the avenues I think we've had discussions about will be looked at in one degree or another, but the final product needs to go through our system of working with committee members and getting feedback from the residents of the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 6-16(6):
CAPACITY BUILDING AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING IN SMALL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier and is in regard to my Member’s statement. One of the biggest challenges we’re facing in our communities is dealing with the social and economic aspects of trying to generate employment and jobs for our residents. A lot of those jobs and opportunities come by way of government contracts and services. I think that we as government have to take a close look at the social and economic indicators, especially where we have high pockets of unemployment, high graduation rates. What can we as government do to ensure that those capital investments that are made in our communities are being expended in those communities and make way for training opportunities, skill development, and enhancing the local opportunities and for businesses to develop locally and stay in our communities so they can provide those important services? I'd like to ask the Premier, as a government, what are we doing to ensure that we look at those assessments when we make those decisions on capital investments in our communities?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Government of the Northwest Territories we use a number of tools to do just what the Member has spoken to, building capacity throughout the North both in our people and in our construction industry, for example. We have, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Business Incentive Policy, we have the Negotiated Contracts Policy, we have MOUs within a number of regions, and continue to negotiate renewals and new MOUs being put in place. We try to use as many of those tools as possible. Internally one of the things we've done to look at the capacity issue in our small communities is have our committee structure of small and remote community representatives working together to look at some of those challenges that we face in our community from program delivery to just as the Member is talking about, construction and capital as well.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, I'd like to ask the Premier, with regard to looking at the social and economic fabric of our communities where we're really starting to see high, high numbers of unemployment in our communities, knowing that we have to do whatever we can to sustain our communities not only through programs and services but economically as well, does our government look at the social numbers to see where we have high pockets of unemployment where people are using the high numbers of social programs and services, regardless if it's income support or other programs, and as a government realizing that there are benefits to putting money into communities to stimulate that economy and stimulate our local workforce?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, we do have quite a number of programs, as I touched base earlier on, in trying to stimulate the economy. Just the announcement earlier today by the Minister of Transportation on the Community Access Program, expanding that because we see the good work it does in many of our communities. We do look at the socio-economic factors. That is why, for example, under Executive we've extended services into our small and remote communities under the CSO, or community service officer, positions to try to get as much information about programs to people across the Territory. When you look at our other program structures, we do take into consideration the cost of living, whether it’s income support and so on. Those are the other side of trying to deal with the cost of living in our communities. We do look at whether it is under employment, under capital program, to try to reach out to communities as much as we can and look to expanding those ways as well.

MR. KRUTKO: I think one of the things we have to do as government is to look at the loopholes we have by way of contracting policies and procedures. I think some of them where we deal with as and when contractors... in most of those cases a lot of the contractors that receive those contracts come from outside the region. They'll go, with regard to a mechanic or a plumber, do work on behalf of the different government departments. Those are the type of jobs that can keep small businesses going in our communities. I'd like to ask the Minister if you also look at the as and when contracts that government lets by way of service contracts without going through a public tendering process and offering those contracts to local contractors.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I guess the process, if I understand properly the question, goes to with the as and whens in many of our communities are posted on an annual basis for businesses to put
their names in and show interest in that area, to provide those services in our communities and regions. We do have a process established of doing that. I’m not sure if the Member is requesting that we look at them through our other programs that we have there. That is something I guess we can look at from time to time where capacity issues need to be met.

One of the things we do have to look at as a government is the cost of being able to deliver those programs throughout our communities and that does have an impact on some of our decisions as well.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to ask the Premier if he could submit a report to this House or the Members of this House identifying how this government is re-profiling its programs and services so we can actually physically see how the programs and services we have are really benefiting communities, and at what cost are we putting them in place to ensure that the investment we make in our communities, the dollars stay in our communities, and that it is stimulating our local economies.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: One of the interesting areas we began to look at prior to division and leading up to division of the Northwest Territories and the creation of Nunavut was we started the geographic tracking of our costs in our Territory at the territorial, regional and community level. This government picked that up and is using that to look at where we benefit our communities as well. We try to use as many tools as we can in measuring our impact in communities both large and small and will continue to look at that type of information as we look at designing our programs and how they benefit our communities.

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

QUESTION 7-16(6): PROPOSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LEGISLATION

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement today I talked about the need for legislation that comes forward that’s comprehensive and reaches out and provides support and regulation to alternative therapies. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly here, I feel strongly that our job is to make sure that we develop legislation that protects our citizens, and legislation that is developed for alternative therapy I think is the way to go.

Listening to the Minister’s responses to some questions earlier, I’d like the Minister, maybe for the House, to define and elaborate on the scope of what the draft of that omnibus legislation is going to cover and when can we expect that type of information or that draft legislation to be out for the public to get a sense of what’s happening?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The legislation that we are working on is going to be Health and Social Services umbrella profession legislation and it will start with including four large professions: licensed practical nurses, psychologists, emergency medical service providers and chiropractors, because they have been identified as the four we need to work on right away. There are several other professions that have asked to be included and they could be included as we go forward.

There is lots of research and background work that we need to do to establish this umbrella legislation and this has been in the works for a very long time. We believe that once the framework is in place it would be more doable to include other professions.

MR. HAWKINS: I outlined a number of them in my Member’s statement, which is massage therapist, naturpaths and acupuncturists. There are other alternative medicines out there, and I use the word “alternative” in the sense of option. A lot of people think that there are many solutions to getting healthier and it’s not necessarily driven by just taking a pill. Many people like to take a natural approach. What would hold the Minister back from including these alternatives and other suggestions I’m providing here today? What’s holding the Minister and the department back from including these options in the development of this omnibus legislation?

HON. SANDY LEE: I think it’s important for the Members and the public to know that professions like massage therapist and naturopathic practitioners can continue to practice their fields. They do not need the legislation to practice those. As I stated, unregulated professions pose certain regulating challenges such as small professional numbers and significant licensing differences throughout Canada. It does require tremendous research to determine how best to accommodate these unique circumstances. We believe that, as a department, by finding a framework for the most challenging and complex professions, the four that we have stated, that we will be able to accommodate future professions under the act.

Mr. Speaker, we are making progress in this area. We feel that it will really ground the work to a halt if we were to include everything at once. We are interested in moving forward in the four and that will set a framework for the other ones to be added. I want to note again that nothing right now will stop...
Mr. Speaker, what will it take for the Minister to recognize that these calls for action need to happen and what would it take to develop a stream to get them into a process so legislation could be developed for these types of industries that are actually for it that would protect our citizens? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member’s line of questioning in itself is questioning the competence and the quality of the people that are practicing. I want to say that those that are licensed to practice as a therapist and naturopathic practitioners and even acupuncturists, all those professions are allowed to practice in the Northwest Territories. They just cannot call themselves a doctor. That might give an idea to the public that they are practicing medical doctor medical practices. That’s clearly defined in our legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say once again what I said to MLA Abernethy, which is that we are working on the umbrella Health and Social Services Professions Act. We’re going to modernize the legislation, and this is long overdue, and we are giving due consideration to other professions who could be included. There’s no lack of will or resistance whatsoever. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 8: 16(6):
INUVIK RESIDENCE FOR SACHS HARBOUR STUDENTS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member’s statement was regarding the students in Sachs Harbour. Mr. Speaker, you know we’ve been working on this for the last two and a half years in regard to getting a residence either in Inuvik or getting a teacher into the community so we can start providing grade 12 services in the community of Sachs. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister make sure the students of Sachs Harbour have a suitable and safe place to stay while they live and attend school in Inuvik? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Our department will do what it can to safeguard all the students that are in schools throughout the Northwest Territories. The Sachs Harbour students that are going through the residence system in Inuvik, that falls under the Beaufort-Delta District Education Council, so we will be working closely with them as the Department of Education. Mahsi.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, well, I did some groundwork for the Minister’s office. Mr. Speaker, we’re looking at renting a house in Inuvik that, I
suggested in my Member’s statement, would be used by Sachs Harbour students. Mr. Speaker, I’m not asking the Minister to ask Beaufort-Delta education for the extra money. Is there any money left in the department for having this house opened for the last three months of the school year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to residences, students being housed in residences throughout the Northwest Territories, it does fall under the education council and we provide funding to them to offset the costs of students that are being resided in a community, regional centre or boarding or residence form. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that the Beaufort-Delta needs to look at.

I’m glad the Member is trying to come up with some solutions and ideas. I commend the Member for that and also his riding. We need to work closely with the Beaufort-Delta. If the Member hasn’t approached the Beaufort-Delta, I would highly encourage him to do so. I, as the Minister responsible, will work closely with the Beaufort-Delta Education Council. Mahsi.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, people in Sachs Harbour, all we want is our children educated. Right now, the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority is going to say yes, Mr. Jacobson, we have no money. We have to go see the Minister. Mr. Speaker, all I’m asking from the Minister is to get me three months’ rent for this house in Inuvik to try to get these kids back into school, if they’re not there already trying with an unsafe place to stay.

Mr. Speaker, we have to help these kids. We have to help these families to get the education to our children. Mr. Speaker, this Minister can do that by telling the staff. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, obviously, we want the same thing too, for our kids to be educated throughout the Northwest Territories. We’re 100 percent behind that as well. These students are under the status of the Beaufort-Delta Education Council. Whether it be Sachs Harbour or Inuvik students, the money that they receive is for those students that are primary residents of Sachs Harbour school or Inuvik. We need to work with the Beaufort-Delta Education Council. As I stated before, the funding is allocated to them and we need to work with that. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister commit to me today that we’d work for the upcoming school year, either having a teacher in the community for grade 10, 11, 12, or a boarding house in Inuvik before the new school year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We will be in touch with the Beaufort-Delta Education Council to see what can be arranged for a meeting. We will be in the Beaufort-Delta in May to have an Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative forum. So this will be an opportunity to discuss what’s going to be happening this fall and next year and the funding that’s been allocated or will be allocated. Based on that, we can discuss further with the Beaufort-Delta Education Council. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 9-16(6):
CANCELLATION OF FUNDING FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement I focussed on the cancellation, the sunsetting of the nutrition program that was run by the Food First Foundation. I mentioned that there were a lot of comments. There are six pages of comments from educators across the NWT and none of them are negative, Mr. Speaker. They all point to the positive aspect of this program and the need for children in schools to be fed in order to learn adequately. I believe the Minister of Education, Cultural and Employment would probably agree that students with full stomachs have improved learning. My first question would be to ask the Minister what focus does Education, Culture and Employment place on that principle. What emphasis is placed on nutrition or food programs within ECE? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, our focus is on the students, the well-being of our students to be well educated in our educational system. We provide as much resources or funding as we possibly can through the district education councils or district education authorities. So we will continue to provide those services and we are already seeing results from those students who are graduating in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: I didn’t really hear a focus on foods and nutrition within the Minister’s answer, but I’d like to read one comment from an educator in a school that is unnamed, but the statement goes: “As soon as the students arrive at school, the breakfast teacher asks the students if they’ve eaten breakfast. They cannot go to their classroom without eating breakfast. That is how important breakfast is to our students’ learning.” I’d like to ask the Minister whether or not there is any appetite on the part of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to reinstate the $400,000 that is sunsetting. Thank you.
HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As the Member stated, this program has been sunsetted. It was just for a year, a year project, but we are focussing on other areas as well. As we’ve discussed here in the House, Healthy Food for Learning, all the school boards are getting funding. All the communities are covered in that respect. Breakfast for Learning...(inaudible)...for Healthy Learning, health promotion funds, Drop the Pop, Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, a forum that we’re having. There’s been a discussion on how each student should be a successful student in our educational system. So, Mr. Speaker, we provide as much as we can to support those students. Whether it be nutrition, their food, the education materials, it’s been provided through our Education department. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that they provide as much as they can, but it’s certainly not enough and I think we’ll find with cancellation of this program it’s going to have a huge impact. There are two comments from teachers again: “the school nutrition program has positively impacted attendance” and “student attendance is higher on days when breakfast is being served.” The Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is focussed on attendance, the Healthy Foods Initiative or the Healthy Foods Program is focussed on attendance. I’d like to ask the Minister how much of the money that -- I think he said $232,000 earlier in this session; last session, I guess -- how much of that $232,000 in the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative will be available to schools for nutrition or healthy eating activities to replace the foods that are going to be sunsetting? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The funding that we provide to the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative covers areas of student attendance or provides incentives for those students who are returning to school. This Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is still a working document that we are collecting input from different regions. So we can definitely have a discussion in this area. We still have two forums to attend and we’ve attended four other forums. We cover a vast variety of different programs that we offer. The Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is attendance-based. These students we’re talking about, it covers as well.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to admit I’m a little confused now. When we reviewed the budget for education, the Minister suggested that the Aboriginal Student Achievement funding could be used as a replacement for the $400,000 funding that Food First Foundation was using to provide nutrition in schools. I thought I heard the Minister say they don’t really know how this money is going to be used. My question to the Minister is: can a school apply to the Education, Culture and Employment department to get funding to provide breakfasts and lunches and the foods that our kids need to learn properly?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Breakfast, lunch, supper. We are currently providing funds for healthy learning, Healthy Food for Learning and other programs I’ve highlighted. The community schools, regional schools, are all applying for the funds. We’ve highlighted Beaufort-Delta, Commission Scolaire, Deh Cho, Tlicho, Sahtu, South Slave, YCS, YK1 have all accessed funds. So the money is available. They can provide those services. We’ll continue to provide the programming and resources that we can. We’ll continue to do that.

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

QUESTION 10-16(6):
INCLUSION OF NATUROPATHIC PRACTITIONERS IN PROPOSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LEGISLATION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services about the naturopathic medicine practitioners and doctors. Naturopathic medicine blends modern scientific knowledge with good traditional and natural forms of healing. Research has shown that they provide a bridge of appropriations between traditional healers and conventional medicine. Does the Minister see a role for naturopathic medicine doctors or practitioners in assisting the department in meeting the health needs of our indigenous constituents?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I absolutely see the role of naturopathic practitioners and they are allowed to practice as they are now under the licensure they have with other jurisdictions. There’s nothing absolutely stopping them from practicing their field. I want to tell the Member that I’ve no problem seeing them practicing here.

The issue here right now -- they don’t need to be regulated to practice -- is that they want to be called a doctor. Because there might be some confusion in that the people might feel that they’re medical doctors, that’s the only thing they’re not allowed to do. They are totally allowed and they are encouraged to practice.

MR. YAKELEYA: Qualified naturopathic doctors practicing in the Northwest Territories have requested legislation regarding practice to ensure public protection. Given that the naturopathic
doctors have a high level of education and training on par with family doctors and are recognized in nine jurisdictions with the legislation working in the health field, I want to ask the Minister, she said it's possible that these naturopathic doctors or the medicine can be legislated in the future. I want to ask why not include it with the four others that she indicated? Why not for a short trial period?

HON. SANDY LEE: Once again I need to state, the naturopathic practitioners are allowed to practice their fields as they are now. So there's nothing that needs to be done to have them practice. They are allowed to practice that now. I have stated earlier that we are reviewing this. I want to say again that I just don't want to load so many things onto this umbrella legislation that it doesn't make it off the ground. It is really important that we regulate chiropractors, psychologists, licensed nurse practitioners, as well as emergency responders. Those professions have been at the front of the line and they have the level of complexity and the meeting there that we need to work through, and we believe that once we work through the other professions that come on board, they could be added more quickly and more readily because we would have had the frameworks done. So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to state again that we are considering other professions that could be added.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Given that the regulated scope of practice of naturopath doctors is similar to a standard doctor, a profession that is in short supply in the Northwest Territories, does the Minister not see the value in regulating a profession that is already and will continue to fill a need for those Northwest Territories who do not have access to a family doctor without the expense of the health care system?

HON. SANDY LEE: There's nothing that we are doing or not doing that is stopping this profession from practicing. There is nothing that stops them from practicing. They are allowed to practice. They're like physiotherapists, occupational therapists, massage therapists, acupuncturists, Chinese, Asian doctors or whatever. They can practice. I don't mean Asian doctors, I mean Chinese medicine. So, Mr. Speaker, they are allowed to practice. We see the role of their profession and we're just telling them it's going to take time to bring them all on board, but in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, they're absolutely welcome to practice here.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. With the naturopath medicine practitioners/doctors, they blend the western with the traditional, again, to save costs in the health care system. Does the Minister not see that this is a value-added incentive to people in the Northwest Territories, to regulate the naturopath medicine, practitioners/doctors? I don't think it's going to be a disservice. There are already four on the list. Can the Minister look at this and say this is a priority and we'll add it to the list? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you. I need to remind the Member also not to compare this profession as medical doctors, just because we have existing legislation that protects that word "doctor" just for those who are practicing medicine. So let me just say this profession is allowed to be practiced here. The practitioners are allowed to do their work and there's nothing that we're doing or not doing right now that prohibits them from doing their work. Like my colleague Minister Miltenberger just said to me, it's like a float plane and we want the float plane to take off and if you load way too many things on there, it will never get off the ground. We want to start with this floor so that we make something happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 1-16(6):
NUTRITION AND HEALTHY EATING PROGRAMS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. Provide a list of all the nutrition or healthy eating or healthy foods programs run by the GNWT across all departments.

2. Provide the amount of funding on an annual basis attached to each of these programs.

3. Provide the anticipated sunset or termination date for each of these programs.

4. Provide the criteria which determines who is eligible for funding under each of these programs.

Thank you.

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

WRITTEN QUESTION 2-16(6):
NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

1. Please provide the number of negotiated contracts and the amount of each one for the communities of Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake,
Deline, Norman Wells and Tulita, issued to local contractors over the past three fiscal years.

2. Please provide the number of negotiated contracts and the amounts for each one in the Sahtu, issued to contractors based outside of each community over the past three years.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

**Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills**

**BILL 1:**
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**BILL 2:**
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT AND SUPPLEMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**BILL 3:**
ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act, be read for the first time.

**BILL 4:**
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 2011

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, be read for the first time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**BILL 5:**
WRITE-OFF OF DEBTS ACT, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011, be read for the first time.

**BILL 6:**
FORGIVENESS OF DEBTS ACT, 2010-2011

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

**BILL 7:**
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, be read for the first time.

**BILL 8:**
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS ACT

I also give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**BILL 9:**
WILDLIFE ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 9, Wildlife Act, be read for the first time.

**BILL 10:**
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HERITAGE FUND ACT

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move that Bill 10, Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 12, notices of motion.
MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 12 on the Order Paper. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. Honourary Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

HONOURARY TABLE OFFICER (Mr. Tony Whitford): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:20 p.m.