



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**Wednesday, August 24, 2011****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:40 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 50-16(6):
DEVOLUTION**

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to provide Members of this Assembly with an update on the work our government has been undertaking related to the devolution of public lands and resources from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Following a delay caused by the federal election, the GNWT recommended main table negotiations with Canada and the Aboriginal governments that are signatories to the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle: the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Northwest Territory Metis Nation.

Detailed work has also begun on many issues, including the categorization of waste sites; determining where the boundary between the NWT's onshore jurisdiction and Canada's offshore jurisdiction should be; and on cooperating and collaborating on transboundary oil and gas administration and regulation. There is also important work to do on information technology systems; assignment of contracts, licences and copyrights; and the transfer of assets and records.

Our Human Resources professionals are working with Canada on preparing for the eventual transfer of employees and positions to the GNWT. We are committed to ensuring federal and territorial employees stay informed of the progress being made. I am confident that federal employees that join us in the future will find an employer where their careers can grow and they can feel the satisfaction of making real, visible contributions to their communities and neighbours.

I want to stress, Mr. Speaker, that we will continue to be mindful of the interests of Aboriginal

governments and will update them on our progress as negotiations proceed, consult them as required, and encourage them to be as involved as they wish to be, all in keeping with the duty and honour of the Crown.

We would prefer all Aboriginal governments to be directly involved in devolution negotiations, and continue to encourage them to join us at the table. This is important work that all NWT residents have a stake in, and I have extended an invitation both in person and through correspondence to all regional Aboriginal governments that are not yet part of this process.

This past spring and summer I attended many regular meetings and assemblies, including the Dene National Assembly, the Akaitcho Assembly and the Gwich'in Assembly. I provided updates on the devolution process and repeated my invitation to all those who have not yet joined us.

I'm encouraged by some of what I hear, Mr. Speaker. I have heard from some people that there is an interest in coming back to negotiations. I know there are leaders who feel their governments should be at the table. They want to engage constructively in building the future of the public government that serves all Northerners. I am confident that we'll see more participation in the devolution process, from more parties, as we continue to move forward.

We respect that not everyone will share the same views. There are some leaders who do not accept that responsibility for public lands should be transferred to the public government of the Northwest Territories. There are those who feel that they must finish their own processes first, before engaging in this important initiative with us.

The GNWT is the public government of our territory. It is our duty and responsibility to represent the collective interests of all northern residents, whose hard-earned and legitimate rights our government continues to respect and honour.

Mr. Speaker, devolution has been an objective of NWT public government for decades. The luxury of time is not something that we can afford. Every day we delay, we lose over \$165,000 of resource revenues, based on this past year's projections, to the federal government.

That is money we could put toward our hospitals or our children's education, money that could directly benefit all people of the Northwest Territories. Every day we delay means more decisions being made in Ottawa, not in the North. That is not what we want and that is not what successive Legislative Assemblies of the Northwest Territories have wanted.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last devolution update that I will be providing to this Assembly. For years we've been talking about what great potential the North has. We can't keep talking about that potential forever. The time has come for us to make decisions that will allow us to realize that potential. The future is in our hands but we need to get to the table and make decisions that will give the future a chance to become a reality. We could wait until all our historic grievances are addressed, but waiting only means that somebody else is making the decisions that affect us and our people. The people of the Northwest Territories are capable of making those decisions and taking control of our own destiny. As their elected representatives, responsive and accountable to all people of the NWT, it is the responsibility of this Assembly to make the choices that will create the greatest benefits for all our people and our territory.

I would like to close with some words of advice for the future decision-makers that will soon fill this Assembly. Leadership is about making decisions. It is about doing what is right for the population, not what is right for popularity. Consensus government doesn't mean avoiding tough decisions, but it can mean that we have to work harder to find the common ground we need to move forward. I hope future leaders will choose wisely and will provide their support to their new leader to give him or her the strength to make the hard choices and the wise decisions that will guide our great territory towards a prosperous future for all of us, our children, and our grandchildren. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 51-16(6):
DEH CHO BRIDGE

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform Members that later today I will table a document titled GNWT Response to Standing Committee on Government Operations CR 1-16(6): Report on the Review of the Auditor General of the Northwest Territories Deh Cho Bridge Project – 2011.

The standing committee made seven recommendations in this review. I want to assure Members that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is acting on all of them. This is detailed in our written response to the standing committee. In brief, the government has finalized a

P3 Policy for alternatively financed projects. The Department of Transportation has addressed inspection and maintenance requirements for the bridge. We will ensure that a qualified authority certifies that the Deh Cho Bridge meets the Canadian Highway Bridge Code in all respects.

The GNWT and advisors on the Deh Cho Bridge have reviewed current best practices for the inspection of long-span truss bridges, as recommended by the standing committee. We have concluded that a catwalk is very expensive to construct with a price tag of \$6 million. It requires its own maintenance and rehabilitation, and benefits only the one bridge.

The catwalk also raises security and vandalism concerns. The preferred option is an under bridge inspection truck, which is commonly used in British Columbia and Alberta for inspections and repairs. It is considerably less expensive and can be used on all bridges in the Northwest Territories. It will provide access to all parts of the bridge, including the bearings, lock-up devices, cables and expansion joints.

As I have previously stated, the GNWT has established a highly competent project management team including risk assessors. The team has developed a risk matrix that is updated regularly and reviewed as part of the monthly project meetings. We are satisfied with our efforts to manage risks as we complete this major piece of transportation infrastructure to connect communities.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT will continue to keep Members and the public fully apprised of all aspects of the project. As requested by the standing committee, we will provide a revised construction schedule and the cost of construction when that information is formally available. We expect that the truss work, north and south A-pylons and cables will be installed by the end of the year. Work on the grouting, curbs, bridge rails, and paving on the bridge deck will be completed in the 2012 summer construction season. After the project is completed, the GNWT will do an analysis of the project, including total project costs and lessons learned. This will assist the GNWT with future large infrastructure projects.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's performance review has taken a considerable amount of time and effort to ensure her team had access to all relevant information. I am satisfied with the results. Our focus is now on completing the construction of a high quality, safe bridge that will serve the residents of the Northwest Territories for many decades to come. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 52-16(6):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The 16th Legislative Assembly worked to refocus government to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in how the Government of the Northwest Territories operates and delivers programs and services. In order to provide a high level of service to the people of the Northwest Territories, we must continue to develop and maintain a professional and well-managed public service.

Later today I will be tabling the 2010 Public Service Annual Report. The Public Service Annual Report highlights the overall results of public service performance achieved in the context of 20/20: A Brilliant North, the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan. Together with its client departments and agencies, the Department of Human Resources has worked to improve effectiveness and efficiency in delivering programs and services. Highlights include:

- establishing the Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee to help increase representation of Aboriginal people within the public service;
- establishing the Government of the Northwest Territories Advisory Committee on Employability to help increase representation of persons with disabilities within the public service;
- reviewing and improving the business processes for pay and benefits services;
- launching eRecruit to improve and streamline the staffing process; and
- launching an Associate Director/Superintendent Program which focuses on increasing the number of Aboriginal people in senior management positions.

I appreciate the interest Members have shown in summer student employment. As of August 12, 2011, the Government of the Northwest Territories hired 286 students. This is approximately an 8.7 percent increase over the final hires in 2010; 58.4 percent are indigenous Aboriginal students, 40.2 percent are indigenous non-Aboriginal students, and 1.4 percent are non-indigenous students.

Mr. Speaker on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to thank our public service for all of its hard work in delivering quality programs and services on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I would also like to thank all the Members for their support, advice, and contributions to the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan during the 16th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RECOGNITION OF CABINET MINISTERS
OF THE 16TH ASSEMBLY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know some Members will be doing a reply to the opening address today and I have chosen today for my Member's statement to say thank you to some of my colleagues on the other side of the House. I will be making another statement tomorrow, but today I want to focus on those who served on Cabinet in the 16th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, starting with Premier Roland, who I have had the privilege of serving in this Legislature with for 16 years. There are only three of us who can say we've been here that long. I want to thank Premier Roland for the leadership that he's provided to this Assembly and to this government. I always had confidence that when he was dealing with matters of the Northwest Territories, that he would present our case in a very articulate, intelligent, and passionate way and I do thank him for that.

To Minister Miltenberger, who is not... Oh, I shouldn't say where he is, but anyway. To Minister Miltenberger, who I also had the privilege of serving with for 16 years, I'd like to thank him as well, and to tell the people of the Northwest Territories that this is a Minister who is well known for his very, very hard work ethic and has introduced and carried to fruition many meaningful things in this government. I know people who are interested in the environment know that's a huge passion of Mr. Miltenberger, and some of the policies and programs that he's put in place will serve this territory well for many, many years to come.

To Minister Michael McLeod, defending some issues in this government that put him under fire many times when he stood up but he never lost his cool, never lost his professional demeanour. Although riddled with many, many questions, I was always amazed at how he could continue to stand up to question after question and provide answers in a way that was professional and also doing a very good job of heading up the departments that he did.

To Minister Bob McLeod, I'd like to thank him as well. A former bureaucrat. I love the way you could see that translated into his communications skills. When you send an e-mail to Minister Bob McLeod, you know that you would get an answer right away because he was used to that modern communication, which I can't say everybody was. He went out of his way, and to great effort, to keep Regular Members informed of what was going on. I always appreciated that. When I would see his name come up on my e-mail there, I'd know that he

was updating us on something important that we needed to know.

To Minister Robert C. McLeod, I'd also like to thank him. A somewhat shoot-from-the-hip-but-tell-it-like-it-is kind of a person who does not mince words and maybe isn't a true politician in that sense, but certainly we understand him. We know he speaks from the heart and we do appreciate that as well.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Lastly, I would like to thank Minister Jackson Lafferty who took on two very important departments in our government, two in our social envelope, two very challenging departments: Education and Justice. I know that he had a passion, as well, for these two departments. Like I said, very challenging departments but he took them on. He did well and he served all of us very, very well in these capacities.

On behalf of Hay River South, I would like to thank this Cabinet, these Ministers, for the way that they treated my constituents and the constituents of the North.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We should not be downloading an inadequate regulatory regime under the proposed Devolution Agreement-in-Principle. An April 13th Canadian Press Report indicates a loophole in environmental rules is allowing a growing number of unregulated waste incinerators to release extremely toxic chemicals into the land and water. Citing a federal report, CP says levels of highly carcinogenic dioxins and furans up to 10 times higher than those from an uncontaminated lake were detected near the Ekati mine. The reason? Air emissions from incinerators aren't controlled due to inadequate law.

This is the regime we've proposed to take over under the AIP: inadequate regulation, funding, and staffing. If we pursue the AIP as written, the GNWT will be seeking internal resources to patch this and other holes in the laissez-faire federal law. How many gaps can we really expect the modest net fiscal gain to cover?

When we last looked at taking over the operations of DIAND's Northern Affairs Program, there was an independent review of the funding being offered by the feds. That review indicated a major shortfall between the funding being offered and the operating costs of the program that would be assumed. We smartly turned that deal down as not

good enough. So the money is lacking. We know the management regime isn't up to snuff.

Our devolution process clearly leaves a lot to be desired. We have yet to ask our citizens exactly what kind of resource management regime we should put in place after devolution. Yet it's obvious we need to do this before devolution, not after. When we take on new powers, we must be ready to move with new law, despite the pitiful AIP requirement for us to enact mirror legislation. Without fully defining our legislative goals, no costing will reflect the aspirations of our citizens and we can't cost the future without asking our citizens what that future should be.

I remind the government that this deal has costly gaps that demand resolution. I'm hoping the next Assembly will take a much harder look at the numbers, take a much more collaborative and empowering approach with our partners, invite the many good ideas of all our citizens, and hold out for a deal with money to protect our birthright. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LINK BETWEEN HEALTH AND POVERTY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We assume in this country that universal health care, the timely access to affordable health services, improves the health of our socially disadvantaged groups. A while ago, research performed by a group at the Institute for Clinical Evaluation Services tested that assumption and found, as published in the journal "Health Affairs," that the results of the study contradict our assumption.

The research team found that people with low income and/or low levels of education suffered from higher than normal incidences of cardiovascular disease, a not surprising and well-known situation among poor people. The researchers, through their project, tried to determine if universal access to health services would change that finding, but their research showed that the poor use more health services than the wealthy, but that does not mean that they get better health outcomes because of it. A quote from the Globe and Mail said the poor visit physicians in hospitals more often, not because it's free but because they are sicker. All of us, whether rich or poor, use health care services when we have to, when we're sick. Few of us use health care services in a preventive way.

The message in the research findings is this: universal health care does not get us healthy and keep us healthy. Medicare is not the silver bullet to ensure a healthy population. What we need are tools to get us healthy in the first place, to attack the causes of poor health, to be preventative instead of reactive.

In Canada, Mr. Speaker, we spend about 40 percent of our budgets on health care, about 25 percent on education, and only 15 percent on social welfare programs. By comparison, European countries spend twice as much as we do on social welfare programs, and the result of that spending is that Europeans spend less on health and have better health outcomes.

We need to put greater effort into tackling poverty, low education levels, and poor and inequitable housing. No surprise to us in this room. Improvements in these areas will create healthier environments and, by default, healthier citizens.

In light of these findings, Mr. Speaker, the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy is even more necessary. Throwing more money at health is not the answer. Universal health care is not the answer. Until we improve living conditions for the socially disadvantaged of our territory, we cannot hope for universally healthy residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT HEALTH STATUS REPORT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for tabling, earlier this week, the Northwest Territories Health Status Report. There is obviously some very valuable information contained in that report. I've spoken many times about the government's need to measure and evaluate the success and/or failure of our ability as a government to exert change in key social and health indicators. This report, Mr. Speaker, should be used as a baseline for the incoming government which will be elected this fall.

I'd like to point out a few statistics contained in the report that would indicate that we need to re-evaluate how we're dealing with some key areas of concern.

Self-reported health relates to how healthy a person feels and is an important precursor to future health care use and mortality. On a national comparison, 61 percent of Canadians reported excellent or very good health, where in the NWT that number was 52 percent, which is well behind. In fact, from 2005, when we were at 63 percent, the number has dropped in the four reporting years to 52 percent in 2009.

Obesity is another area where the Northwest Territories is continuing to seem to be not able to swing those numbers in the right direction. Mr. Speaker, 63 percent of adults in the Northwest Territories are overweight or obese. The NWT rate is 10 percent higher than the national average of 51 percent. The link for these high obesity rates is the fact that since 2003, when 54 percent of our

residents reported to be active or at least moderately active, that number has fallen drastically to 41 percent in 2009.

Even though we've had campaigns targeting sexually transmitted infections such as Chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhoea, the prevalence of these STIs in our territory, especially in the smaller communities, is simply shocking. The rate per 10,000 across this country is 24 per 10,000. In the Northwest Territories it's 199.5 per 10,000 and, Mr. Speaker, 396 per 10,000 in our small communities; numbers that we certainly have to address, Mr. Speaker.

In the area of mental health hospitalizations, 58 percent of all hospital stays related to mental health were for substance-related disorders. This certainly comes with a cost to our health care system, Mr. Speaker, and could make a very good case, once again, for a treatment and rehabilitation centre here in Yellowknife.

I'll have questions for the Minister of Health at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCOME SUPPORT VOUCHER SYSTEM

MR. JACOBSON: The director of the Income Support Program in Education, Culture and Employment visited Tuktoyaktuk recently to announce that her department will start using a voucher system for their clients. She was apparently responding to the question of the local hamlet. Mr. Speaker, at the time I would support anything that the Hamlet of Tuk does, so I supported it as well.

Mr. Speaker, going over it, I want to air some questions to share with many community members about the program change. First of all, how are the people going to pay for babysitters, taxes, buy groceries and emergency telephone services.

Secondly, what consultation has been done with the community? At this time there was only the one meeting. We have to do proper consultation.

Thirdly, the voucher system hasn't worked in any northern community. Can I have these questions answered simply? People won't be able to pay babysitters, taxes or telephone services to get the vouchers, and no cash. There was no consultation with income support clients to tell them what was going to happen.

As for a voucher system, to my knowledge it has never worked for a long time in northern communities. Education, Culture and Employment has four main goals in their vision statement of income security: encourage self-reliance, treat individuals with respect and dignity, have clear

policies and procedures, and target benefits to those most in need. Mr. Speaker I don't see the goals of having a voucher system for income support. I see that takes away people's ability to make choices in their own responsibility of money.

I have said to people in this House before, I have never been one to tell people how to spend their money. The benefits will go to businesses where they can be used, such as the Northern Store, Stanton, and the community or food mail.

Hardly a day goes by that I am told in this House that the policy is under review. These things take time. As a Member, be patient. But this time, income support in Tuktoyaktuk seems to be a new breed. Mr. Speaker, we have to deal with this.

I will ask questions to the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about support for traditional healing practices.

Mr. Speaker, traditional healing practices have been part of the Dene culture practices going back decades. There was no such thing as doctors, nurses or western medical practices in the early 1900s when the Dene people lived nomadic lives.

Mr. Speaker, some of the Dene people have special gifts for working with and using traditional medicines to heal certain illnesses. They are called traditional healers, and Dene naidi k'orel?a in Chipewyan.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the GNWT should seriously explore how traditional healing practices could be supported. I have spoken to a constituent of mine who has been healed by a traditional healer in Saskatchewan. The same constituent tried western medicine practices by seeing doctors and specialists for many years, to no avail. After making a few visits to the traditional healer, my constituent believes that he is healed.

Although traditional healers do not set charges for their service, there are other expenses involved for a person wishing to make a visit to a traditional healer who may live in another province or another part of the Northwest Territories. The cost of expenses for travel and accommodation can add up for one trip alone, and normally a total of two trips are required before a person begins to feel the healing process work.

Mr. Speaker, although traditional healing is different from western medicine practices, it's similar in terms of healing. I believe the GNWT should consider recognizing and supporting traditional

healing as medical expenses and help support those who believe the only alternative to healing themselves is seeing a traditional healer.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON THE 16TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow is the last day that we'll be together in this Chamber as the 16th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. There will likely be a wide range of emotions. Some of the Members will be making their last statements and leaving the Assembly for the last time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Premier Roland, David Krutko, and you, Speaker Delorey, all of whom have announced that they won't be seeking another term, for all of your hard work and your dedication over the years. In your own way you have each made a difference to the people of the Northwest Territories. Your contributions will not be forgotten. Thank you.

For the rest of us who I believe are seeking re-election, it will be both a sad day and possibly the last day for some of us as well, but also an exciting day as we re-engage in the campaign process.

I've had a great four years. I've learned something from each and every one of my colleagues. I've had the opportunity to travel throughout the North and meet residents in almost every community from every walk of life and I've learned from each and every one of these people as well.

This is significant because to me people are the reason that we are all here. People create the business. People create the partnerships. People create the opportunities. People commit to their communities and people drive change. I believe the strength in the North comes from its people. As leaders, we must work with the people to create accessible programs and services to ensure that all Northerners have the opportunities and resources to live healthy and productive lives.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my constituents for all of their support and encouragement over the past four years. The Great Slave riding is my home and I've thoroughly enjoyed representing its residents. I've enjoyed being your representative in this Legislature and having the opportunity to bring your thoughts and concerns to the floor, committee rooms and offices of this Assembly.

I will be seeking re-election in the riding this fall and look forward to the opportunity to represent the Great Slave riding in the 17th Legislative Assembly. I also hope to see some of you back here in six

weeks to carry on the important work of the Government of the Northwest Territories. It has been an honour and privilege to serve with each and every one of you.

I'd like to end with one of my favourite political quotes by Joseph Howe, which has been taped to my office window for all to see for the last four years. I look at it every day and it helps focus me on what I'm doing here in this Assembly. It says: "When I sit down in solitude to the labours of my profession, the only questions I ask myself are: What is right? What is just? What is for the public good?" These are important words for politicians to live by.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, after hearing the Minister's statement on devolution, I have to sort of cringe, knowing that the Dene aren't part of the process. They make up almost 45 percent of the NWT population consisting of five regions in the Northwest Territories. They're the region most impacted by resource development in the Northwest Territories.

I believe the Dene/Metis claim clearly stipulated that they shall be involved in the process. They didn't have to ask to be invited, as has been suggested in the Premier's comments. They have the right to be at these tables. Yet I quote in regard to a Globe and Mail article which states that Mr. Roland now worries that he may have been heavy-handed in ramming it through. Well, you definitely were heavy-handed and it's definitely something that shows here today, that the Dene people are again being trampled on by a government that has no say on Dene lands without their consent and involvement.

I know we heard from a lot of Dene leaders when the Devolution Agreement was being signed, directed at a lot of the Aboriginal MLAs to resign and step down. For myself as an MLA being here for 16 years, that is one of my reasons for leaving. I think it's important to realize that this government's approach to Aboriginal people, especially the Dene people up and down the Mackenzie Valley, is totally unacceptable on how we deal with our First Nations people in the Northwest Territories. More importantly, those people who have constitutional rights, whether it's under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution or treaties under Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 and modern-day treaties.

I, for one, take offence from the comments in the Minister's statement that the members are being invited back to the table. To be invited to a party

means you basically send out an invitation and say come to the party. The Dene do not have to be invited to the party. They have the right to be there.

I will question the Premier on this later.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the federal government began to establish itself in our communities and to assume the responsibilities of our lives and to govern all aspects of our lifestyle by first signing the treaties and the Metis script, then to work with the missionaries to convert our people into civilized people, and furthermore, to support the trading companies to begin the first economic development programs with fur trading, slowly over the years more and more established structures began to be part of our present life today. One of the biggest single established infrastructures that was brought in was public housing.

Our elders, as a matter of fact, my grandfather once told his chief that we as people should not move into government housing. This would not be good for us, he said. It's a trap. We'll always be in debt to the government. We are independent people and we need to continue to be independent. However, with the promise of \$2 per month rent, it's too good of a deal to pass up.

In Colville Lake at the Sahtu Secretariat Annual General Assembly I heard stories again and again from the elders talking about the government officials telling people that if they move into the government houses, they would only have to pay \$2 a month for staying there. These testimonies are very strong and true today as we rely on our elders to continue guiding us and providing direction to all our lives. More importantly, what was said during the treaties.

Today I see the true words of my grandfather and my elders. We are so dependent on the government for everything: to get us water, to turn on our lights, to heat our homes, to feed us, and even to police us. We were so independent at one time. Today I see, and I hear, and I know my people are now living in warehouses and tents and overcrowded houses. Today the Housing Corporation says we owe thousands, no, millions of dollars for rent. We see the Government of Canada is going to stop the funding by 2038. That's 27 years from now. Meaning that my son, who is nine years old today, when he turns 36 there will be no more social public housing in Canada. Good.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: We are often asked to rise up and begin to take full responsibility for our lives today. We have created it and now we must take back what once was ours. My only hope is that we do we act when the time comes. Remember, we continue to be slaves to the NWT Housing Corporation's policies and they determine our fate in life. I say this doesn't need to be our destiny anymore.

Housing is essential. It's our home, our identity, our place we call home. NWT Housing Corporation needs to be really shaken up to help our people to keep their homes and start keeping people in the houses they once built and were once promised to us.

I witnessed our Minister work with one of my leaders this morning with the housing issue. I want to say thank you to the Minister for his leadership, and I know that we can solve our problems when we get our thoughts and minds together.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESTRUCTURING THE NWT HOUSING CORPORATION

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

The change in season reminds us how important it is to secure an adequate, affordable, suitable home. Hundreds of Northerners depend on our public housing system for this shelter. It is a constant source of challenge for our governments. These challenges are frequently debated in this House by MLAs.

I believe that the Northwest Territories would be better served if the Housing Corporation became a department of our territorial government. As a department, the Housing Corporation would prepare full government business plans and have the support of our intergovernmental resources. Core need in our communities is directly related to infrastructure planning. Preparing and being involved in our business planning process along with other infrastructure expenditures would help determine how to best spend our scarce infrastructure dollars. We would be more proactive in our approach to the decline in funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Core need is steadily on the rise and we need to reverse this trend as quickly as possible. The department also reports directly to the Assembly. Therefore, there would be greater accountability and oversight in how the Housing Corporation operates, resulting in greater transparency. There would also be an

opportunity to address the old arrears and get them off our books once the NWT Housing Corporation is dissolved.

In certain ways the Housing Corporation is already similar to a department. Members review its annual business plans and reports, and have regular contact with senior officials through the Minister. Restructuring the corporation as a department would not come at a significant cost, I believe. It is an opportunity to streamline our system, leading to greater savings in the long run.

As a government we should constantly strive for ways to improve our services to Northerners. We need to look beyond our four-year term and make changes that will benefit people over a longer period. Restructuring the Housing Corporation into a department is a viable option and one that is worthy of the 17th Legislative Assembly's consideration.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some months ago the Minister of Health and Social Services announced the suspension of midwifery services in Yellowknife. This was not welcome news for many women and families who had benefited from the services and those who would like to plan for the future. A recent petition supporting the program had 304 signatures. To me that speaks out loud and clear about how important the services are.

When midwifery services were first offered in Yellowknife, it was part of a plan to expand the Midwifery Program that began in Fort Smith, to reach out to other centres across our territory. Then the plans changed. While the Health department figures out what they need to now do and how to focus on the territorial program, we seem to be going backwards, according to constituents, certainly not forward on this premier health care service that has been offered in the past.

Many months have now passed without people knowing where the program is going, and accordingly this is a concern to many constituents who are trying to plan ahead, because they believe strongly in the Midwifery Program and they want that to be part of their childbearing experience. They have heard, and I truly believe this, that the NWT has one of the best midwifery programs and certain reputations in Canada second to none. As many people know, the birth of this spectacular program came out of the well-known small community called Fort Smith, hand delivered to our

Northerners by Leslie Paulette. To her I owe a great compliment.

I worry, as many others do, about what is the plan to re-establish this program here in Yellowknife. It's a much needed service to help take off the pressure of our health care system while at the same time providing families with real options as they grow their families here in the North.

Later today I will have questions for the Minister of Health to find out how this program is evolving and when, hopefully, we'll see the re-establishment of midwifery services here in Yellowknife that are in great need.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rarely do I get an opportunity to recognize in the gallery some young men who have been a big part of my life, and they're a bigger part of my life now, my sons: Mitchell, who is the youngest, Samuel, Quincey and Justin. Along with them, joining them in support for me here today is Ms. Angela Young.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Herbert Blake, chief of the Nigtat Gwich'in in Inuvik. I'd also like to welcome Mr. Steve Baryluk, a resident of Inuvik. Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like today to recognize all the Pages who have been working so very hard for us in the last couple of weeks. I would especially like to recognize a constituent of Frame Lake, Jaida Brunet. Thanks to all of you for your work.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also welcome Mr. Herbert Blake from Inuvik. Again in the House I have Mr. Frank Pokiak, chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council, and Mr. Larry Carpenter, chair of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a moment to recognize a couple of people. I'd like to recognize Chief Tsetta. I believe he's up there in the gallery; I saw him a moment ago. He's the chief for Dettah, as we all know. I'd also like to make special note of Lee Mandeville. He's with the Dene Nation. And a long-time friend of mine, Sonny Lenoir. We were kids together growing up in Fort Simpson.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Morag MacPherson, the founder and creative force behind ArtsEnergy. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to recognize Chief Edward Sangris of Dettah and chief of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. I'd also welcome Chief Tsetta if he's here too.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 186-16(6):

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the public housing issue and I talked a little bit about the elders and what the past historical counts that were discussed amongst the government officials and our people today. I want to ask the Minister of Housing, because of all these past grievances and what was told to people and what we're living today is...(inaudible)...two different stories. I want to ask the Minister, in light of the federal government, he has already declined their funding to housing for the social housing programs, what other initiatives other than the review going on and being brought up in the 17th Assembly, what is he doing now or his department doing now to make sure that people do not remain in the tents or the warehouses that they're living in in their communities?

I've seen some of this work this morning and I'm truly impressed that the Minister is looking at other creative ways as to how to get people out of tents or into houses and stop them from going into the warehouses to house their families. What is the

Minister looking at as other ways we can do some work before the first snow comes?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to work very hard with residents to keep them in their units. It's not our intent, as I've said on a number of occasions, to put people out. They have to understand that they have a responsibility. A lot of people have lived up to that responsibility.

The Member was making a reference to the \$2 a month. I think as a Housing Corporation we're doing a lot better than that right now when you see 798 seniors paying zero and housing still paying to maintain the unit. Obviously, we're faced with a challenge in trying to keep the CMHC funding flowing. It's something we have to continue to work with Canada on, and hopefully we'll be able to come up with some kind of solution so we're able to still provide public housing. It's one of the reasons why we've put such an emphasis on arrears, because it helps us offset some of the money we're losing from CMHC.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'm certainly very appreciative that the elders are paying zero. And it should be. These are all seniors across the North. That's my understanding from our elders about the public housing. However, I'd like to go back and ask the Minister what the Corporation is doing right now.

When I go back to the Sahtu, people right now are living in warehouses and their families are living in warehouses. People are living in makeshift tents in the communities. We know right now, I heard from the Minister and I heard from the rest of the MLAs about the responsibilities of rents and arrears. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they're living in warehouses and tents. What else can we do in the short term to get people out of those situations? Because fall is coming around.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the Member is referring to those that have arrears that have been evicted from their units having to live in the conditions that he's describing. If that's the case, then obviously they'd have to work something out with the local housing authority to try and clear off their arrears and then they'll be able to get accommodation again.

I mean, I have to point out that during the life of the 16th Assembly with the investment made from the federal government and the only jurisdiction in the country to match the federal investment, we've been able to do over 600 houses on the ground. As part of our vacant unit strategy, I've informed this House that we're proposing to turn those that can't be allocated into public housing. So we're looking at getting more public housing on the ground.

Again, if it's arrears, then it's something that they have to work out with their local housing authority. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the housing and all the dollars that have gone to investing, we're well aware of. Still, the point, Mr. Speaker, is that people are living in warehouses and tents and people are living in overcrowded units. Maybe it's a bigger government. I'm looking for a solution here. I'm reaching out here. How do we get people who are right now living in warehouses and tents, as we speak under this roof right here, move them back in? I mean, there's got to be another way than just saying it's your responsibility and this is what you need to do. Obviously, they're not getting it. What can we do to get them into a unit there?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: In the Member's Member's statement he talked about how people were once very independent and now they've become dependent on the government. There are all kinds of opportunities for people out there to be independent. They're given every chance and every opportunity by the Government of the Northwest Territories and there is a very good support system. The Member said that I keep saying the same thing, and obviously, that's what it comes down to. It comes down to the same thing.

To stay in a rental housing unit, you have to pay your rent. If you don't pay your rent, you're evicted until you can make some kind of agreement to take care of the arrears and then you would end up back in public housing. Without the public housing portfolio, there would be a lot of people out there who wouldn't be able to house themselves. I think this is a good solution. We ask people to work with us. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today and tomorrow when we finish our House business here and we go back to our communities, we will still go back to where people are going to be in their tents, in their warehouses, and we need to let them know. Certainly we can let them know about the options that are there for housing that's provided for them. I guess that's one of the cruel realities of not taking full ownership or full responsibility for your issues. There are two sides to a story. I guess what I want to ask a Minister is: is his corporation going to be putting some of the stronger homeless policies in our communities where people now have to look at homeless shelters in our communities, not only in Yellowknife but other communities? We are going to have to start looking at smaller centres where we need to have a stronger homeless Shelter Policy.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As part of the overall Shelter Policy review, homelessness is one of the

aspects of the review that we are looking at along with the rent scale review. We are hoping to have the work done and it would be then put into a transition document for the 17th Legislative Assembly and they can decide at that time what the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 187-16(6):
INCOME SUPPORT VOUCHER SYSTEM

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions had to do with the income support situation in Tuk with the voucher system being implemented September 1st. I had more than a few calls that we were rushing into this, to step backwards to try to keep people independent, giving them independence and make the right choices. It's bad enough that they are on income support and there are no jobs in the community. Mr. Speaker, I just wish this pipeline would get started so we would have work and the...(inaudible)...would get going. But, Mr. Speaker, until then we are on income support, a good majority of Tuk.

We are rushing into this. Could the Minister reconsider his decision on the voucher system that was supposed to start September 1st of this year? Could the Minister defer this until April 1, 2012, so we can have a proper implementation for the community and maybe put it to a community vote? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It is a credit system that we've been talking about since fall 2010. The Member approached our office and also the Tuk Hamlet Council also supported the process. The DEA also supported the initiative. Based on that, we decided to go ahead from what we heard from the community leadership.

If the Member wants to have this deferred, I need to have some confirmation from the DEA and the Member himself and also the Tuk Hamlet Council that they want us to defer the matter until the new fiscal year. I am more than willing to work with that, Mr. Speaker, but I need some confirmation from the community of Tuk. Mahsi.

MR. JACOBSON: I was a supporter of this because, like I said before, I support anything my leadership of the community of Tuk, the mayor and council, supports, and the DEA.

Mr. Speaker, if I was to get these letters within the next few days from the Hamlet of Tuk and the DEA and myself, is the Minister committing to me that he would defer this until April 1, 2012? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: If that is the wish of the community of Tuktoyaktuk, then I'm willing to work with that and we can make a decision to defer this matter once the confirmation letter comes in from the three parties. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 188-16(6):
TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about traditional healing practices that should be supported by the GNWT. I was generally referring to our own GNWT staff. I have questions for the Minister of Human Resources on the matter.

Can the Minister advise me if he has had any discussions at all in his department on traditional healing practices as an alternative to healing for our staff? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had some discussions on it, mainly because of the fact that we have had some requests from Aboriginal employees that have been to visit and seek traditional healing from different places in Canada.

This is something that is starting to be recognized in formal medical circles. We are trying to make sure that we can deal properly with employees that want to seek traditional healing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister tell me if there is a plan to add traditional healing to recoverable expenses for GNWT employees when seeking alternative medicines for healing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We don't have a plan, per se. As the Member may know, within the Government of the Northwest Territories most of our expenses are either covered through our insurance policies or through the government programs. I guess the difficulty we've been having is to identify -- how would I say it -- in a formal medical sense we have to deal with certifications and we need approved medical criteria that we deal with. We don't necessarily have that with traditional healing. Generally we deal with it on an ad hoc individual basis, but we are doing some work to promote cultural awareness and diversity within the government. I think that would be an area where we can start to look at it.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister briefly explain a little more on what some of the barriers or some of the obstacles would be for us to move into

supporting the traditional healing as an alternative? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I can think of a number of barriers. I think it's very similar to when the government developed the Traditional Knowledge Policy. In a lot of cases at the community level, people, when there were no other medical services, used traditional healing or traditional knowledge with regard to traditional medicines and how they dealt with different kinds of illnesses or accidents. So there is the formal. It's the same when you look at scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge. It's a question of how do you recognize it. So we would have to work with our Department of Health because traditional healing generally falls within the health care system.

As a government, for those employees that have been accessing traditional healers, we've been using our Employee Assistance Program to try and deal with it. I think in the longer term we would have to look at different areas and try to identify people that are traditional healers or that provide traditional holistic medicine, I guess.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister then work with the Department of Health to sort of look at what we would refer to as best practices maybe across the country, maybe across the territory, and look at the whole issue around traditional healing and allow traditional healers to be a part of the system when people are seeking an alternative healing method?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As I indicated, we are looking at how to increase cultural awareness and diversity. I think that would be a start. We'll get our consultant to help us in identifying those areas and make sure that those employees that practice it are not dismissed out of hand and we can try to work together to find ways to deal with it.

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

QUESTION 189-16(6):
NWT HEALTH STATUS REPORT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and getting back to my Member's statement where I talked about the Northwest Territories Health Status Report that was tabled in this House on August 22nd. Some very concerning details included in that report. I spoke of those in my Member's statement: the overall health of the territory dropping 11 percent in four years; the rate of diabetes continuing to climb; obesity 10 percent above the national average; activity rates falling from 54 percent in 2003 to 41 percent in 2009; the prevalence of STIs in our territory is

shocking and alarming. I want to begin by asking the Minister of Health and Social Services what will become of this report. What are we going to do with this report and the information contained in it?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an important planning document. It comes out in five-year increments. It's one of the core pieces of information that we use as a department and Legislature to look at where do we focus our attention, what's working, what's not working, what are some of the alarming trends, as the Member pointed out. We get back to the inevitable return to the issue of prevention and the abuse of alcohol, smoking, improper diet, lack of exercise; fundamental things that we have not yet instilled into the people of the Northwest Territories; personal choice issues that have not yet been picked up by the people. It is a very important document.

MR. RAMSAY: In the eight years I've been a Member of this House I've seen campaigns come and go. We've had Get Active campaigns. We had the former Minister of Health and Social Services just a few years back handing out posters and condoms and changing from a sexual transmitted disease to an STI, sexually transmitted infection, and drawing attention to that. The numbers aren't getting any better.

I'd again like to ask the Minister if we are going to use the data that's contained in this report to re-evaluate the campaigns and the programs that we're spending money on every year that really, when you look at the numbers, aren't making much of a difference.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The over \$300 million that we do spend provides a very high level of service to the people. The Member's point is a good one. We'll never have enough hospitals, enough facilities to put people back together, to get them healthy once they're sick, and the challenge is an unmet challenge, is the one that the Member lays out.

Will this be used? We're going into an election here in a couple weeks. There will be in the next few months an Assembly elected and a Cabinet picked. Through the business planning process and the priorities of the next Assembly, they will be targeting where they think the resources of government should be spent, and what improvements should be made, and what changes should be made.

MR. RAMSAY: I thank the Minister for that reply. I'd like to follow up by asking the Minister, who takes ultimate responsibility in evaluating the programs and services that we provide in these

various areas, if we can enact some changes so that the money that we're spending is actually going to make a difference.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Ultimately the broad issues, the broad decisions, the review, the voting of the public money comes to the floor of this House. There are MLAs elected, there are committees put together, there's a government selected, business plans are done based on the initial fundamental direction that comes out of the Legislative Assembly.

As we've attempted to do in the 16th Assembly in terms of program reviews, the government, working with the committees and MLAs, has the fundamental task of ensuring that the money is spent, and that the program priorities are the right ones, and that there is value for money. That is where the fundamental responsibility lies.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I thank the Minister for the response. In closing, last question, I guess with technology and systems being what they are today, and I'm very appreciative of the report that was tabled on the 22nd of August, but we're dealing with two- and three-year-old data in most cases. I'm just wondering if that's the best we can hope for going forward. We should be trying to get some more up-to-date information when dealing with these things.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This is a longitudinal look at trends across the land in different areas. If you take this five-year increment and put the other three reports before them, you'd see, as the Member has indicated and as the report demonstrates clearly, a lot of our statistics continue to go in the wrong direction. We have some more current statistics on different areas that we could look at if the Member has a specific request, but in terms of gathering this kind of broad data that's going to give us those trends and available for planning purposes, it's those five-year increments that give us that kind of necessary information.

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

QUESTION 190-16(6):
DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the statement made by the Premier on devolution, I asked a few questions regarding the Dene leadership, regardless it's the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho, Akaitcho, or Dehcho, which make up a large part of the Northwest Territories land mass which encompasses some of the riches like oil and gas and minerals. The devolution process, the whole reason it got to where it was is because of

the Dene/Metis claim which was signed in 1988 in what is now Behchoko and was back then Rae-Edzo, in which they signed it with the idea that the Northern Accord was part and parcel of the Dene/Metis land claim because the Dene/Metis could not negotiate participation agreements like they negotiated the Inuvialuit Agreement and the agreement in Nunavut. That's why they demanded that "shall consult" and "shall include" the Dene/Metis in the Northern Accord process was fundamental to the Dene/Metis Agreement back then and it is today.

The Gwich'in have similar wording, and the Sahtu have similar wording, and the Tlicho have the same wording. It says the Government of the Northwest Territories shall involve the Gwich'in in development and implementation of the Northern Accord for oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories and which negotiations between the enabling agreement dated September 5, 1988, between Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

I'd like to ask the Premier, noting from your statement, you make reference that you're inviting the participants back to the table. Like I noted, the Dene/Metis have the right to be at the table, especially the Dene groups that basically were part and parcel to the land claims, but more importantly, to the rights they have. I'd like to ask the Minister why there is such an inconsistency between your statement and what's in the land claim agreements.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quite clearly, I think there is a lot of consistency in the statement. The fact of the way we've behaved as a government. When you look at the agreement-in-principle, that got its origin... The Member talks about the Northern Accord of the Dene/Metis comprehensive process. That agreement never got signed and moved forward. That's why the Gwich'in were the first to do a separate agreement, followed by the Sahtu and now the Tlicho. Other groups are negotiating. In those claims that are settled, those groups that have settled are already benefiting from royalties as part of the claim process. That's one thing, for example, the Inuvialuit don't have, because theirs was the first and that option wasn't on the table.

There are groups benefiting from royalties of developments already in the Northwest Territories. Not this government but some of those groups. The invite, as I've worded in my statement, is there, the table is set, the chairs are there, they are ready to be filled if they want to come to the table. They have been a part of the process. They have developed the agreement-in-principle that was signed. They helped pen some of the sections. When you look at chapters 5 and 6 of those

sections, those are the strongest parts of an agreement that actually put in place in a final process a government-to-government approach. Not just ad hoc but an actual process that would be protected going forward. So the table's there and the chairs for all of the groups are at the table. They just need a body to fill them. By signing and moving forward, they would be full participants once again, and the option's there for them. They have to make the decision to come to the table.

MR. KRUTKO: I believe the concern that the Dene have is the way the approach has been taking place, in which I quoted the comment made by the Premier in the *Globe and Mail* where he stated that he worries he may have been too heavy-handed in ramming it through. I believe you were heavy-handed and you continue to be heavy-handed by not trying to find a workable solution to get these parties involved in the process, but more importantly, how they're going to be affected through these negotiations and not being party to those talks. I'd like to ask the Premier what you meant that you have been too heavy-handed by ramming it through.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I guess I could do the proverbial "I was misquoted," but, no, the fact is I was speaking frankly with an interviewer and he asked, well, some people have said you were too heavy-handed in your actions.

Clearly, these were not my actions. They were the actions of the Assembly. The majority of Members agreed that we need to move forward with this process. We decided to do that. Taking the stance and holding the stance, some may consider that heavy-handed and I guess I would look at it that there are some people who would believe that is the action I took and followed.

Quite clearly, one of the things I've said right from the start of this Assembly, one of the things I'd heard for decades about Northerners needing to be the leaders in their own land and making decisions in their own land, this is absolutely about that. Let's take our rightful place. Let's be the leaders. Let's be the governments. Let's not just talk about it.

MR. KRUTKO: The only group in the Northwest Territories that really have real ownership of land in the Northwest Territories is the Dene people. They have been here for countless generations. They have Treaty 8 and Treaty 11. They have a fundamental right to the land in the Northwest Territories, regardless if it's lands through treaties or lands through modern land claims. They have the right to those lands that you're talking about. If you're imposing legislative decisions on those groups on their land without them at the table, to me that's a fundamental flaw of where you're going as a government.

I'd like to ask the Minister how you can state that you are willing to continue to race full speed ahead

and not include those groups that have a fundamental right to lands in the Northwest Territories and have a proven track record to those lands, regardless through the Paulette court case or the land claim agreements.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Before I respond directly to the question, I must thank the Member, I guess. We can have one more lively question and answer process. This is going to be our last opportunity. We have one more day coming up to debate such an important subject, and I must say the Member has been very consistent in his approach and his values placed on Aboriginal leadership and the fact that we need to take our responsible place in decision-making here in the Northwest Territories.

Along with that, I think we're so close, and I've said this to the Aboriginal leadership in the territory. We're speaking almost the same language. In speaking to the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council at the assembly, he said a lot of times we get tangled up in the process, and I think that is one of the things here. The process is what we're tripping up on, but we believe in the principle that we need to be making decisions and benefiting from those decisions in the North.

When you look at the land claims, Mr. Speaker, we're following those land claims. They do have a right. That is why they were part of the development of the agreement-in-principle. They also have a seat at the table should they choose to, and it is their decision to choose to. We have opened the door. The seat is ready for them. It's not about saying, well, you can come in if we think about it.

In another instance with the regional leadership process we started in the 16th Assembly well over a year ago, I put on the table the concept of the Council of Federation, much like we've taken place, and prior to that, and I believe it was the premiership of Premier Kakfwi of the day who signed that agreement on behalf of the Northwest Territories. Prior to that we were on the outside in the hallway waiting to be invited in. When you look at that principle, we have now created a table where they can be in there, should they choose to.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to reverse the statement made by the Premier. That's exactly how the Dene people are feeling today. They are feeling they're sitting outside the room and they're waiting to be invited in, and technically they don't have to be. I think that is the problem with this process and I think the Premier nailed it right on the head. How we felt when we're basically sitting on the sidelines of the federation of the governments across Canada is how the Dene people feel today because of this Devolution Agreement.

I'd like to ask the Premier, prior to signing off the agreement there was an attempt made for a protocol agreement to try to work out these arrangements through a workable situation moving forward, and also those sections of the land claim agreements you noted, they have to be implemented by way of whatever legislation we come forward with. I'd like to ask the Premier exactly what are we doing as government to find a way to get those groups back into the tent, to the table, and allow them to raise issues and concerns that are going to affect them through resource development into the future?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Through the process we've been engaged in, we continue to update all of the Aboriginal groups including those who haven't signed and are not right now a part of the formal negotiations. But as I said, there is a spot at the table. There is a chair waiting for someone to take up that seat and become part of the process. The door is open for them to come in. It's a decision they need to make. In fact, we've put through this government a request for dollars to help with the Aboriginal groups to be a part of that process. We've opened the door, we're providing funds, and we continue to keep that door open.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Colleagues, I'm trying to give the Members as much leeway as possible in questions here, but at the rate we're going with the preambles, we're going to be lucky to get eight Members in. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 191-16(6):
GNWT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be brief. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister responsible for homelessness. In our last sitting in May I asked some questions about the GNWT Homelessness Strategy. The response from the Minister and follow-up from his office indicated that the development of a Homelessness Strategy and framework is being led by the Homelessness Coalition chaired by the City of Yellowknife. I was very surprised at that, and I asked for clarification from the office and I haven't received it. I'd like to know from the Minister, is a non-government organization -- that would be the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition -- developing a framework or a strategy which will govern GNWT activities related to homelessness?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition provides a valuable service in Yellowknife. There is also an interdepartmental working group

when it comes to the issues within the Government of the Northwest Territories and shared jurisdiction by different departments in dealing with this issue. So to the question from the Member, the answer would be, in my opinion, no.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Minister for that. That leads me to the question. We have a homelessness framework. It was developed in 2007. I'm given to understand that we are currently still following that framework, which is now rather outdated. I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not he can advise me when there will be some plans in place to update that 2007 framework. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I think there's a general recognition that this area has been somewhat untended. The Minister responsible for homelessness doesn't have the actual budget. There's a need to work closely with other departments and there's a need to look at that type of ongoing coordination. At this late juncture with one more sitting day left in the life of this Assembly, I would suggest it will be one of the challenges for the 17th Assembly and the incoming MLAs to decide on this issue, among many others.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for his words of commitment, I think. I take it that he recognizes that there's a lack of coordination. He indicated, I think, if I heard him correctly, that there needs to be some coordination and work done in the next Assembly, so people may be quoting Hansard from the 16th in the next Assembly.

Part of the answer that I got was that the Homelessness Interdepartmental Working Group develops programs. I'd like to know what activities in terms of developing programs that that working group has taken. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: They work, in many cases, more with the small community funds, working with communities outside of Yellowknife, in many cases, responding on a one-off basis to situations that arise in different communities dealing with homelessness or some hard-to-house issues. The broader idea and need for government planning across departments is one that there needs to be more work done. At one point in the 15th Assembly there was a Social Programs Ministers Committee that came together on a regular basis because of issues such as this, seniors, as well, because of cross-departmental mandates and the need to integrate that kind of service and figure out how we're going to better manage this and try to coordinate what money is there. That is still before us.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister. I gather from his response that this interdepartmental group does not do program

development. They simply seem to be reactive, if I understood him correctly. To the issue of the coordination and the work that needs to be done, I'd like to ask the Minister, if he is lucky enough to return to this House, will he make homelessness and the coordination of it a priority? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I mean, this is an issue for every Member. It's been on the table for the 16 years that I've been here. It is a challenge. It will continue to be on the table of the legislators of the 17th Assembly, and whoever's standing in this position a number of weeks hence will be having to discuss and indicate to the people how we intend to move forward on this. It will be based on the direction, of course, of the Legislature and the priorities set and the business planning process that's going to follow. It's an issue that's on the list and it will have to be dealt with. We know there are things that have to be done better. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 192-16(6):

MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I wanted to highlight in some manner about how important midwifery services are here in the Northwest Territories. I also wanted to give credit to Leslie Paulette for making it the success it is. It comes with quite a national reputation of being a brilliant success all started by a small program in Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, the program in Yellowknife has been cut and it was a very important program to many families. My first question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is: when will the midwifery services be offered again in Yellowknife? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've committed to a process that is now underway. An RFP has been put out for a review of midwifery services. I indicated this in this House previously. That report should be done and ready by January 2012, at which time the Department of Health and Social Services will be able to look at the recommendations, share them with the Members and committee members, and look at what's being recommended. Most importantly, as I've indicated time after time as Finance Minister in this House, what resources may or may not be available to try to hit the priorities of the 17th Assembly. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: It's my understanding that the midwife in Fort Smith has been able to deliver at least half of the babies each and every year. It's turned into quite a heralded success and, as we all know, I'm certainly glad I'm bending the ear of the Finance Minister at the same time. It's a better choice on financial resources to use a midwife than it is to use a typical doctor. Perhaps, maybe the Minister can outline the objectives of how we are trying to translate the success in Fort Smith into Yellowknife and the territory as a whole. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Let me first point out, of all the communities in the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife is the best served when it comes to birthing services with Stanton and all the specialists and obstetricians and doctors that are here available to provide those services. Granted, they don't have the choice of midwifery services in many communities. There is no choice of any kind other than you have to come to Yellowknife and wait to have your baby. So the value is there. I think we've got some of the best legislation in the country. We've got a program in Fort Smith that demonstrates that it works. Now it comes down to the resources that are available to do the very many things we would like to do as a Legislative Assembly, recognizing the very tight fiscal conditions we are going to be working under and that governments across the land are working under. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Perhaps, maybe if the Minister of Health could paint the pictures of the focus of the future of midwifery here in the Northwest Territories. Is it the goal of the Department of Health to help facilitate the growth? Is it just to place it in a few...provide this opportunity in a few communities here and there? What is the mandate and focus of this RFP and, certainly, will the general public be able to participate in the development of this so they can hear true testimony about how important this is as a service here in the North? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The intent is to take a careful measured look at this service and where it makes the most sense to be applied, where is there critical mass, where is there any service at all, transportation issues, the population issues, and if there was a need to put birthing services in a community, some of the questions, for example, would you want to put it into a community that already has some of the best birthing services in the Northwest Territories or would you look at a region where it possibly has a greater chance to provide some service where none exists currently. Those are the kind of questions we have to look at and then we have to look at the hard facts of will there be money. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister talked about the money, you know, and I hate to think that the Health Minister, although oddly enough it's the same as the Finance Minister, but are they going to invest some financial analysis into this study, report, and into the planning? In most cases it's more affordable for the Government of the Northwest Territories to have a midwife providing the services than either flying the mother in from a community or flying a doctor into a community. Even in Yellowknife it's more affordable having a midwife providing these services than an average doctor.

Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about non-complicated pregnancies, certain non-high-risk pregnancies. We are not talking about the ones that are challenging because we do need those specialists to manage those cases. Will the Finance Minister be ensuring that there is a complete financial analysis done on this issue, because it's important and cherished here in the North? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I was the Minister of the day when the midwifery legislation was brought forward and passed. I come from a community where it's been a huge issue for decades and I am very familiar with the value of midwifery. We knew very clearly when we came forward with the bill and made it an insured service that it was the type of service we would like to provide. We made the steps to do that.

The issue now comes back to have there been any demographic changes and is it affordable. If we do have resources, where are the best places to put those resources to work when it comes to midwifery services? Thank you.

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

QUESTION 193-16(6):
EXTENDING CELL PHONE SERVICES
TO FORT SIMPSON AIRPORT

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation some questions and he will be pleased to know it won't be on Highway No. 7.

The travellers that go to Fort Simpson and stop at the airport and do have cell phones have approached me to see if there is a way we can extend the cell phone service from Fort Simpson out to the airport. The residents have raised that with me as a safety concern for medevacs, et cetera. It's going to require an expenditure -- I've done some research on it -- up to about \$200,000. I'd like to ask the Minister if his department is willing to consider or examine a business case for establishing extended cell phone service out to the Fort Simpson Airport. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe that there have been any formal requests through our department to look at expanding the cell phone services. It's not an area that we, as Transportation, would be responsible for. We worked, however, with other organizations such as the Aboriginal Sport Circle and other people who want to see that service expanded, even in the city of Yellowknife. They've come forward and accessed program dollars from, I believe, federal coffers and been able to put boosters and things of that nature so service is available at the airport.

I don't believe we have had a request. We certainly haven't reviewed it at my level. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHE: I did do some research on it and boosting the signal, we just need a weak signal, boosting the signal is actually an \$800 investment for the signal booster. I think the process here is now we need a tower to put that booster on, that's where the bigger costs come in. Can the Minister work with his Cabinet colleagues to see how the government can support such an expenditure to increase the signal towards the Fort Simpson Airport? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We certainly can engage with the folks that provide the service in Fort Simpson to see what is required and to see what we have in terms of inventory that may be suitable for an expansion or to allow for the booster to be mounted on.

Right at this point we don't have it in our budget to buy a tower. Having said that, I'm not sure we would invest in a tower that involves communications. I can certainly commit to the Member that I will have a discussion with my officials and we'll maybe sit down with the Member and get whatever information he's got to have that discussion with NorthwesTel or whoever the provider is in Fort Simpson.

MR. MENICOCHE: I'm pleased that the Minister is willing to at least sit down, engage in discussion, and, he's right, there may be some possibility if there is some inventory around. I'm not sure what size of tower is needed but, once again, if the Minister would follow up with his officials, make contact with NorthwesTel to see how we can make this a reality for the safe travelling of the public in Fort Simpson and travellers flying into Fort Simpson.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I think I already committed to doing that. I'll say it again; we will follow up with the Member and gather the information that we think is required and relevant to the situation, and get back to the Member.

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

QUESTION 194-16(6):
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUTS TO
WATER MONITORING SERVICES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recent news has been replete with stories detailing federal plans to cut 776 Environment Canada jobs and slash the department's budget from \$1.1 billion to \$883 million by 2014. This was preceded by years of declining support for Environment Canada, and Minister Flaherty assures us this is just the beginning of the cuts. I'd like to ask the Minister of the Environment how these cuts will affect Environment Canada's operations in the Northwest Territories.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had opportunity to talk to Minister Kent when he was here a number of weeks ago. These cuts are going to be felt across the land. They're going to be felt in the Northwest Territories.

Specifically, I sent information out, for example, on the closing of water monitoring sites where we have 23 and they're closing 21; all 10 in Nunavut, two on the boundaries between Nunavut and Northwest Territories that are important. They're going to discontinue monitoring through national parks. There's no monitoring on the Mackenzie River. There's a whole list of implications for us. We are negotiating devolution based on what was there and is now gone. We have the transboundary agreements that we're negotiating where water monitoring is essential. There were promises made by the federal government when they released their plan to put a panel in at the oil sands.

Going forward there are also clear obligations in land claims to provide and protect water, keeping it substantially unaltered is very clear in there. In fact, it's so clear we used that statement in our Water Strategy. The federal government is a signatory of our Water Strategy that speaks to protecting and doing all the good things we're supposed to do. This is going to have a significant impact.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the bad news that the Minister has provided there. It sounds pretty grim. Many of the environmental monitoring functions performed by Environment Canada are referred to as mandated requirements. Meaning if the federal Minister issues a licence or authority with conditions requiring regulatory agencies to monitor compliance, the federal government is legally obligated to provide the resource necessary to carry out the monitoring. This legal compulsion would presumably govern the monitoring

requirements arising out of authorities granted for the operation of our mines, the Mackenzie Gas Project, and so forth. When the specifics of the cuts are announced, will this government be doing a cross-check to see whether the cuts cripple the federal ability to meet its mandated monitoring responsibilities?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes. As the cuts proceed, as the federal government continues with its deficit reduction plans, we'll be monitoring, as we are right now, the impact of what we know, what we've heard, what the actual final configuration looks like and who's left after the cuts are concluded.

As we negotiate devolution, we started devolution negotiations at a certain point in time with certain resources available. Clearly, there's been a change or will have been a change. We're going to have to adapt as we go on down that road as well. At the same time we are going to see what we can do and how do we adjust so that we can keep moving and make sure the federal government -- which still has, until we sign the Devolution Agreement, legal responsibility for the land and water -- honours its obligations to us.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Minister's remarks. The recent Hill Times I think was the 8th of August item quotes a federal spokesman as saying that the department will ensure the department is spending its resources on priorities like improving air quality and cleaner water. Those are nice words. Our Minister of Environment, though modest in stature, clearly throws a big shadow. Will the Minister be holding the federal government to task if their gutting of the department doesn't live up to this dialogue?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'm sure the Member's not calling me fat, so I won't take offence to that comment.

I would suggest this Assembly and, of course, more importantly, the 17th Assembly is going to have to deal with a number of significant issues like this as we move forward with devolution and as we move forward with the deficit reduction impacts that we're going to feel over the next three or four years coming out of the federal government. There's going to be some difficult circumstances and money is going to be a priority issue both to us and as we negotiate arrangements with the federal government to honour the mandates and the federal responsibilities that they have, and to ensure that what programs we take over in fact meet the obligation that was initially signed as we laid out the AIP where there were numbers laid out for A-based funding and such and the numbers of positions. So I would say to the Member that we are all collectively going to have a responsibility so that when an MLA or Minister stands up to do his job or her job, that they know that the Legislative

Assembly is there and what they're saying is pushing forward the position of this Assembly.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's comments again. I certainly hope that the 17th Assembly will be standing firm and be prepared to do that work. However, I understand the Prime Minister will be in town this week to demonstrate his devotion to northern interests and will be meeting with the Premier. Can the Minister assure me that our dismay at any erosion of Environment Canada monitoring programming in the NWT will be brought forcefully to the attention of the Prime Minister?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is a question best put to the Premier. I would indicate to the Member that, of course, the opportunity will be taken full advantage of and that the Premier will be speaking on issues of great significant importance to the people of the Northwest Territories.

If there are any questions about that particular issue, I would suggest that the Premier would be best suited to respond.

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

QUESTION 195-16(6):
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUTS TO
WATER MONITORING SERVICES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for the most recent remarks and follow up on his advice and ask the Premier if indeed this issue will be brought forcefully to the Prime Minister's attention when he has the opportunity to meet with him this week.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process we've been engaged in, number one, we have a meeting of the three northern Premiers to get together to discuss a pan-territorial approach to the opportunity to sit down with the Prime Minister. Following that, we also, from a Government of the Northwest Territories perspective, looked at our initiatives that are underway and highlighted some areas of concern for discussion with the Prime Minister purely from the Northwest Territories perspective. The AIP and devolution is a big part of that and, of course, any impacts that the federal government will be making on decisions on that eventual turnover is of concern to us.

We've gone through a process. I have yet to sit down with the other two northern Premiers to talk about our approach on a pan-territorial level. From a Government of the Northwest Territories

perspective, we do have a number of areas. The environment is always a big factor when we talk about those issues and how it fits with the devolution package as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the orders of the day, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: We'll return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
(Reversion)**

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize my lovely wife and my lovely supporter. I want to recognize her for being here in the gallery to see us work and to be here supporting me.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also my pleasure to introduce and recognize Martin Knutson, who is president of the NWT Wildlife Federation and also a director of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. I would also like to recognize Lee Mandeville, a resident of Weledeh and a fiddler extraordinaire, as everybody knows, and any other residents of Weledeh in the audience.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Welcome to everyone in the gallery. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings.

Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Replies to Opening Address

MR. BEAULIEU'S REPLY

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of the Members in the House that will not be seeking re-election, that being David Krutko from our side of the House. It was good to work with David. He's got lots of experience, as we all know; 16 years. I enjoyed a lot of good advice from David throughout my four years as MLA for Tu Nedhe.

I'd also like to thank Premier Roland for his work for the people of the Northwest Territories.

I'd also like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for doing such a good job, in the four years I've been here, running this House.

I'd also like to officially announce that I am seeking re-election in Tu Nedhe and talk about some of the issues that I've worked on over the last four years.

We had a lot of housing issues. We addressed a lot of housing issues. I thought the government did a good job of addressing some of the issues and heading towards addressing some of the issues. They were sometimes a little bit slow in getting to the issues, but I recognize that sometimes things do take some time.

I found that there was a lot of work done in education by the government. I thought that it was a good move in Tu Nedhe for us to bring the career and technical services back into the schools so that the kids have the opportunity to work with their hands and things like that. In the past they used to have what was referred to as industrial arts classes, but those classes were shut down over a decade and a half ago in some cases. The students never did have those items to work with and now there's new machinery and so on being purchased in Lutselk'e, and also there's already in place a shop in Fort Resolution doing work on some of the preschool and daycare for support for the students as they move out of elementary school into higher grades.

I thought in this Assembly the youth had received a tremendous amount of support. I know that in Fort Resolution they're about to open a brand new youth centre, and in Lutselk'e we are still working on coming up with some sort of youth centre.

I thought there were a lot of improvements to the government infrastructure, highways, municipal infrastructures and so on. I felt that the work done by the Committee on the Sustainability in Rural and Remote Communities was very important for the small communities. We've seen the Access Road Program which was usually sitting at approximately \$300,000 go to around \$1 million and that was something that came as a result of that committee that was responsible for the sustainability of rural and remote communities. I thought there was a lot of work done for the youth through that committee, where an additional almost million dollars, \$850,000 was put in towards supporting youth ambassadors and youth sports and so on.

The trapping programs through ITI that were doubled and went from about \$500,000 to something in excess of a million dollars and I thought that was very good, the single-window thing. That's something that all of the small communities should eventually be getting something through the single-window service. They're testing it in a few of the communities, and I think that could be the future of the government, and the next Assembly, and the Assemblies after

that. I think the people that filled those positions played a very important role.

I thought that the government was doing some work to try to improve the employment rates in the small communities. Right now the employment rates in the small communities are very low. They're usually running in the 30 to 40 percent right across the territory. When you compare that to the larger communities, the larger communities have employment rates that are around 80 percent, 70 to 80 percent. That's good. It's a positive thing for larger communities, but more jobs have to go into the smaller communities, and I think that's something that future governments should be working on and something that's very important. There are a lot of key positions that could easily be in there once the housing issue is sorted out and so on.

With that, I just thought I'd make those comments to the opening address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROLAND'S REPLY

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've thought about this moment, the last opportunity to use the replies to opening address to cover a lot of time, I guess. Sixteen years. One thing I've learned over the years, when I was a rookie MLA, that was one thing, I was very brief and to the point and rarely ever used a request for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. The one thing I make a joke about now is when I go to speaking at certain events, I've learned that every year as an MLA and every term allows me to speak longer, so I don't think I'll beat the record for a reply to the opening address. That's not the intention today.

But I would like to say, as I've announced in the past, that I will not be seeking re-election in the upcoming territorial election, marking 16 years as a Member of this Legislative Assembly. As I thought about it, a few times I've sat down and tried to write some things down, thinking about some of those early days and the work we've done and the challenges we've faced as Members of the Legislative Assembly. But it was hard to do because there were a lot of things to cover and what are the highlights that one wants to touch base on. But I just wrote a few notes down to say a few things.

First and foremost I have to give an apology to my children. I have pictures of a couple of the boys when I first got elected and they were in bunting bags, as we call them. New babies to this world. In their whole life they've seen their father work in this environment. My apology is that I've sacrificed much of family time, birthdays, school events, and tried to catch as much as possible, but still, as

many have said, and many people across this North know about my personal life, they've had to live through that, and I apologize to them for that.

But I'd also like to say thank you for your continued support. Geez, I thought I taught my boys to be men and don't cry and don't show the soft side, but I save that for the harder times, I guess, amongst my colleagues. I think this happened when I did my speech for the candidacy of this position and I referred to my father. But I'd like to say thank you, boys, and my daughter in Fort Smith, for your support and continued being there. We've been through some difficult times and I've been able to reconnect, in a way. I must say, technology is a wonderful thing, because I think I talk more with my boys through texting than the verbal communication. To have them show up here is a surprise and I thank you boys for showing up.

As I thought about that and saw them, and one thing I've shared with Members is my father, before he passed away, used to say, and he'd introduce me to his friends at many events, and he'd be talking to them and he'd say, I'd like you to meet my little boy. People would look over and then they'd look up because he was so much smaller. Well, I get to do the same now. When I say I'd like to introduce you to my little boys, pretty soon Mitchell, who's the youngest, will actually be taller than me, so I'm going to have to be kind in my older days so they don't put me in the home too soon.

On top of the thank yous, I also have it to say to the people of Inuvik. For 16 years and four elections they have supported me and returned me back to the Legislative Assembly, and twice by acclamation. I thank the people of Inuvik for their trust and their support through all of these times.

I remember when a number of us came -- there were four of us in this Assembly who were first elected in 1995 -- we came into a time when there were difficult choices to be made, as the government had announced previously in the 12th Assembly about a \$100 million deficit and reductions we're going to happen. The division of the territory was about to occur. We had to make some tough choices back in 1995 that affected many lives in the North and not all of those choices were the perfect ones, but we had to make those to try to keep our North moving forward and survive the difficult times, and we've done that through those times.

I remember telling the people back home that no matter what happens in this Assembly, I'm always coming home and always going to face the music, so to speak, and I thank them through those times. I used to be known, even by some of my friends back home, as, oh, here's the guy that took away my VTA, as being one of the Members of government at the time. We had to make some difficult choices, and I think every Assembly since

then has been faced with some difficult choices to be made in trying to progress and move forward as the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Since 1995 through to 2011 to say thank you to the people of Inuvik. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve them in the role first as MLA for Inuvik and then later Inuvik Boot Lake, and I look forward to returning home and spending more time there and also see what the future may bring and what role I can play in the work of Northerners in the future.

Also, I'd like to say one of the things in my first elections, my campaign slogan used to be "Work here, play here, live here," and the very essence that if the government's going to be making tough choices, then it should be someone who's living there who would be affected by those decisions who should be making those decisions and not someone from away, as they say, or from a farther jurisdiction. I must say that that slogan even fits today in my role as Premier of the Northwest Territories now, and even as Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Your family and your community grows. When you take on a position as Minister and Premier, you take on an added constituency, not just your home constituency where you were elected but the whole territory, and look to try to make decisions that benefit in the long run all of the people in the Northwest Territories.

In a sense, my constituency base, in a real way, has grown to the Northwest Territories, and work here, play here, live here still applies today because decisions being made that affect our families, our homes, and who benefits from those decisions, to a large degree and some of the biggest decisions being made are being made by others away from the Northwest Territories. But they come and seek our input and ask us to make a few comments on a few things.

There will be a day, Mr. Speaker, when Northerners will be making all of the decisions, putting conditions and benefitting from the decisions of development to be made. I'm hoping that as I look at my sons now who are, well, one is 21, 19, 16, and 12, my daughter, 22, 23? So they are well into their... They are starting to become young men and women in this world and starting to live their own lives. I have grandchildren now and they will be facing a future that will be impacted by decision-making. I would rather have them impacted by decision-makers in the North because I know whose door I can knock on and go see them instead of writing a letter and waiting for someone else to speak on my behalf thousands of miles away.

So as we look at that again, that constituency, I must say to the people of the Northwest Territories, thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Premier and as the Minister of this

government. As well, it has been a privilege and an honour to serve at this level within government.

Then I have to go to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for you putting your trust in me to move forward. I know we faced some challenges during the life of this Assembly. I think every Assembly I have been part of has had challenges. We've all grown through some of these things and we've all worn some battle scars at times.

I must say, earlier in question period when Mr. Krutko asked some questions, Mr. Miltenberger leaned over and he says, "you get one more opportunity," like two old bulls meeting in the centre of the ring and we are going to bang heads again and try to make a difference and see who's left standing. I must say there's times when I probably will miss some of this sparring and back and forth.

At all times, I must say, and I recall a comment made by a few folks early in my time, very early, in fact, when I announced back home in Inuvik in '95 that I was going to seek the position of MLA. I sat down and had a coffee with someone I had worked alongside on the community council and they asked if I really wanted to do this, and I confirmed I did. He asked, or made a statement actually, he says, "Well, you're going to get the education of a lifetime." I must say, for the record, Paul, you are very close to what was said. It's been an education through the process and continues to be.

One of the elders earlier on in that first election, after the election and I had won, approached me and said, -- it was Tommy Wright, a respected elder in our community and has been through difficult times -- "I don't know whether to congratulate you or say condolences." I looked at him and he could tell I was somewhat confused by that, and he pointed out, "Well, in politics you have to compromise. That is something that is always difficult to do." His words ring very true even today to the last order of business we will do as a government. It is the art of compromise to see what we can do as Members to come up with piece of legislation. Nobody gets all of what they want. We all try to get something that makes sense for us and benefits the people of the Northwest Territories overall.

So for the people of the Northwest Territories, I say thank you very much for your kindness, for your gratitude, for your challenging comments, for your inspiration to get the job done. What I would say to the people of the Northwest Territories, and especially the youth with the engagement process we went through in the last year, get involved. Get to the voting stations and make your vote count because your future and the decisions about your future are going to be made by those who are successors and come back to the 17th Assembly. It is only by getting involved that you can affect change. If you are going to sit back and complain

about what decisions are being made but choose not to vote, then you live with the consequences. Pay attention to who is out there and who wants to come to this place, and why they want to represent yourself as an individual and your constituency here in the Northwest Territories. Get involved as we had with the youth conference and it was their way to get engaged, but not necessarily. Yes, youth conferences are good and important, but realistically as you get involved by showing up at the meeting, ask some questions, become informed and vote. Your vote counts.

I would say to the people of the Northwest Territories, as I've said on many occasions, many meetings, whether it's been in the Northwest Territories, Alberta, B.C., Ottawa, internationally, the future of the Northwest Territories has great potential. Our future is yet to be told. We are about to turn the page and really start to take our place in Canada, to make our national anthem ring true, "the true North strong and free."

In working with Members of this Assembly, working with our federal government and the decisions to be made and the decisions being made by the federal government, yes, there are some negative sides, but the North has never had so much attention placed on it as we've had in the last few years. We have to take advantage of that. We have to continue to work those channels and make things happen.

Now, I would be remiss if I was to say that throughout my -- it's weird to hear this -- career as a politician, my first days as I walked in here, in fact, I think for the first year when people would meet me for the first time or I would go back home, they would say how is it to be a politician. I used to say I'm not a politician; I'm a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would refuse to have that word associated with the work I did, but I had to succumb to that. The fact is that I am, we are politicians. That is the definition we fall under. At times that is not a very good thing in the eyes of those out there, but I respect the Members of this Legislative Assembly for the work they've done and how they've carried themselves. Yes, we've disagreed, and we've butted heads, and we've had to deal with some huge challenges through our time. But if you look at our future, not many of us, when we first came, and I think of the four of us who were here in 1995, probably thought much beyond that first term and some of us thought we might not be re-elected because of those tough choices.

I think as long as we get to the people of the Northwest Territories and tell them what's happening and show them that we're doing our job, that they might not agree with it but they respect the fact that we get back to them and show them what's happening. Through that, they return us back to this Legislative Assembly. I think Members who have

since come on and become new Members and now may be midway through your career or just getting started, there's going to be lots of opportunity to share the work with this Assembly with members of the public. Don't be afraid, even in the toughest days, to go out and tell them why we've had to make certain decisions.

Throughout my work in this Legislative Assembly, I could not do it without the support of key people right from the community, community groups and organizations, community leadership, and then to this level of territorial leadership. Even behind that, I think all leaders in the North, all of us, we have to say thank you to our staff that help us get the job done.

I must say there are days when I've closed the door and a few staff have heard me in not so rosy terms talk about my frustrations. They didn't hand me their resignation. They stuck with me, and kept me, and helped me do my job by getting the necessary information, sharing that information with Members and so on. Right from my constituency assistants -- and I have had a number of them through the 16 years, so I won't go down a list -- but they are very important in our communities to get our message out and help us keep the community informed. So I thank those who have helped me in my community, in my constituency office, get my job done right up until this day as we get close to shutting down those offices. My assistant of the day is preparing to move on and go back to school and get a further education and move up. I am very happy she's decided to do that.

So without the support of key people in certain places and through the constituency years as an MLA, that was important, and through this Assembly on the many standing committees I was part of as a Regular Member right through to becoming chair of committee and as a Minister to work through our staff to make sure we have order of business done and move things forward.

In my time as a Minister I have to thank my staff, they are up at their desks right now taking care of the phone calls, getting the letters done, to those who have come forward here who have helped get our message out as a government, to inform the public in both good and bad times, to give me advice even though sometimes I don't take it, to make decisions and move things forward. Thank you for helping us get our job done.

The one thing I've said to many people back in the community, and I say it almost any place I go now, is when people say, well, you're Premier, you're boss, or you're MLA, you can make decisions, I encourage the young people in schools to learn to write. Learn to write policy. Because you can affect government by that first draft that comes across a Member's desk, a Minister's desk, even a Premier. They have to gather information and present it to

you, and from there we may have our own opinions and ideas from our constituency, but it's through the writing of that and preparing it and moving it forward that, yes, it changes through the system, but it's important work that's done out there by those people who are in the backseats and help prepare documents. That doesn't go towards the side of those who often said, well, it's the deputies and so on that run government. Clearly, we make the choices, we face the consequences, and we decide on how we move forward.

Thank you to the staff that have helped us do our job, and helped us through the day-to-day work process, and lived through some of the frustrations that they get to hear us share at times, and also share with us at times when good decisions are made or when we get good news of initiatives that are made by another government that positively affected us.

This job has given me a chance to see this country in a way that I've never seen it before; a chance to see the world that I would not have seen through that. As a boy growing up in Inuvik until I took my apprenticeship as an automotive mechanic, the only places I saw beyond Inuvik was the Mackenzie Delta up to Aklavik and to Tuktoyaktuk, or as the old-timers call it, Tuktoyaktuk, to see them and the fishing camps, and the whaling camps, and the hunting places that we travelled to on a yearly basis. This job has given me a chance to interact internationally with people and, as Mrs. Groenewegen has put it, to be able to share with them the richness of our land and our people. To plant the seed of abundance that we have here and to come and meet us and be a part of our lives at some point. To work with us in partnership like so many joint ventures we have with Aboriginal governments and organizations in the private sector now.

It's been an interesting process. It's been a good one. I've said in a recent interview that much of that has happened in my personal life and my life with this government and this family here in the Legislative Assembly, that I don't know if I would ever say I'd change the way I do things. I may have approached things differently, but life happens, and things change, and we have to grow and accept and move on with life.

With that, I must say the one thing I've listened to, right from the earliest days before I got involved, about leaders needing to be leaders and making decisions and moving on and make the right decision and work together and respect each other, coming right from my father's own words about how to be amongst other people. I know there are days when he would be saddened on my approach and my stubbornness and things, but at the same time I know as he was alongside of me on the election day in 1995 and I was the successor, the only one,

as I said to many, who had a bigger smile than me was my father, David Roland. God rest his soul.

He encouraged me just before the last territorial election. As Finance Minister I was feeling a little weary, and having to go into the meeting rooms and to many assemblies, and into this House as Finance Minister saying no, we're not able to do that, no we're not able to invest. [English not provided] was the name given to me in Colville Lake: No Money is the term, because they had heard me say that so much. But it's through that work that we've done and the words of our elders that you continue to try to move forward and find a way.

At that time I recall that I was seriously questioning running again for territorial government. I sat quietly with my father in his kitchen and we were sipping tea and he sipped his tea and he looked up and he said, "My boy, when's the next election?" I said, "Oh, it's October coming up." "Oh." And he looked down and sipped his tea. Then he looked up one more time. I hadn't spoken to him about how I was feeling and if I should do this anymore. He looked at me and said, "My boy, one more time, and this time top job." I looked at him, I swallowed a little hard, and I said, "Okay, Dad. Yes. I'll go one more time." And his words have rung true again in the fact that Members of this Assembly saw fit to support me in that campaign for this position.

It's with that in mind that when you look at some of our elders and listen to their stories, the relationship we have -- and I've heard it so many times and I know that some Members feel that that relationship is somewhat bruised right now with the Aboriginal leadership. Clearly, in the 16th Legislative Assembly we tried to establish a formal process of government to government. The regional Aboriginal leadership meeting process. I heard and Members have heard right from my earliest days, whether it was at town council to a Member of the Legislative Assembly to a Finance Minister to now, that Aboriginal leaders and Aboriginal governments and organizations through land claims, through self-government have rights established. Whether they have those rights established through a land claim or not, there are court cases to back that up. As people of the Northwest Territories we need to recognize that.

Through the regional Aboriginal leadership process over a year and a half ago, almost two years ago, in a meeting in Dettah I put before the regional Aboriginal leadership the concept of the Council of Federation. To say why can't we as Northerners, northern governments, use a concept like this where we can work together. Of common interest. It doesn't take away anyone's authority. If you look how we've become members of the Western Premiers' Conference as well as the Council of Federation, it was by the Premier of the day, and it

was Mr. Kakfwi who signed that document and made us formal players at those tables where we're not waiting anymore outside for someone to come in when it came to our specifics. Where our deputies don't go and meet with a deputy down in Ottawa to establish our annual budget. We get to do that. We get to decide how we spend that, what kind of revenues we raise and so forth. We've come a long way, and that relationship I believe is still there for us to build on. I hope that the future government and the leadership in this Assembly and the Aboriginal leadership in our territory come together again for the greater good of our whole territory.

As I said earlier in my statement, every day we talk and say let's talk some more, it means someone else is benefitting from the resource extraction in the North. Every day we talk about, well, let's talk a little bit more about this clause or someone in Ottawa or some senior level staff is making a decision or advising a Minister in Ottawa how a decision should be approved and what conditions should be attached. It's time for us to take our rightful place. We've started to do that through this Assembly. We will continue to do that through our relationship-building with Aboriginal governments.

I must say there are definitely frustrating days and disappointing days, because as much as I've heard leaders tell me that they have a rightful place and they have to be a part of the decision-making process, and I absolutely agree, and we go through that process, there are far too many times when it comes time to make the decision we back away because it isn't the perfect deal. Right now the history of the Northwest Territories has more "we just about made it" than "we made it." I hope that devolution will move the full course and will have the support of all the Aboriginal leadership. They will come to the table, they will take their rightful place at that table, and they will help design the relationship government to government. The opportunity now exists. It's not a matter of talking about creating that opportunity. It is there. It is now decision time to say we will be a part of it or not. But because a leader or a group, and for a number of reasons, decides that's not our time, we respect that as well, but that should not stop us as a whole territory from moving forward.

As I listen to Members of this Assembly, even through this sitting, the call for more money for health centres, for schools, for the environment, requires resources. We're going to have to get those from someplace else. If we don't get it from someplace else, then we have to look internally. In fact, at the start of this Assembly when I held the position of Finance Minister, I presented a tough budget that would see us shrink government to reinvest in the critical important areas of this government. We didn't achieve all that we wanted but we moved the yardstick. The one thing I've

learned through this job is it's important to move the yardstick. Staying status quo and moving nothing really means we haven't done much, and we have to question ourselves have we done the job.

I've gone on for longer than I intended, but I must say that, if I can, the one message I would leave for those who seek re-election and to be elected as Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly is don't be afraid to make the tough decisions. Some of us have been around since 1995. You have to make tough decisions. If you want to protect that future we have, if you want to protect what we could be, we've got to make tough decisions. They're not all tough out there and there are some good decisions we make that will positively impact lives, but sometimes, as I use the analogy of a house, we've all gone through it from the smallest first house we've been a part of to the bigger house we build as our family grows, that the moving experience is never a good one. In times when we start to unpack those boxes we packed up so carefully and said they were so important, when we bring them to the new place and we open them up and we look at them, we wonder why did we pack this. What purpose does it serve today? Yes, it was good and it's an important memory and it's a part of who we are, but at some point we have to decide as a collective there's a future we want to be a part of.

The one thing I have to say as Members is that we can't, and we have to lose the image. In some circles we have an image, and I must say I share this in frustration but I will say this now, there are times in our Assembly and in past Assemblies when, like the groundhog, when we come out in the sun and we see the shadow, we scuttle back into the ground because we're afraid of what might happen. It's time to lose that image. It's time to take the next step. Venture out a little further than we have in the past.

I know that by making those tough decisions, that we actually spare the suffering of many people in the North. If we don't make those key decisions to move forward and we don't make tough decisions, all we're doing is delaying, in some cases, an inevitable of more pain and suffering to go through. We've heard this many times. A thousand cuts. A little here, a little there, a little bit. Squeezing of government. A little here, a little there, a little bit. But the demand for improved services continues to grow and we're unable to meet that in many cases because we haven't made key decisions to move forward.

I would say that as we look to our future we know it is bright. We know we have a very good future in front of us. It is going to be the leaders of the day that will make the next decisions of how much we will venture out, how we will take on that future, how we will be players and partners in Canada.

The one message I have been sending consistently to Ottawa since my time as Finance Minister, and now as Premier, is give us the tools. We can make the decisions and we can be government. We have to get past that hat-in-hand mentality of going to the federal government and saying your poor cousins to the North need some money. It is time to take the next step and take our rightful place, make those tough decisions, and be able to build on a future that is sustainable.

I want to thank Members of this Assembly for standing with us through a tough time, for working to find the best solutions. Yes, at times, even us as a government may promote things, or as a Minister we have to take a step backwards in the interest of all people. I think we'll see an example of that in the next little bit.

Mr. Speaker, your work in this Assembly, your representation of the people you represent, and for keeping order in this House, I thank you. There are days that I've approached your office with some frustration and you've helped me through those days and we've continued to get the business of government done in your role. Even in your role you've also managed to carry forward the interests of the people of your constituency, a difficult job to do from the position that you hold. I want to say thank you to you for your guidance and stewardship over our Assembly through our time together. I hope that some of our discussions have rubbed off in a positive way. Though you are my elder, in a sense, in this Assembly one might consider myself an elder as well.

We often joked sometimes when we first came, I must say, Minister Miltenberger... I'll save this for a later time, but when we came together he was a new Member along with myself, and I remember our first discussion we had, I walked away scratching my head and thinking he must have a big brother, but since that time we've become very close comrades. He made a comment to me -- and I have a picture now hanging on my wall in the office -- and he said this a long time ago, he said, "I'll go with you into a dark alley and stand with you." I must say thank you, Michael, because we've gone through many dark alleys as colleagues and we've emerged still standing together, sometimes battered and bruised, but still standing and still looking to take on the next day, the next issue, the next challenge we faced as a government. I must say there were the early days when I think I provided him advice to say tone it down a bit, tone it down. He has been a colleague to my side for quite some time and he reminds me as I stand up at times, be statesmanlike. So thank you for those words.

To my Cabinet colleagues, I know I presented a tough budget the first year and convinced yourselves to take that approach. Then we went to

the Members and we had our discussions and went through that process. Thank you for standing with me. In some of those most trying days that I faced, your words of encouragement have helped me stay the course and stay focused in the work that we need to do for the people of the North. Thank you very much to my colleagues and my Cabinet colleagues and Members of this Assembly. We may not always agree on what this day holds, but I can say this: that we, when working together and understanding our differences, can still build on what we have left or what we will leave. We can build on what we've been given, and when we leave, leave a stronger foundation. I hope that through some of our difficult times we can look at our time together in the 16th Assembly and say we've built a stronger foundation for a better future. Thank you very much.

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

MS. BISARO'S REPLY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take some time today to comment on my time here at the Ledge. It's certainly not 16 years. It's only been four, and that's quite short in contrast to the Premier, but I just have some comments that I'd like to make and summarize where I'm coming from today after four years here.

It's certainly been an interesting four years, to say the least. I came to this job full of optimism and hope and looking forward to the new experience. I think I am a person who believes in planning, strategic planning, certainly, I think, is really important to me, and I thoroughly enjoyed the strategic planning session we had early on in our first year. I came away from that feeling extremely positive, pumped up, ready to tackle absolutely anything and all the problems of government and the NWT, and fully expected that we'd fix a lot of those. We tackled a lot of those. It certainly wasn't smooth. There certainly have been ups and downs during this Assembly's life.

I may not be as optimistic and as positive as I was back in October of 2007 but, in general, it's certainly been an enjoyable experience for me.

I'm very proud of the part that I played in advancing the operation of the Food Rescue Program here in Yellowknife. The opportunity to sponsor the Donation of Food Act was really gratifying and I am very pleased that my little bill had such a positive impact. I've been very vocal and, I think, pretty passionate about social issues. It's a strong interest of mine that's probably rather obvious. I am that way because social issues are the areas that are closest to our constituents and they affect our constituents the most.

In my time here, the constituent concerns that have come to my office in the last four years basically fall into four categories: health, social services, housing, and income support. That's the majority of what I think all of us deal with. But I've enjoyed being able to help people with their problems and to get them fixed, sometimes, certainly not all the time. I lay that blame, of course, at the feet of the Executive.

Another highlight for me was participation in the Child and Family Services Act review. Committee heard so many heartrending stories on our travels through the territory. It was an excellent series of public hearings. We learned, I learned particularly, so much about the impact that that particular act, the Child and Family Services Act, has on our residents, particularly in the manner in which we implement it. We heard that firsthand and it's an experience I will not likely have again. I learned so much from it and I think it was a very valuable experience for me. The chance to consider the input that we heard from that public hearing and to make recommendations to the government to try and fix the Child and Family Services Act was something that I really appreciated, and I think it's probably one of the biggest opportunities I felt as a legislator to try and make improvements in our legislation.

That review process proved to me that our system does work. I had my doubts along the way, certainly, in the last four years, but I do believe, in general, standing committee activities can be extremely valuable and can be productive and assist us in being good governments.

Consensus government is a really strange animal. Many of our residents have said to me that it's time to give it up, that we need to go to a party system, but I do not believe that. I think our governance model has been strengthened by some of the actions that we've taken in the last few years. I think the development and the publication of our caucus protocols, principles and conventions have clarified the work that we do here in the Legislature, and I think that it's improved the relationship between the Executive and Regular Members.

As chair of Caucus, I have to say that I have appreciated the cooperation that I have received from all Members of this House throughout the four years. We had meetings here, we had meetings in retreats, and I want to thank each and every one of you for the cooperation and the good discussions, the brainstorming that we did on many occasions.

One thing that I am somewhat regretful about, though, is I still couldn't get Members to tow the line to the starting time. I almost got you guys there but we never did actually start on time, and I hope that the next time around the next chair of Caucus can get you guys there.

I want to provide my perspective about government programs and services, and some of the things that I am regretful about, and some of the things that I'm positive about. I think there's quite a bit that's been left undone. There's been an awful lot accomplished, but I think there have been a number of things undone and I'd like to highlight those:

- I believe we need an ombudsman office.
- I believe we should be assisting communities in establishing 911 service.
- I believe that we have to not only commit to, which has been done, but we have to get serious about starting the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- I believe we need to continue the reform to Health and Social Services, well, our health system, pretty much, to minimize the costs and create more efficiencies and more effective delivery.
- I believe we need to re-examine the level of health services that we provide to all of our communities, especially to our smallest communities.
- I believe we need to be really careful about electricity rates. I think the government has taken a bit of a blind view in regard to the recent electricity rate system changes. I'm very concerned for the effect on rates when the rate freeze is lifted in a year or two. I believe we've robbed Peter to pay Paul and the bill will still be due and payable when the two-year freeze is done.
- I am dismayed that finding a solution to the infrastructure needs at Northland Mobile Home Park was not a priority of this government.
- I believe that the whole Supplementary Health Benefits Policy implementation was a horrible experience. It certainly was for me. It's not one I wish to repeat. I see that process as a great example of how not to do things. Those who most need extended health benefits coverage still don't have it. They have no access to extended health benefits, and that's something that the next Assembly must tackle.
- I believe we need a better focus on homelessness within all government, and the establishment of a secretariat would do that, in my mind.
- I believe we need to revise our housing rent scale and provide a better continuum of housing for residents who struggle to provide for themselves. I think the Shelter Policy review which is now being undertaken will go a long way to helping us with that. I am anxious to see the recommendations.

- Lastly, but certainly not least, I believe we need to find a way to get all partners to the devolution negotiating table and I think it can be done, but I think everybody involved has to be open and give a little bit.

I have to say, though, that my biggest regret is the consistently narrow view of many Members on the issues facing the NWT and us here at the Ledge. I regret that some Members are unwilling to consider the decisions we make from a point of view that is good for the whole territory. I found that too often the focus is only on their own riding. Yes, absolutely, each MLA has concerns specific to their riding, and they have to focus on their own riding, and that should be a large part of an MLA's focus, but there are certainly decisions we make that we have to take the view of the whole territory. I am dismayed that many people did not balance the impact that their decision would have on the whole of the NWT. They only consider their own riding.

This may sound like I'm all gloom and doom, everything has been negative, but I am not all doom and gloom. It hasn't been all that bad. There have been positives, Mr. Speaker, and the recent amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act are a very positive one for me. The signing of the AIP was also a positive for me. It's about time we started down this road. The increase to minimum wage was very much a positive, and lastly, a positive for me has been the interaction with Members on the floor of the House and in meetings wherever we happen to hold our meetings.

We've debated issues, sometimes heatedly. I've never agreed totally -- I shouldn't say never -- I often did not agree with opinions expressed by either other Members or by Executive across the floor, but it was all good. I appreciated the differing views and I think one of the things about debate is that we do have to have differing views. It forces us to think outside our own box. It forces us to consider other options that we may not have thought of. If we don't have open and free debate, we're never going to advance in the direction that the Premier is telling us that we need to go.

I'm very thankful that I've had the opportunity to represent constituents in this great institution. I want to thank Frame Lakers for their support and counsel as I've gone about my job.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Ledge staff. Thank goodness you're around. You're an awesome bunch and you do make us look good. I have to thank you for that.

I also have to thank my CA, Kerry, who is now working at the Department of Justice. She left me in June and left me high and dry, so to speak, but she provided great service while she was here.

So as the 16th Assembly draws to a close, I want to say it's been fun. Some days have been pretty

dark, but it's been fun. I look forward to campaigning. I look forward to seeing constituents as I go door to door. I want to wish all my colleagues well, whether it be on the campaign trail or on other non-political pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, MLA Krutko, I want to thank you for your years of service. I want to thank you for the counsel you've provided me and the opinions and the learning that I've been able to get from listening to you and interacting with you. I think each one of you can come back and tell us if there really is a life after politics.

Best of luck to everyone in the coming months and, as the saying goes, thanks for the memories. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. JACOBSON'S REPLY

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read in the newspaper the other day that Cece McCauley is wondering if I'm running. Well, Cece, I'm seeking re-election for the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many other Member's statements that I wanted to do while I was here, because of our time, and acknowledgements and stuff like that.

Again, it was said, first of all, I want to give the condolences on behalf of the people of Nunakput to the families that are affected by the plane crash in Resolute Bay. The community of Tuk has been through that, and only time heals. It's never going to be the same. You just try to strive for another day. So our thoughts and prayers are with the First Air family and all the families that were affected, the Government of Nunavut, the mayor and council of Resolute and all the people in the community and all the people in Nunavut. We want to let you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and you're not alone.

This week we lost a leader, Mr. Jack Layton. I know he was a hardworking Member of the House of Commons and a leader of the NDP. Every time you watch, you pick little things up off of him. He'll be sadly missed by his family and friends and all of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many people to thank. My mayors, Ray Ruben and Janet Kanayok, and Mervin Gruben, Priscilla Haogak, and all the council back home for all their support and taking calls from me and asking advice. I thank them all.

It was a tough four years, but in that four years, like Wendy said, I was one of those guys that always worked for my constituency first. It was tough some days, but I always thought I got better after the first

two years, after I had all my campaign promises done.

---Laughter

So it was all good. Working here with all the Members, it was really a good experience.

For yourself, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for all the advice you have given me and all the little pep talks on the side about making my Member's statements a little shorter and be more concise on the questions. Thank you for all the support.

Thank you, Floyd, for always being there and always giving me advice. Another Inuvialuit beneficiary, thank you so much.

Mr. David Krutko, you know that I always call him Battleaxe because that was what he was. He never took no. He always worked hard for his people. If only the people could see what he's done in the backrooms in the meetings, they'd be so impressed, because that's one Member that this Legislative Assembly is going to miss as well.

Again, all the support from the Regular Members, thank you so much. I look forward, once being re-elected and put into the 17th Assembly, to work hard together to make things happen all across the North.

For my Ministers, thank you all. Michael McLeod, it started off with Norman on 177 and it ended up with you. Thank you for the 22-kilometre road that you built in Tuk and thank you, Cabinet, and all the Regular Members. We even have the federal funding coming forward now with the \$150 million to finish off the Tuk-Inuvik highway.

The biggest thing to me is all the new airports we have going into the communities; the James Gruben Airport in Tuk and the David Nasogaluak in Sachs Harbour, I look forward to all the openings in the new session. Mr. Minister, your staff, Doug Pon, thank you very much for all the assistance you have given Nunakput.

Mr. Bob McLeod, Mr. Minister, thank you for all the... It's not only you but everyone as a whole. You know with the harvest funding for Sachs Harbour, for each community I represented, I needed to make jobs in the community. We did that. We had the funding for the muskox harvest with all the new equipment for the community to provide that harvest. That is needed. Qiviut is \$490 an ounce. It's a high commodity. It's warmer than cashmere.

Also with Ulukhaktok's Arts and Craft Centre, you know it's an awesome place. Some beautiful art comes out of that. I know you committed to us for Tuk for our new carving centre. I can't wait. I'm looking forward to that.

Robert C., thank you so much for being there. With all the stuff that we, I guess I wouldn't say argued about, but trying to get things done for each other, give and take. Thank you so much for your support

and your guidance too. I still look forward to working with you in the future.

Jackson, thank you for, you know, I always think, when I think of Sachs Harbour, of my good buddy Andy Carpenter because when I was first elected, the first five or six months in, we got the new RCMP building detachment in the community and that was probably one of my biggest things I've done. I think of Andy and our slogan, "we're back." That's a big service to the community.

With Mr. Michael Miltenberger, thank you for all our talks and guidance on some of the issues. With the finance and the support you've given to us with regard to all the stuff that I brought forward and trying, always with an open-handed approach, to work together to get things done. To me anyway.

Myself and Mr. Roland are missing a big meal today back home in Tuktoyaktuk. A big feast for Adam and Annie Emaghok for their 60th wedding anniversary. I couldn't say that under acknowledgements because I didn't have it in early enough. I have to say it here. Adam and Annie, congratulations on your 60th wedding anniversary and all the best. I can't wait to come home and have a cup of tea with you. Once Mr. Roland's back home he can come up and sit with us too. It's your auntie and uncle.

Also with the Ministers. Not only that, I'd like to thank Mrs. Groenewegen, too, for P and P chair. Thank you, Jane, for all the support and guidance with the issues.

My colleague Mr. Ramsay for being chair of EDI and always trying to make things happen for everybody on different projects in the communities.

For myself, all our staff here at the Ledge: Mr. Mercer, Mr. Schauerte, Jennifer, Lee Selleck -- my go-to guy in the back there. Go there with two minutes' notice on some changes. He's always there for you. Colette Langlois, thank you. The clerk's office, Tanis and everybody. And Gail. Thank you so much. Sorry, Gail. I didn't have it written down. At the end of the day you make our jobs easier here and the guidance that you give us to try to simplify stuff for some of the Members. Thank you.

I thank Mr. Hawkins for being my seat-mate, I guess, for the last four years. Always whispering when I'm talking. Thank you so much.

Kevin and Glen, thank you, and Bob, and Wendy. Thank you, Regular Members, again for being there.

All being said, back home my own staff, my CA, Donna Bernhardt. Thank you to her for all the hard work that she's given to me over the last four years and all the commitments she's done for the people of Nunakput. I always got good, always being there and doing a great job. My other right-hand man,

Phil Moon Son. Thank you, Phil, for all the work you've done for Nunakput.

For myself, I would like to thank all constituents for being there over the last four years. I'd like to thank my wife, Jenny, for being there with me. You know I got sick the last couple months and getting through with some issues that I ended up in the hospital with. I thank her for that and I thank my family for being there and putting up with this job. Like Mr. Roland said, you sacrifice your kids. At the end of the day that's all we've got: family.

Thank you so much. I look forward to the 17th Legislative Assembly, coming back and representing the people of Nunakput. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 70-16(6):
INTERACTIVITY TRANSFERS
EXCEEDING \$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2010, TO MARCH 31, 2011

TABLED DOCUMENT 71-16(6):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LIQUOR
COMMISSION AND LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011, and Northwest Territories Liquor Commission and Liquor Licensing Board 2010-2011 Annual Report.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 72-16(6):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES CONTRACTS OVER \$5,000
REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
MARCH 31, 2011

TABLED DOCUMENT 73-16(6):
2010-2011 GRANTS AND
CONTRIBUTIONS RESULTS REPORT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Contracts Over \$5,000 Report for the Fiscal Year Ending

March 31, 2011, and 2010-2011 Grants and Contributions Results Report, August 2011.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 74-16(6):
GNWT 2010 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 75-16(6):
2011 EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND
ENGAGEMENT SURVEY AND HUMAN
RESOURCES CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled 2010 Public Service Annual Report, Government of the Northwest Territories, and 2011 Employee Satisfaction and Engagement Survey and Human Resources Client Satisfaction Survey.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 76-16(6):
GNWT RESPONSE TO CR 1-16(6),
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE REPORT
OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT - 2011

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT Response to Committee Report 1-16(6), Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Northwest Territories Deh Cho Bridge Project - 2011.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Colleagues, before we go on to the next item on our agenda we are going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, we'll return to orders of the day. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Motions

MOTION 11-16(6):
DEVOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS,
DEFEATED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada are negotiating a final agreement on non-renewable resource revenue sharing, and the transfer of management of lands and resources to the GNWT;

AND WHEREAS this transfer is only desirable if it benefits all people and regions of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Dene and Metis land claim organizations in the Northwest Territories have the right to be involved in the negotiation and implementation of a devolution accord for the NWT;

AND WHEREAS negotiations on devolution are proceeding without the involvement of any Dene land claim organizations;

AND WHEREAS attempts by Aboriginal organizations to conclude a protocol agreement with the GNWT failed in January 2011;

AND WHEREAS devolution will affect self-government and land management in all regions of the NWT;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the GNWT suspend devolution negotiations for 12 months, or until such time as a general agreement to proceed has been reached;

AND FURTHER, to accomplish this goal, that the GNWT establish an Aboriginal devolution commission, comprised of representatives of all the NWT's Aboriginal governments or land claim organizations;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Aboriginal devolution commission's mandate be a review of the current agreement-in-principle on devolution to assess the benefits for Aboriginal groups, and to make recommendations to the GNWT respecting a fully cooperative process of reaching a final agreement within 12 months of the commission's establishment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move this motion forward with the support of my colleague, the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe. It speaks to a possible solution towards working with our Aboriginal claimant groups as we examine the devolution question for the Northwest Territories.

The devolution for the Northwest Territories has to be agreed to by all people and the whole North must support it. That's the content of the motion.

Devolution should be the way that people want it, Mr. Speaker. The way that they can get their voice is by being together. I've always said, over the years, that communication is key. By establishing an Aboriginal devolution commission I believe that it can work by getting our Aboriginal groups. It doesn't mean that they support the agreement-in-

principle as it is, because currently Mr. Premier is saying we've got this agreement-in-principle, now you come and join us and then we'll work from there. But the devolution commission that I envision would just have our Aboriginal groups sitting together at a very semi-formal environment, and it will provide recommendations to government about examining the agreement-in-principle.

There's still lots of confusion out there, Mr. Speaker, and I don't believe our government has done justice to the people of the Northwest Territories when they're communicating what devolution really is. When I'm in my region, when I'm travelling in the communities, I ask people: What does devolution mean to you? What they're telling me is that the government's going to take my land. That's totally wrong, so I do my best to explain the process of devolution. But that only speaks to how the communication and understanding of devolution to the people of the Northwest Territories, probably not only in my riding but in other ridings, about the confusion around devolution and transfer of lands and resources and the water.

I believe a commission of this nature can establish that. I foresee it much like a public inquiry where they're travelling to the different regions and different communities providing opportunities for the public, Aboriginal groups, and anybody that's interested in understanding what it is and where we must go if we want to proceed in the future. I believe that will give the voice to the whole of the Northwest Territories once we do that.

Currently, what we have now is we have an Aboriginal forum but I believe that it's more like a sounding board, Mr. Speaker. That's the way we view it, I view it, and I believe our Aboriginal groups also view it as more like a sounding board. It's nothing formal. A devolution commission, I believe, formalizes the government to reach out and work with the Aboriginal groups.

The future of Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, has to be strong and united, and Aboriginal groups have always maintained right from day one that they are an intrinsic part of the North and should be an intrinsic part of our government.

Devolution also forces our hand in the evolution of our territory, Mr. Speaker. The Aboriginal groups have to have a place within our government. We're a government in progress. We've done some great movements over the past 25 to 30 years, but in the last while we've stalled, but there's got to be a place for Aboriginal governments and our government together. I think Mr. Premier spoke about a coalition or council of Aboriginal governments and territorial governments, so somewhere along the line we're going to have to make room for that, and this commission, I believe, will be a basis.

As well, fracturing the North and Aboriginal governments is just not the way to do it. Forcing their hand, like Mr. Krutko said, is not one way of doing it, but being at the same level at the same table when we're talking about devolution, I believe, is an acceptable way to do it.

I must say there, Mr. Speaker, that as an MLA, ideas are born as we go out and talk to people in our constituency and in our communities, and this is one of the ideas that came. It's a very new idea, this Aboriginal devolution commission. I wish we had more time to develop it, but we're at the dying days of our government. It's something that if we work hard on it, I believe that our government and the whole Assembly could support such a commission.

It's too bad the time was short and we weren't able to get a desirable devolution motion together that could be supported by everybody, but this idea can grow, I believe, Mr. Speaker, and I believe the motion speaks about doing it in the 17th Assembly. I believe that the idea will grow, hopefully, that there's debate today, we'll get out to our Aboriginal regional governments, Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal claimant groups, settled or unsettled, and we can take this idea and foster it and make it real in the 17th Assembly.

I know for sure that my colleagues here today spoke about the election that's coming up, and should I return, I will certainly be championing this Aboriginal devolution commission for the 17th Assembly.

With that, Mr. Speaker, that's the concept behind this motion, and I would urge my colleagues to give it serious consideration. Hopefully they can support it, and that we can make this recommendation to this government and even include it in some transition planning for the 17th Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I am seconding the motion by the MLA for Nahendeh because I feel that before moving to a final devolution agreement, the Dene have to have the opportunity to do a thorough review of what is fully in the AIP and have their input into the AIP. This commission will give them the opportunity. If the commission is put together, that gives them the opportunity to work through the commission to have a good opportunity to look at the AIP as it stands.

All the Dene governments should be benefitting from the Devolution Agreement and they should be part of the decision-making process. It's important. They are one of the landowners. A lot of the land claim negotiations, some are settled and some are not, but meanwhile, before or during the time or

even after the settlement of the land claims, the Dene people need to have a full involvement in the final agreement. They are one of the landowners, like I said. There shouldn't be an agreement in place. They shouldn't be proceeding without the Dene governments. If the Dene governments are not comfortable coming to the table at this point or don't wish to come to the table, then this would give them an opportunity, maybe, to have another avenue to have the Dene people come to the government. Because, as indicated a couple of times today, as we, as GNWT, at some point it felt like we were on the outside looking in. I think that's how the Dene governments look at this.

It is my opinion that the original protocol agreement that the Dene people proposed did not pre-empt the Devolution Agreement but, rather, was put in place to protect the future interests of the Dene people.

With that, those are my comments on the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a long history with this whole process going back to 1988 when we negotiated this subsurface resource section into back then the Dene/Metis claim, which was fundamental to the process. Like I keep mentioning in this House, there are certain elements that are in other land claims we couldn't get. I think the key to that was that, especially participation agreements that the Inuvialuit enjoy today where industry has to negotiate with them directly in regard to dealing with benefit agreements, economic measures, being able to ensure that they have contracting preferential policies and procedures, and more importantly, ensuring that they have the ability to directly negotiate these arrangements.

But in regard to the Dene/Metis, we were told by the federal government and the GNWT negotiators, don't worry, you're going to get through the devolution or Northern Accord agreement, and you'll negotiate at that time, and that's why they included "shall be included" in those negotiations in the future. I find it kind of odd that the elements of what people are talking about, even back then, it was pretty clear that the Dene had concerns about lands being opened up regardless of what we saw back in the early '60s and '70s where industry came in and simply bulldozed their way into the Northwest Territories, cut lines all over the place, didn't get permission, did whatever they wanted. That was the way people were relating to oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories.

That's why they insisted before any lands were opened up in the Northwest Territories, that they had to have some assurances that they will be involved early enough in the developments before

any rights issuances were given, that there were going to be arrangements made through benefits plans or developing terms and conditions that can be attached to those types of developments. Again, where that was going to happen was going to be in the Northern Accord agreement and what we call the Devolution Agreement.

Most of those elements are spelled out in the different land claims agreements regarding the subsurface resource section of the land claim agreements and it also talks about other provisions that can be added as they felt fit. I think a lot of Dene/Metis agreements, people don't realize but the Norman Wells proven area is part and parcel of the Dene/Metis land claim. It's part and parcel of the Gwich'in Agreement. It's part and parcel of the Sahtu Agreement. The Norman Wells Proven Area Agreement is an agreement that was signed by the Government of Canada and Imperial Oil in 1944. The aspects of those agreements are what gave the Dene/Metis royalty rights from that area, and the big thing for people up and down the valley, especially the Dene people, is what is going to happen to Norman Wells when they have to clean up this mess. You're talking about a major area that's been developed over 70 years. There is going to be some major environmental effects. What's going to happen to the islands? Because of that, that is still part and parcel of these agreements but it's only in the Dene/Metis Agreement. That's why the Dene are finding it odd. How come Norman Wells wasn't part of this agreement because it is in their land claim agreement? They still have the right to negotiate those aspects into a devolution agreement.

I think also looking at the whole aspect of the Dene/Metis, like I stated, in the drafting and negotiations we had all the parties at negotiations that I was last at, which was 1995, where we negotiated the framework for the agreement. We were even talking about how we were going to fund self-government agreements. All the parties were in the room together in Calgary. All the regions were involved in these negotiations, from the Inuvialuit to people from Nunavut. We were all at the negotiating table developing agreements that we can all be part of. We did it. At least efforts were made to include every group that was out there, gave them the resources to negotiate these things. Again, it was the Government of the Northwest Territories that called an election and everything was off the table.

Again, I think it's important that we find a way to work our way through this situation and ensure that we find a mechanism that will bring the parties together, find those fundamental differences of opinions regardless of differences of legal stature or what is in the land claim agreements, the access and benefits agreements, what is in the Norman Wells Proven Area Agreement.

I think that at the end of the day we will have a better agreement than we have now. I think it's better that we go there as partners combating the federal government so we can get a better deal for the people of the Northwest Territories, but we can't do it when we're not even allowing the key player of this agreement to be full participants. We have to find every which way that we can.

With regard to the motion to establishing a national devolution commission, we have had different commissions established in the past. We do have the ability, through legislation, to formulate commissions and I think we have the legal tools to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to conclude with hoping all the other Members, regardless of where we're from, we have to realize we have an obligation to find solutions out of areas that we have some disagreements with, but find mechanisms that move us forward and not continue to separate us and put us farther apart.

Mr. Speaker, I will hopefully leave with having this motion pass so we can tell the Aboriginal groups and send a message that we are willing to find a mechanism to help work us through this and move this devolution process forward so it is inclusive and we do have all the parties at the table. Mahsi.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleagues for their efforts to bring this motion forward. I did indicate to them during the early discussions some of the difficulties I did have with the motion. Unfortunately, I don't see changes to reflect that.

I do want to refer to my statement today and my record of speaking out clearly, loudly, consistently, often lonely, on the absolute need to get our Aboriginal partners to the table participating in our Devolution Agreement-in-Principle. This is not a time, really, to be creating new structures. I think of a couple of reasons for that. One is the special recognition of our current fiscal situation and the unknowns about any costs associated with this, given a lack of terms of reference for such a commission.

The second aspect of it is, as my colleague mentioned, we are at the dying days of the 16th Assembly. We know the sensitivity of creating these sorts of things in the dying days of an Assembly when it really is responsibly a duty of the following Assembly, in this case the 17th, to be creating such structures.

I am concerned, as I think my colleague Mr. Krutko mentioned, about the trend of creating new, and duplicating existing structures and what that does in terms of separating us as opposed to recognizing the need to actually come together and really

reinvigorate discussions with a clear goal and focus toward recognizing the benefits that can come from a real collaborative partnership. That simply takes hard discussions and the digging down to the common goals and putting things in place to make that sort of thing happen. So I believe there is that sensitivity to it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that I strongly support and understand and agree with much of what I've heard in discussion of this motion and support of it and I'm there with the general intent of this motion, but not with the specifics of creating a commission. On that basis, I will be abstaining from the vote. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way I understood and the way I've seen devolution unfold, it's like the birthing of a new nation. Any transition to a new form of life, there's growing pains. The birthing of a new nation is through the devolution process.

When there are time constraints put on negotiations or time pressures, decisions have to be made. I agree that decisions possibly had to be made. I'm not too aware of what type of decisions that needed to be made because we weren't part to the actual negotiations or the meetings with the federal government. I understand that some of the Aboriginal governments thought that the protocol agreement they thought was going to be worked out fell apart and that it had to be put aside to have this deal signed. My understanding from my leaders is the protocol agreement was an avenue for the Aboriginal governments to be part of the negotiation table. However, that agreement didn't come to fruition, so really they were left with the option you are either in or you're out. It was put to them that they felt because of the protocol agreement the Aboriginal governments felt that they couldn't be part of something they weren't happy with, just like any other legislation that we've debated in the four years of this House.

Mr. Speaker, the negotiations are between the federal and territorial governments. Also, in my role as chief negotiator of the Sahtu land claims, our vision of our own government was a third level of government, not the federal government's interpretation of a municipal type of government. So even to the negotiators at that table, it helped to be forceful, determined, that we are talking about a third level of government. I am not too sure if that really rang the bell with the federal government.

So even from the starting point of the negotiations, you need to have government-to-government-to-government discussion or talks. The way I've been told is the GNWT, on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories, was negotiating with the federal government and that the GNWT were the

main players at the table with the Aboriginal governments sitting on the side and not having much opportunity to voice their issues on certain clauses of the agreement, and that internal negotiations with the Aboriginal governments isn't quite as cordial as we were led to believe. That was one of the frustrating points of this deal coming before the House.

I've always agreed that the devolution deal should be done in the Northwest Territories. How it is done is a question that many of us have been scratching our head about, how this process came to be. As I heard from Mr. Menicoche, a lot of people in my region have not yet read the Devolution Agreement and the specific clauses in there. One question they had was how come the Norman Wells oilfield is not part of the deal. Yet, in the Devolution Agreement the GNWT is going to assume that aspect of the Norman Wells oilfield. Under our land claim, it's supposed to be with the Sahtu government. So why would we want to give something for the Government of the Northwest Territories when we fought hard for it in the Sahtu land claim? There are a lot of things in there that are questioned by our leadership as to the GNWT's role in putting this deal together.

So if it benefits all the people, shouldn't that mean that all the people should be at the table? All the people need to have a say at the table. Just, again, like some of the legislation that we are debating over the years, it has to benefit the people.

I take this opportunity with the motion here, brought forward by Mr. Menicoche, seconded by Mr. Beaulieu, that this gives us a chance to go back to the basics of building a relationship, building trust amongst our own people, a relationship between the Aboriginal governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories to do some work on the protocol agreement. It's so strong to have everybody at the table negotiating in one voice. I think this can be done. We are no strangers to challenges. We have survived the harshest winters. We have survived under the most extreme conditions for thousands and thousands of years and we'll still do that. We are tough people in the North.

There are more changes coming to the Northwest Territories. Mr. Premier is right; we need to take the future in our hands. He's right on the button there. Not with one hand as he has the deal now, we need two hands for all people to make something of the North. Right now it's not there. You've got to treat everybody fairly with the Devolution Agreement. That, for us, is not being done right now. It will impact on self-government negotiations and it will impact on land management. It's been noted by analysis by people who studied our self-government agreements, our land claim agreements and this devolution will have impacts

on our self-government and our land management and the Norman Wells oilfield. That is not right.

So this condition will hopefully have the opportunity and the fortitude and clear vision to look at it soberly and say this is what the deal is all about. The federal government is offloading its programs and services and wiping its hands and saying now it's yours. We have to be really clear on this. I think these 12 months would help us do that.

Again, to have everybody on side for this new territory would possibly fall under the Devolution Agreement. It is going to give us the lift that we need, like the Premier said, to support things that we want.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? For so long we've been used to the federal government telling us what to do, how much money they are going to give us and how they dictate to us in our lives. It's going to be different when we start doing it ourselves. We will have nobody else to blame or to criticize but ourselves. We are going to take that chance. We need to be sure that everybody is at the table with clear eyes and clear vision that this is the responsibility as we are going to take on ourselves as we ask people who live in public housing, be responsible. You've got to pay the rent. The money is going to stop. If you are going to smash your windows or doors, you have to pay for it. It's the same kind of message that we have to give to our people. If we are going to take on devolution, be at the table, be willing to be accountable and responsible and not to blame the territorial government, the Aboriginal governments or the federal government. Create your own destiny, create your own life. That's the message we have to give to our people, not blame each other or anybody else because we become victims here. That's what we are doing. That's the clear message we want, we have to be darn sure that we are all at the table and we will continue to fight. This land is our land. We're not going anywhere. So you need to get the landowners, the rightful landowners, at the table to make these decisions for ourselves.

We have our own laws. Those laws symbolize the Tulita and Yamoria, the beaver skins, the arrows and the smokes. We need to make those kind of strong laws. So these 12 months are precious time. We're either going to make it or we're going to continue fighting for a long, long time. I think we all have the same aspirations. How we go about it will determine our own ability to make it work.

I support the motion 100 percent. It should have been done a long time ago. However, it's being done now and I look forward to this motion coming together. If we don't do it, we're going to lose more than just dollars and cents. Thank you, Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Beaulieu, for bringing this motion to the floor.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not going to speak to this motion, however, I feel that to say nothing, the possibility to be misunderstood in not supporting this motion is a real possibility. I will speak to it very briefly.

I think that I could categorically say that there is no one who is a Member of this Assembly who does not believe that in order to advance the agenda and the aspirations of Northerners this government needs to find meaningful ways to work together and collaboratively in a spirit of cooperation with Aboriginal governments. But this motion, albeit allows for a forum to discuss this issue here today, we have a convention and agreement amongst ourselves that was put in place that in the dying days of this or any government we would not put in place something that would attempt to tie the hands of or proscribe solutions to the next government. I will not be supporting this, but be sure that I am a huge supporter of working together with our Aboriginal governments and all governments in the Northwest Territories to advance our agenda as Northerners.

I want to allow the leadership of the 17th Assembly to bring their best efforts to bear on this subject of working together and I feel that supporting the motion for a commission is a very big undertaking. A commission has legalities and costs and all kinds of things. I do not want to pre-empt the efforts of the next government and the leadership of that government from how they will do this. I want the people of the North to be assured that this is high on the agenda and on the priorities of those of us who sit in this Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Krutko indicated that they started working on this in 1988. I was 16 years old. Now I'm 39. We're three years, even if this was to come forward, the Inuvialuit did come and sign. Even if it was to come into the House to get this deal done, we're three and a half years away. If we put it to a 12-month hold, we're going to be looking at the 18th Legislative Assembly. Why should we push it anymore? We all know that this government is in tough times coming ahead.

We're only at \$75 million for the next 17th Legislative Assembly and we're still about three years away from signing. Once the deal is signed there's \$60 million. Look at all the money the federal government is getting on our behalf, yet we're not getting our fair share. We need to do this. In total you're getting about \$185 million once this thing is signed. For myself, I'm not going to support

this motion because it's going to be a delay. I'm sorry for that, but as an Inuvialuit beneficiary and as the Inuvialuit already signed onto this and I always say with an open-handed approach working together and the door's always open. The Premier has said that numerous times to different organizations that the door's open and they're ready to talk. At this time I won't be supporting the motion, but good intent on behalf of my colleagues.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with regret that I'll say that at this time I'm unable to support this motion. I'm concerned about the delay and the suggestion of the delay. You don't have to be a Conservative to recognize that the Conservative Government is trying to help this territory with devolution. Any further delay or intentions or signals from this House that we want a delay or any stoppage of the devolution agreements on file could set us back years.

Undoubtedly, I would say I've always supported the aspirations of the Aboriginal peoples and self-government. I continue to say that today. They always will have my support on that. I recognize that the spirit and intent that they want full participation from all groups. As we've seen even in the past under the Aboriginal Summit how things start off with good intentions and run into trouble, I'm only worried that a commission may delay the process even further more than 12 months by setting it back much, much further.

As I said, I regret not being able to support it, but the spirit and the intent of the motion really says one thing to me, which is: Aboriginal governments need to be full partners of the negotiated process for our devolution, and I stand here today to say that that recognition needs to be on the forefront of any further negotiations our government makes with Canada. I will stand with them to ensure that those doors are open for them. I will continue to support their efforts as they proceed with their own self-government agreements. Like I say, I respect and honour the spirit but at this time I'm concerned about the delays.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Before I go back to the mover of the motion I'll go to the honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion and the request by Members to establish a commission in this area has been one that, personally, I see as problematic. As a Cabinet we've looked at this, a decision was made, we went to Members, and we got agreement from a majority of Members to proceed. The agreement-in-principle has been signed. There was already some main table discussions held. More discussions will be held after the election. Every meeting we've had

we've updated all Aboriginal regions. As I said earlier today, the table is open. The door to the table is open. The seats are there.

The request to say Aboriginal participation needs to be held is there if they choose to be a part of it. Clearly, as we've heard throughout the decades, the wish of the people overall of taking control and moving forward, we need to be clear. The Member has raised a number of things that we need to be clear on and used this venue to speak to this because, for example, Mr. Menicoche spoke to the Aboriginal commissions doing somewhat the work of a public inquiry. That is different than let's talk about how we work together in that process.

Earlier today Mr. Beaulieu said similar words that Dene groups feel like they're outside looking in, and again I say the door is open to not be on the outside but be on the inside. In fact, the budget has addressed this to move it forward. The issue of the protocol and the work and the need to look at it, that work was set out to establish a working relationship but instead turned into negotiation discussions. Do not sign the AIP until we negotiate resource revenue sharing, government-to-government relationship, and look at doing work on the Constitution. Those are all part of the agreement-in-principle.

The Norman Wells oilfield? We agreed with Aboriginal groups that it should be a part of the discussions. The federal government disagrees. We say there's an avenue to negotiate that in the process coming forward. The fact that out of the Norman Wells oilfield and any other development of the North, settled claims are benefitting from the royalties already. Even those in unsettled areas have agreements with Canada that some of the royalties are flowing to them for development. So they're benefitting from that.

As we look at these things and the questions being brought up and the request to establish a commission to review the mandate to begin again in this process, the seats are there. We need the leadership to decide to be a part of it. Nobody is keeping them out of the room but themselves. The opportunity is to come in, be a part of it. There are funds to help you be a part of it.

Chapters 5 and 6 are there by the work in the AIP with the involvement of the Aboriginal groups at the table. That strengthens that relationship. That talk about working together between settlement lands and public lands. We're talking about moving the decision of public lands, Crown lands that the federal government and their staff make right now to public lands in the Northwest Territories where we would have our staff, and Members of this Assembly can direct how that staff works for the benefit of those people in the Northwest Territories.

Our position is one where we've gone and made a decision, sought the input of Members, and had

that agreement by the majority moved forward, as I saw it, have signed that agreement and are working forward, and will include even those who have not signed continue to get the full updates of the discussion and the issues taking place at the table. As we've done through this process, because it's recommending to the government, we will be abstaining from the vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. I will now go to the mover of the motion, Mr. Menicoche, for some closing comments.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Members and Mr. Premier for the stimulating debate that we've had over this motion.

Like I originally said, it's a new idea. I didn't have too much time to develop it and work it in this Assembly. We're in the dying days of our government. At the same time the perception of our Aboriginal governments out there is that they weren't involved, they weren't able to participate, and that's all they're asking for, is to be involved, to participate in our government as we move forward with the AIP negotiations, as well as to understand the agreement-in-principle. An elder told me from Wrigley, I can accept the devolution if it benefits our people. But how does it benefit our people other than money that people spoke about? It's getting involved and those particular details, helping our government understand how devolution will benefit the North.

The Premier's process of the Aboriginal forum is about acceptance. The door is open to come and accept the agreement-in-principle. That's not what our Aboriginal partners want. They want, like I said, a process that's about understanding, participation, and consultation. Then we can start moving forward. I believe that an Aboriginal devolution commission will certainly do that.

Just in closing, I can't go too much further on that, but that's the concept. We had the public debate here. I hope that our Aboriginal partners and claimant groups are all listening to this because I believe that it's an idea that can grow and grow and grow. In the 17th Assembly that's something that's achievable and we can really work on. I believe it is at least an alternative. It's never enough to say no. You always have to have an alternative there. I offer that here today with that motion.

I would like to ask for a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Krutko.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed to the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Ms. Bisaro; Mr. Lafferty; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. Roland; Mr. McLeod, Deh Cho; Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South; Mr. Bromley.

MR. SPEAKER: Results of the recorded vote: in favour, four; opposed, five; abstaining, eight. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: We have Motion 12-16(6) on the Order Paper. It will remain on the Order Paper for one more day. Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 24:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 24 has had first reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 25:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Supplementary Appropriation Act includes...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, this is not second reading of bills, this is first reading of bills.

The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 25 has had first reading. Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 24:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, 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 2011-12 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

Bill 24 has had second reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 25:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes operations appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of the bill is there is money that's been designated for the devolution process in regard to those negotiations, yet there's no money in there that allows for other groups to take part except for \$170,000, which is for the Inuvialuit and the Metis to partake in those negotiations, but no resources for other groups to participate. Hearing the Premier speak in regard to the devolution process, he's saying that there's money there for the people to come to the table. My understanding of the bill is there is no money for other groups to participate, so how can we be telling people in the public that there's money there for the Aboriginal groups to participate, especially for those groups up and down the valley and especially the Dene people in the Northwest Territories?

I'd like clarification, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that of the \$170,000, \$100,000 is going to the Inuvialuit and \$70,000 is going to the Metis Nation. How can you justify a bill that is not inclusive of the residents of the Northwest Territories to participate in that process?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

Bill 25 has had second reading. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 9, Wildlife Act, and Committee Report 7-16(6), Report on the Review of Bill 9, Wildlife Act. By the authority given me as Speaker by Motion 6-16(6), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House, 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. Committee, we have before us two items: Bill 9 and Committee Report 7-16(6). What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee is to deal with Bill 9, Wildlife Act, and Committee Report 7-16(6), Report on the Review of Bill 9, Wildlife Act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Committee would like to deal with Bill 9 and Committee Report 7-16(6). We have Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government will not be proceeding with Bill 9 at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Does committee agree we not proceed with Bill 9?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

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

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

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

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 9, Wildlife Act, and Committee Report 7-16(6), Report on the Review of Bill 9, Wildlife Act, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 10: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HERITAGE FUND ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 10, Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

Bill 20, Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act, has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 22:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TERRITORIAL COURT ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 22 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 23:
TOBACCO DAMAGES AND HEALTH CARE
COSTS RECOVERY ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 23, Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 23, Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance.

BILL 24:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, has had third reading. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 25:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, has had third reading.

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Board of Management at adjournment today, and there will be a meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure committee tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Thursday, August 25, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 12-16(6), Mental Health Care Diversion Programs

- Motion13-16(6), Reappointment of Two Members to Human Rights Adjudication Panel

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 9, Wildlife Act
- Committee Report 7-16(6), Report on the Review of Bill 9, Wildlife Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, August 25, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.