



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Great Slave)

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, October 17, 2012****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

Speaker's Opening Comments

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): I'd like to remind you to turn your cell phones off.

Good afternoon, colleagues, It's my pleasure to welcome you back to the Chamber today as we continue the Third Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

I know our summer season in the North is very busy, as we try to take advantage of the long days and warm temperatures. Colleagues, I hope you were able to attend the Diamond Jubilee ceremonies taking place throughout the territory this past summer. I just came back the other day myself, and Minister Ramsay, from Paulatuk. We gave Edward Ruben his Diamond Jubilee Medal for what he's done for the people of Paulatuk in my riding.

I also hope that you found time to enjoy spending time with your family and friends, and that you're returning refreshed and eager to tackle the work that has to be done here in the Legislative Assembly for the people of the Northwest Territories.

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like to congratulate all men and women who put their names forward in municipal elections that took place earlier this week. As MLAs we all know the time and personal commitment in running for office. I applaud everyone who was out there campaigning.

We look forward to working with the mayors, councils and other committees in communities. I especially want to thank those who aren't returning, for their years of service to the people that they represented and the people across the Northwest Territories.

I'd like to advise you that some changes have taken place in the Legislative Assembly. First, the building of the 16th Legislative Assembly e-Petitions Pilot Project that this Assembly adopted in a motion during the last sitting and a permanent on-line e-petition site is up and running.

Petitions, whether paper or electronic, are a valuable way for all NWT residents to take an active part in their government. I welcome the opportunity the e-petition site provides for those residing in remote and isolated communities. The e-petition site can be found on the Assembly website. I invite all residents to check it out.

Work also took place this last summer to upgrade the audio/visual system in our committee rooms. This will allow the Assembly not only to record but also film public committee meetings now. These committee meetings will be rebroadcast throughout the territory. This is a great opportunity to provide more accountability and transparency to all NWT residents so they can stay tuned to watch the Legislative Assembly TV and the opportunity to see even more of their favourite MLAs.

This past summer Minister Lafferty says he was at the right place at the right time. His quick thinking averted what could have been an absolute tragedy in the life of a northern family. Please join me in commending Minister Lafferty in his actions and wishing a speedy recovery to Mr. Robin Imbeault. Minister Lafferty, good job on your life-saving.

---Applause

I couldn't agree more when Minister Lafferty said, "We cared for this individual because he was part of us; he's a part of the North."

On a sadder note, colleagues, I'd like to send condolences to all communities in the NWT who lost their loved ones since last we met.

In the Nunakput riding our communities are close knit, and we all lose loved ones and the loss is felt by all. I'd like to take the time to give my heartfelt condolences and prayers to Brian Klengenberg, Tony Klengenberg and Shane Goeson on the passing of their mother Agnes Goeson; Sandra Mangelana-John and Earl John on the passing of their son, Gavin Mangelana; Denise Taylor and Desmond Norman on the passing of their baby, Kelson Norman-Taylor; Charles Pokiak, Robbie Pascal, James Lumsden, Marilyn Lumsden and Sheila Lumsden on the passing of their mother, Mabel Pokiak Lumsden. Mabel became the first Aboriginal person in Canada to become a registered nurse. Upon completion of her nurse

training, Mabel worked at the Inuvik General Hospital as well as different locations, including Tuktoyaktuk; husband David Bustable and daughters Sandra Lucas and Lesa Dutka on the passing of his wife and their mother, Emily Elias; Chris Gruben and Sara McNabb on the passing of their baby, Helena Gruben; Nellie Gruben, Roger Gruben, Gayle Gruben, Lloyd Gruben, Robert Gruben, Patrick Gruben, Paula Hein and Desmond Gruben on the passing of their mother, Helen Gruben. Helen was respected in the community of Tuk, the Beaufort-Delta and beyond. She has served the Anglican Church for more than 50 years with much grace and strength; and, Lena Illisiak, Audrey Green, Marilyn Illisiak, Steve Illisiak, Joe Illisiak, Molly Ruben, Jean Ruben and Dwayne Illisiak on the passing of their mother, Annie Illisiak. Annie was well respected by the children and people of Paulatuk through her tradition, language and culture.

When our elders go to be with God, they take a piece of our history, values, stories and knowledge with them. May we allow our elders to live on through us.

It is that time of year when the ice is starting to freeze in the Northwest Territories and I would like to take this time to remind parents, grandparents and guardians to talk to your children about safety.

Colleagues, it is now my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads:

Dear Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of: Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2013-2014; Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013; Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013, during the Third Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly.
Yours truly, George Tuccaro, Commissioner.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 52-17(3): SESSIONAL STATEMENT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Members back to the continuation of the Third Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly. I hope everybody was able to enjoy some time with family and friends this summer and has come back rested and ready to continue working on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. It has been almost one year since we took office. As we get started with this session, I would like to look back at

some of the things we have accomplished together this past year.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has a vision of a strong and prosperous Northwest Territories that provides all our residents with opportunities in their regions and communities. Building effective working relationships with other northern governments, business, industry and social and environmental organizations is a critical factor in our success. This has been a major focus for us during the past year:

- We continue to meet and engage with Aboriginal and other northern governments to find areas of agreement where we can work together to advance our mutual interests and the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. Since we took office, members of Cabinet have had 45 meetings on a government-to-government basis with Aboriginal governments and leadership.
- This past May we took an important step when the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated signed the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle. Devolution has been a priority of this government and Aboriginal governments for years and we were pleased to have the Sahtu rejoin the process.
- In June we released Respect, Recognition, Responsibility, our government's commitment to working on a government-to-government basis with Aboriginal governments. A complementary guide for staff helps to ensure that we continue to build strong working relationships in all our engagements with Aboriginal governments.
- In July we signed Working Together, an intergovernmental agreement with the Tlicho Government. The agreement acknowledges the unique and evolving relationship between the two governments and identifies areas of cooperation, including housing, income support, infrastructure and community governance.
- Just last Friday I was in Aklavik, where the Gwich'in Tribal Council formally signed the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle. Devolution represents a major opportunity for this territory to become self-sufficient and prosperous, and I am pleased to have the Gwich'in return to the negotiating table with us.
- We also signed an intergovernmental umbrella agreement and contracting MOU in Aklavik. These agreements underscore our commitment to maintaining government-to-government relations with Aboriginal governments and provide a means for ensuring the Gwich'in share in the benefits of a strong Northwest Territories economy.

A strong and sustainable territory starts with healthy, educated people. Over the past year, our

government has worked to address the social needs of the people of the Northwest Territories:

- We have created an Anti-Poverty Steering Committee that includes representation from all the federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments, business, the No Place for Poverty Coalition and a person who has experienced living in poverty. We held an anti-poverty roundtable with 28 participants in Hay River in June and another in Inuvik with 26 participants in early October as part of our work towards a comprehensive, broad-based Northwest Territories Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- In April we began implementing Building for the Future, our strategic framework for housing delivery that includes a new, more equitable public housing rental scale and new supports to help renters make the transition to home-owning and to help people maintain the homes they own.
- In May, with the input and recommendations of Regular Members, we allocated an additional \$1 million to early childhood development programs and are continuing to work on plans for ensuring our children get a good start in life.
- This past June we released A Shared Path Towards Wellness, our action plan on mental health and addictions that will involve and engage communities in solving the problem of mental health and addictions and includes the creation of the Minister's Forum on Addictions.
- Earlier this month we launched a new residential schools curriculum in partnership with the Government of Nunavut and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to help us address one of the major underlying causes of many of the problems in our homes and communities.
- We are also working to help inmates in the North Slave correctional facility begin their own healing journey when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission takes statements from them at the end of this month. This will be the first time that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will have entered any correctional facility in the country.

Social development and economic development go hand in hand, Mr. Speaker. We need a strong and diversified economy that uses resources wisely and provides economic opportunities for our people and financial resources to fund public programs and services. Over the past few months the Government of the Northwest Territories has continued to work on growing and diversifying a sustainable economy:

- In March we received the project description report for the final portion of the Mackenzie

Valley Highway, the K'asho Got'ine District. We are now combining all the PDRs into a single report that will be used for the preliminary environmental screening of the project. When completed, the Mackenzie Valley Highway will connect our people and resources to the south, creating economic opportunities for our businesses and people up and down the valley.

- When it is completed, the Mackenzie Valley Highway will finally connect Canada by road from sea to sea to sea. We are already working on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway, funding planning work and participating in environmental review hearings in September. With the environmental assessment wrapping up in December, we are hopeful that sound project decisions can be made and construction can begin in early 2013.
- Along with the Norman Wells Land Corporation and industry partners, we held a Sahtu readiness exploration session in September, bringing together more than 100 people to look at how to take advantage of the world-class shale oil play in the region in a sustainable, responsible way. Our work to support the Sahtu includes renaming and refocusing the work of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office in Hay River. Our regional management committee is working with local businesses, land corporations and industry to foster good working relationships that will help us advance development at a sustainable and manageable pace. We are also working with industry and the federal government to promote an unbiased and informed understanding of shale oil development.
- Also in September I took part in the successful trade mission to China, organized by the Council of the Federation. Promoting foreign trade and investment will be an important way to grow and diversify our economy. I am pleased to say that there was a lot of interest in our minerals, oil and gas and that Chinese investors wanted to learn more about developing our resources sustainably and responsibly. I spoke to Chinese tourism operators about our spectacular territory and saw Northwest Territories furs being used in some of the most fashion-forward garments in Beijing. We had excellent discussions about how diamonds from the Northwest Territories could meet growing Chinese demand in Hong Kong.
- We continue to advance the Mackenzie Valley fibre optic line. Over the summer, Minister Miltenberger met with some Aboriginal government leaders to seek support for the project, including potential financial investment. We have submitted a business case to P3 Canada and issued an RFP for development of

a project description report, which will let us move the project on to the environmental assessment phase.

- We are also looking forward to the opening of the Deh Cho Bridge next month. This major piece of public infrastructure will connect the North Slave permanently to the South, supporting sustainable development of our resources and creating economic opportunities for Northerners.

The land and its resources are the source of our wealth, but they are also the source of our health and our life. While we need to develop our resources to grow our economy and meet the needs of Northerners, we also need to manage that development. Development needs to be sustainable, it needs to create benefits for all our residents, and it needs to reflect Northern priorities and values while maintaining ecosystem integrity and biological diversity. We continue to work towards that goal:

- In June we released *Land is Life*, a discussion paper that will help us develop a land use and sustainability framework to guide how land use management decisions are made post-devolution. We are using the paper in ongoing consultations with the public, Aboriginal governments, land management organizations and other stakeholders.
- We continue to work on transboundary water management agreements that will maintain the ecological integrity of the Mackenzie Basin and ensure coordination of water management between jurisdictions. Our work on a bilateral agreement with Alberta is moving forward and we hope to conclude an agreement in early 2013.
- We continue to work towards a new Wildlife Act, consulting broadly with people across the Northwest Territories, including public meetings and open houses, meetings with Aboriginal governments and the creation of a Stakeholders Wildlife Act Advisory Group. We hope to introduce a modernized act with appropriate tools for effective wildlife management reflecting the input of all these groups shortly.
- We continue to implement the government's Greenhouse Gas Strategy to achieve emission targets, and leverage federal funding to take action to facilitate climate change adaptation.
- Resources continue to be allocated to the research and development of renewable energy sources and helping communities take advantage of business opportunities while reducing their reliance on fossil fuels. We are working with communities to develop forest management agreements to help develop a viable forestry industry accessing timber,

biomass and non-timber products, while maintaining and enhancing environmental stewardship.

Other successes from the past year include negotiating an increase to our borrowing limit with the federal government. This will help give us the ability to continue making strategic investments in the infrastructure we need to support economic development in our territory. During the spring we successfully negotiated new four-year collective agreements with the Union of Northern Workers, the Northwest Territories Medical Association and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, providing certainty for our employees and stability for our ongoing operations.

We have also been recognized nationally for the quality of our work and our working environment. In August our government was recognized by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada for our innovative approach to involving Aboriginal governments in planning work for the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Last week our government was recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2013. This recognition places us among a select group of Canadian employers who lead the nation in their commitment to their employees. We value our employees and respect the good work they do in implementing our direction and providing services to Northerners.

Mr. Speaker, we took office with a commitment to doing things differently and getting things done. This government has been living up to that commitment. We still have plenty of work ahead of us. We continue to address the high cost of living, through investments in transportation infrastructure, alternative energy projects like the Fort Simpson solar installation, our anti-poverty work, and new and enhanced programs to help homeowners.

Devolution remains a priority. We hope to conclude negotiations before the end of 2012, and it will take 18 months after signing to fully implement the agreement. We are working on a plan to address decentralization to help increase employment opportunities in our communities. We are looking for northern Premiers to take a more active role in the Arctic Council when Canada begins to chair it in 2013.

We are almost a year into our mandate, Mr. Speaker. We are making progress on our goals and priorities as an Assembly and I would like to thank Members for their efforts to help us move forward. I look forward to working with them in this session and over the next three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Colleagues, before we go on, I'd like to recognize in the gallery here today, we have former Premier Jim Antoine and his wife, Celine. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

We have former Commissioner, Speaker, Minister, Member, Sergeant-at-Arms, Honourary Clerk, Royal Canadian Navy Captain, Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford. Welcome back to the House, Tony.

---Applause

The honourable Minister responsible for culture and heritage, Minister Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 53-17(3):
CULTURE AND HERITAGE

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the priorities for this Assembly is to strengthen awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our many diverse cultures. I am very pleased to advise this House that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment held a ceremony today to celebrate the tremendous contributions that people from all across this territory have made to keep our cultures vibrant and alive.

The Minister's Cultural Circle was created in 2011 to celebrate Northerners who contribute to the preservation and promotion of the various cultures and where we come from in the Northwest Territories. The department began requesting nominations in May and they poured in. An independent panel of judges selected five recipients from the many submissions we received from across the territory.

The Cultural Circle helps build awareness amongst Northerners about the importance of promoting, protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique culture and heritage. We received nominations in four categories:

- Youth, 25 years of age and under;
- Individual;
- Elder, 50 years of age and older; and
- Group.

As well, there is a Minister's Choice Award chosen from all the nominations, which is selected by the Minister for an individual or group that embodies the principles of the Minister's Cultural Circle. The 2012 award recipients exemplify the commitment, diligence, creativity and passion we want culture and heritage to inspire in us all. I was honoured to welcome our recipients into the Cultural Circle this morning:

- Doris Taniton of Deline, our youth recipient;
- Lillian Elias of Inuvik, our elder recipient;
- Melaw Nakehk'o of Fort Simpson, our individual recipient; and
- the Tlicho Imbe Program, our group recipient.

- The 2012 Minister's Choice Award recipient is Jean Harry of Sachs Harbour.

I hope all Members of this Assembly will join me in honouring the Cultural Circle recipients and thank them for their work of preserving, promoting, protecting and celebrating our unique cultures and heritage.

In addition to the Cultural Circle awards ceremony today, this week marks an important gathering of more than 50 community representatives from arts, business, government and cultural organizations across all regions of the NWT, as well as representatives from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Department of Canadian Heritage, as they meet to share common goals and learn new skills. I want to acknowledge and commend all of the people, artists, cultural organizations and community museums for their dedication and valuable work they do in our communities to preserve and promote our northern cultures and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 36(6) so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of HR, Mr. Abernethy.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 54-17(3):
CANADA'S TOP 100 EMPLOYERS

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, on October 10th the Government of the Northwest Territories was recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2013. This places the GNWT among an exclusive group of Canadian employers who lead their industries in their commitment to employees and their ability to recruit and retain a committed and engaged workforce.

We are in good company Mr. Speaker. Other employers recognized include 3M, CIBC, WestJet, Enbridge, Proctor and Gamble and Manulife Financial. Employers being recognized for the first time along with GNWT include Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network and Shoppers Drug Mart nationally. I would also like to recognize Diavik Diamond Mines as the only other NWT-headquartered employer receiving this prestigious recognition.

It is very satisfying to know that the GNWT is being recognized nationally as one of the best employers to work for in Canada. Recipients of this award are chosen by a blue-ribbon Academic Advisory Board of management experts drawn from universities across Canada.

The GNWT was selected based on the evaluation of eight criteria: physical workplace; work

atmosphere; health, financial and family benefits; vacation and time off; employee communications; performance management; training and skills development; and community involvement.

Effective and efficient government is one of the goals of the 17th Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. The key to providing effective services to the people of the Northwest Territories is a committed and competent public service. Being able to promote the GNWT as one of Canada's top 100 employers enhances our ability to attract talented individuals who are deeply engaged by their work and committed to their professions, their communities and the people they serve.

The GNWT is a great place to work. We offer excellent compensation and benefits; generous leave allowances; opportunities for a varied career; support for education, training and development; and a family-friendly work environment that permits flexible work hours where operationally possible. We are an inclusive employer that values the skills and contributions of all employees, and are respectful of the diversity of our workforce. Working for the GNWT is challenging and exciting, and employees have the ability to contribute to a vibrant North and to be part of an organization that respects and honours cross-cultural context. Due to our small size, employees have the opportunity to make a difference and are able to see the direct impact their work has on residents of the NWT. There are great opportunities for career growth, development and advancement and, last but not least, the chance to work in beautiful, pristine locations and experience the richness of different cultures and traditions.

There are many people responsible for making the GNWT one of Canada's top 100 employers. I would like to extend my congratulations to all GNWT employees for their hard work and commitment which contributed to our national recognition as a top employer. I would also like to thank the Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly and our union partners for making this possible. All of us play a role in establishing the high standards of our workplaces and we can all take great pride in this achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 55-17(3):
MINISTERS ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable David Ramsay will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Robert C. McLeod will be absent from the House today to attend a meeting with the Arctic Winter Games International Committee and his territorial counterparts in Fairbanks, Alaska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, Premier and colleagues. I would like to welcome all Members back to the Assembly. It's been a very busy summer for each of us. We've had time to spend with our family and time to visit our communities with our constituents. Today we are here to contribute towards making our territory a better place to live, to build relationships with governing bodies and provide positive comments to the people that we represent.

We need to be more mindful of others when making decisions that affect their territory. With that in mind, I'd like to welcome everyone back and look forward to the next few weeks as we get down to business.

As you may be aware, the Gwich'in Tribal Council held its election for president and vice-president in June. I want to take this time to acknowledge and congratulate Mr. Albert Alexie Jr. on being elected president and Mr. Norman Snowshoe on being elected vice-president. Both Albert and Norman will represent the Gwich'in Tribal Council for the next four years. I look forward to a positive working relationship with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

I also want to acknowledge former President Richard Nerysoo and former Vice-President Mary Ann Ross for the tremendous amount of work and commitment that they both gave to the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HEALTH ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH OVERCROWDED HOUSING

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate all the elected councillors and mayors that just recently had their elections. I take my hat off to the people who put their names forward to serve their people.

The Premier talked about the year now that we've been elected, and we are elected by our people to fight for our people when we come to the capital in

Yellowknife here to look at the conditions that we live in in our communities. We know the conditions because we come from these small communities.

When we come into a larger centre, we start to see some of the equalities that happen. We even look at our school system, where it took almost nine years to have the Government of the Northwest Territories put proper washroom facilities in a school in Colville Lake. We wonder and I wonder why it took so long, nine years, to even have washroom facilities in the health centre in Colville Lake. When we come down here, we look at other facilities where they take it for granted.

Our people ask us to come forward and fight for them, to have the same type of facilities that the other institutions have around the Northwest Territories. When we get down here, we get to see how the system works and sometimes it's very frustrating. Sometimes it's okay because we win some and we lose some. The system sometimes works not for the people but for the system itself, and that's frustrating.

One of the huge costs of this government is our health care. The majority of our budget is spent on health care. On the weekend I was reading the Globe and Mail. We have a dangerous infection, a superbug, that's continuing to rise in the Northwest Territories. It's MRSA and this is a very dangerous infectious disease that we have here. It's on the rise and we need to start tracking the superbug. One of the contributing factors of this superbug is the overcrowding of housing.

I have a lot of issues I want to talk about. I don't have the time right now so I would just like to say, stay tuned.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
THE LATE ADOLF DUESTERHUS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to follow your lead and remember some of the people across the Northwest Territories that are no longer with us. Today I'd specifically like to recognize the passing of a remarkable northern pioneer and long-time Weledeh resident, Adolph Duesterhus.

Adolph came to Canada from Germany after enduring the terrible experiences of war on the Russian front and internment in a Soviet prisoner of war camp. He arrived in Canada April 25, 1953, with eight dollars and a train ticket to Edmonton. Arriving in Edmonton, he answered a Giant Mine job ad, and was in Yellowknife drawing a paycheque within two weeks of stepping off the boat. After a year at Giant, Adolph moved to Curry Construction, where he stayed many years running

equipment and supplies across the territory; an original ice road catskinner long before the truckers. His experiences are chronicled in the unpublished memoir, *Driving Northern Byways: Memories of Northern Ground Transport* in the '50s and '60s. Adolph was a family neighbour and I personally heard many of his hair-raising tales of too-heavy equipment on too-thin ice.

Perhaps less well known but equally remarkable was Adolph's scholarly passion for advanced physics. Self-taught in one of the most intellectually challenging disciplines, Adolph was also a pioneer in the mindscapes of complex mathematics and theory. He was a contributor to scholarly journals and always at work on explanations of phenomena few of us are aware of, let alone understand.

Though a private and perhaps even eccentric man, Adolph was a willing contributor to community projects and a reliable helper to his friends and neighbours. In the closing passage of his book, Adolph pays tribute to the people who welcomed him and worked with him to build a better community. He said, "All of the good people helped make Yellowknife what it is today. I salute them all."

Adolph Duesterhus, a friend of the Yellowknife Community Foundation, passed away on Friday, September 28th, and is survived by two nephews living in Germany. Mr. Speaker, I will miss his unique character and northern wisdom. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MEDICAL TRAVEL

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the time that I had off over the summer, I got a lot of constituency concerns, and we're just finishing up our first year – my first year as a Member of the Legislative Assembly – and every time that somebody comes to my office, I always get to learn a little bit more about the issues and the problems that our people are going through today.

One that came up that grabbed my attention was with medical travel. I had a constituent who had had an appointment cancelled because she couldn't make the flight when the department had booked her medical travel and gave her the notice about two hours before the flight was going to take off. She couldn't make her appointment, and as a result, she had to wait a whole year to find that appointment.

Speaking with other people in the community, this is an ongoing problem within the government, and it needs to be addressed in terms of having our people be able to go and get the treatment that they need for issues that they are dealing with. Specifically, when it comes to speciality appointments and they can't get those

appointments rescheduled again, maybe three months, six months and, in this case, a full year.

The government really needs to develop a better process to ensure that people in the Northwest Territories get the proper care and treatment that they deserve and help save the government some money on some patients that go to either Yellowknife, to the region, even down south to Edmonton, and sometimes they find out that they've missed their appointments, or sometimes the appointments have been cancelled on them. The Department of Health and Social Services and medical travel needs to find a better process to ensure that our people do get to their appointments, that we're not having any more no-shows, and that the government starts saving money and that our people get the treatment that they need.

I'll have questions for the Minister later on today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CHILD TAX BENEFIT CLAWBACK

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Recently, I was shocked and appalled to learn that this government has begun clawing back the Child Tax Benefit. The Child Tax Benefit is a federal subsidy that was put in place to help Canadian families with the challenges of meeting the cost of raising children.

This summer the NWT Housing Corporation began including the Child Tax Benefit in its income assessments for public housing rents. As a result, some people who received the benefit have had their rents go up. This change makes no sense to the average person.

I know that we are dealing with two different programs and two different governments, one federal and one territorial, but from the perspective of parents and single parents trying to make ends meet in our small communities, it seems like this government is giving with one hand and taking with the other. What is the point of that, Mr. Speaker? As one of my constituents said, the money from the Child Tax Benefit is meant for milk and Pampers, not rent.

I cannot imagine that the savings to the GNWT of clawing back the Child Tax Benefit amounts to very much. However, for the families who are affected by this change, it means less money every month for groceries, diapers, kids' clothing and shoes.

I will be asking our government, through the Premier, when they will put an end to this outrageous clawback. Leave the Child Tax Benefit alone. Leave it with our low-income parents that need it. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With 1,082 days and approximately 18 hours left in our term, there is still time for the Minister of Health to finally do the right thing. What is the right thing, you might want to ask. Well, it is still time to address the need for a treatment centre for people who are addicted to hard drugs such as crack, crystal meth and even prescription drug abuse. I am confident that I have raised this issue alone at least six or seven times in this term alone. I have mentioned this particular problem countless times in the last term of the 16th and even in the 15th Assembly, and still this issue continues to be ignored by this government.

Right now people are addicted to these drugs as well as other types of hard drugs, but there is no true treatment for them in the NWT, away from friends, family and community support. Every month goes by and more citizens complain about the lack of opportunities and services provided here in the North. If the Minister hasn't heard the call from me, during the last six weeks in the municipal election I have heard countless candidates and citizens calling for more options to address treatment problems here.

What message does this Minister need to hear before he finally addresses this lack of treatment centre problem with a targeted response? I agree with the direction the new Mental Health and Addictions Strategy is going, but it lacks the option of a treatment centre for people who need to break free from chronic hard drug usage.

I continue to call for a detox centre here in the Northwest Territories, but we cannot mix the two. There is room for both options. I am willing to take one. I am willing to take any option if this Minister is finally willing to act. Quite frankly, I am sure the Minister is tired that I keep raising this particular subject. I am sure, as well, at the same time, he is frustrated that the impacts this problem is having on our health system.

We need a targeted solution to help all Northerners and our communities from being burdened by this big city problem. Undoubtedly, there are examples in other jurisdictions that have worked. Why don't we have a northern solution to what is not a northern problem? What message does this Minister send to our youth – our future – by ignoring the seriousness of this particular problem? If we keep avoiding this problem, we will never solve it. I ask the Minister to stop saying no and finally say yes to a problem that we need addressed for the

people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEH CHO CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend warm greetings to everyone here today and to those listening from across the Northwest Territories. The fall 2012 session marks a full year since Members were elected to this Assembly.

This year has been significant for the Northwest Territories and for the Deh Cho riding. This past summer an anthrax outbreak decimated the Mackenzie bison herd, killing over 400 animals. I acknowledge that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources rapidly forwarded a response to this devastating situation. The active infection phase of this disease is now over forever. Among the impacts of the outbreak are reduced hunting quotas for all harvesters.

The Deh Cho residents are eagerly waiting for the opening of the Deh Cho Bridge in November. The Deh Gah Bridge Society is proud of this tremendous project and hopes to work with the GNWT to maximize the opportunities the bridge will provide to our region.

The bridge opening marks the end of an era for the Fort Providence ice crossing and ferry service. I would like to commend the hard work and dedication of those who have maintained these key pieces of infrastructure over the many decades of travelling across the Mackenzie River.

A highlight in this coming new capital plan is the commitment to build a much needed new health centre in Fort Providence. The community and staff will look forward to the improvements the health centre will bring.

Although we are making progress, many challenges still lay ahead. Enterprise and Kakisa have yet to establish their own water treatment plants. The Hay River Reserve continues to struggle with jurisdictional matters regarding reserve status, levels of government obligation, housing and other programs and services. The Deh Cho riding does not have mobile phone service, and in the interest of public safety and improved communications, I will soon table a petition requesting cellular service in Fort Providence and the surrounding area before the opening of the Deh Cho Bridge.

Unemployment is as high as 30 percent in some of the Deh Cho communities. That takes a toll on families as well as programs that offer government support. The Deh Cho and NWT as a whole must tackle such issues as land claim and self-government negotiations, devolution and resource

revenue sharing, pressures of increased energy costs and major infrastructure decisions.

In spite of these challenges, we have to look forward to over the next two years and beyond the life of the 17th Assembly. Meaningful advances and development of biomass industry in the Deh Cho, increased tourism as a result of the monumental 1,000 metre long Deh Cho Bridge, and more opportunities to work together to build the future of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Colleagues, before we go on I would like to recognize in the House former Member for Deh Cho and honourable Minister, Mr. Michael McLeod. Welcome back to the House. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The United Nations has declared today, October 17th, as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. I think this day is timely because here in the Northwest Territories we've just concluded a second series of meetings of the Anti-Poverty Working Group, as mentioned by the Minister. We are moving forward with the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

The International Day for Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, but unfortunately, we still have very little to show for it. Millions across our world still live in abject poverty. Progress on the goal to reduce poverty has been agonizingly slow. Here in Canada, some parts of the country are ahead of others, and thankfully for us, the NWT is not the last to begin development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Our work on it can come none too soon.

At the end of July, the national organization Campaign 2000, an organization whose slogan is End Child and Family Poverty in Canada, issued a media release following the Council of the Federation meetings. Part of that release quoted Sid Frankel, an associate professor, University of Manitoba's School of Social Work. Professor Frankel said: "The provinces need to strengthen their poverty reduction strategies and the federal government needs to adopt its own comprehensive and coordinated plan. Income is a key determinant of a person's health. The higher one's position on the income ladder, the more likely one is to live in good health. Income equality, on the other hand, impairs health and increases premature mortality. Simply, all Canadians will benefit from less poverty and inequality."

Also, Dr. Michael Rachlis, health care analyst and associate professor at the University of Toronto was quoted: "Poverty accounts for at least 20

percent of our health care costs. If we can reduce poverty substantially and increase the quality of life for more people, we will reduce health care expenditures and prevent new costs in the future.”

The GNWT and this Assembly must not lose sight of the importance of reducing and eradicating poverty. We've made a commitment to develop a strategy and we are acting on it. Now we must ensure a comprehensive, workable, coordinated response to poverty from that commitment. Reorganizing how we provide GNWT programs and services and revamping our policies...

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Reorganizing how we provide GNWT programs and services and revamping our policies to enable people to rise out of poverty would achieve such a coordinated result. I look forward to seeing the result of the work of the Anti-Poverty Working Group. I would like to thank all of them for their efforts to date and for the work that they will do in the coming months. This working group is a great example of the benefits of collaboration, working together for the betterment of all NWT residents. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2012

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues from across this great territory, as we roll up our sleeves for a very energetic and hopefully productive couple of weeks.

With all the recent municipal elections and school board action in the past month, I am really looking forward to harnessing all the new focus and new ideas that were shared amongst so many great civic leaders. From Iqaluit to Whitehorse, from Fort Smith to Inuvik, the North was a myriad of topics that were all designed to improve our everyday lives.

We wish to take this time to thank the many brave candidates that sacrificed so much – and I say brave because it takes a special person to let their name stand for public office – put their lives on hold, and to stand with conviction on topics that affect us. Sometimes you get those who oppose you, and most time you get those people who support you and in the end you hope that your principles are supported enough to generate that special gesture we call a vote.

To those who came up on top with the votes required to win, on behalf of the Members of the

Legislative Assembly, congratulations to you, your families and your communities.

For those who didn't get elected, we want to personally thank you for your efforts. We know losing is a painful and heartbreaking experience but it teaches us dignity. We know that many of you will get back on your feet really quickly. Your efforts, your words and your actions did not go unnoticed. Just because you lost doesn't mean that your advocacies, whether it be on poverty, education, health, or economy, went to the wayside. Your pledges and your promises will be championed by others and you will enjoy knowing that you played a part in our territory's well-being.

Finally, to all of those who took the time to exercise their democratic right, we thank you, the voter, for your time and your support. I was pleased to see that the municipal election voter turnout was as strong as it was in 2009, with a strong showing of 49 percent in Yellowknife, and many other jurisdictions reporting over 40 percent turnout. This makes me wonder how it is that our very territorial elections cannot muster the same achievements that we see across the board. This is something that the Assembly needs to discuss in the next couple of years.

Speaking of years, I am happy to say that the voters will now enjoy a bit of peace and quiet and a break from candidates knocking on their door, especially for the next three years as there should be no elections to speak of. Rest up, voters, because in 2015 will emerge the perfect storm as all three levels of governments and school boards will have elections within the same time period. To all you potential candidates across the North, time to reserve your lawns now as space will be limited.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HAY RIVER MUNICIPAL ELECTION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my congratulations to the successful candidates in Monday's municipal election in Hay River. I look forward to working closely with Mayor-elect Andrew Cassidy and councillors Brad Mapes, Kandis Jameson, Keith Dohey, Donna Lee Jungkind, Vince McKay, Roger Candow, Jason Coakwell and Michael Maher. While Mayor Cassidy and councillors McKay and Maher bring the wisdom of municipal experience to this group, others bring fresh ideas and new perspectives.

We have the voice for youth in Councillor Dohey, a fourth-generation Hay Riverite, and might I say that Mr. Dohey was six years old when I first got elected

and he was interested in politics even back then. I predict we will see him in this House someday.

We also have a very active retired person, Councillor Candow, who will have less time for the golf course now. We have two women councillors: Councillor Jungkind and Councillor Jameson. We have two public servants: Councillor Maher and Councillor McKay. We have two business managers in Councillor Jungkind and Councillor Coakwell and two business owners in Councillor Jameson and Councillor Mapes. So you see we have a very diverse group representing Hay River.

I wish this dynamic group every success in becoming an effective team and tackling major issues, such as Hay River's aging infrastructure and our sputtering economy, with the full confidence of our community. The new council can count on my support and assistance.

Hay River also elected its district education authority on Monday. The DEA makes important and often difficult decisions on planning, operations and staffing our community schools. Congratulations to DEA members Kirk Carston, Melanie Carter, Terence Courtoreille, Kandis Jameson, Melvin Larocque and Louise Schuman, all of whom were elected by acclamation. I'd like to thank them for stepping forward to serve.

I would also like to say a sincere thank you to all of the candidates who ran for municipal office in Hay River and throughout the Northwest Territories, including those who weren't elected. It's never easy putting your name forward for public office. Campaigning takes time, money, support and very patient family and friends. It takes courage, sacrifice and commitment. Everyone who ran successfully or not in being elected, contributed to the democratic process and to the public debate on important issues in our communities and they all have my deepest respect and gratitude.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PASSING OF THERESA CRANE AND 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF ANNETTE LEMAY –
GREAT SLAVE CONSTITUENTS

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been blessed this year with one of the best summers on record and I hope that everybody, although you're really busy, had an opportunity to get out and enjoy it.

As usual, over extended periods of time there have definitely been some high points and some low points. On the low side, over the last couple of months we have lost some great northern residents. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to the family of

Theresa Crane. Theresa passed away this summer. I've known Theresa for a number of years and she was a fantastic lady. I enjoyed receiving phone calls from Theresa and having her ask me to come down for tea and politics, where we would discuss and discuss and discuss issues important to her and the Northwest Territories. She was a long-time resident of Yellowknife and the Great Slave riding, and through discussions it was clear that she truly loved Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. She was an active volunteer and she cared passionately about everyone that she came into contact with. She'll definitely be missed.

In addition to the sad events, though, we also witnessed some amazing milestones over the last couple of months. By way of an example, on September 25th a constituent of mine in the Great Slave riding and a long-time Northerner, Ms. Annette Lemay, celebrated her 90th birthday. I recently communicated with John and Joan Snuverink and their friend Phyllis LaFleur, who were long-time friends of Annette. They shared some stories and highlights of Annette's life. They all wish Annette a happy birthday.

Annette was born on September 25, 1922. She and her husband Aurel moved to Yellowknife shortly after they were married on May 17, 1952. She was 30 at the time. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Yellowknife this year. Annette has tirelessly volunteered with the community at the Roman Catholic Church for the past 60 years. She volunteered on a regular basis until last year, 2011. Her friends have commonly referred to her as remarkable. As a note, Lemay Drive in Yellowknife was named after Annette's husband, Aurel, for his long-time contribution and career at Yellowknife Giant Mine. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Annette a happy 90th birthday and wish both Aurel and Annette a belated happy 60th anniversary. It's people like Annette and Aurel who help make Yellowknife the great city that it is.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
THE LATE FREDERICK HAROLD LAFFERTY
OF FORT RESOLUTION

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

I would like to pay tribute to the late Frederick Harold Lafferty of Fort Resolution. Frederick was born August 19, 1939, and passed away on July 3, 2012, at the age of 73. Frederick was a Metis man who lost his wife many years ago and lived his life for his grandchildren, children and great-grandchildren.

Frederick has spent the last few years in long-term care here at Stanton Hospital. Frederick was a family oriented man who devoted a great deal of his time to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed nothing more than being surrounded by family, and you could tell that when you attended his funeral, all the pictures of him and his family.

Frederick is survived by his siblings Frank, Gaby, Peter and Alice. His children were: Frank, my brother-in-law; Darryl, Elaine, Melvin, Julia, Fred, Greg and Dexter. His grandchildren were: Austin, Jordan, Scott, Jaeda, Destry, Lisa, Darryl Jr., Deborah, Carol, Jackie, Ryley, Nikkita, Bayleigh and Caitlyn. He had three great-grandchildren: Grace, Tristan and Payton. Along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many other relatives in Fort Resolution. Frederick was practically related to everyone in Res.

Frederick was very close with his family and spent a lot of time with them. Frederick was the son of the late Victor and Virginia Lafferty. My condolences go out to Frederick's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings and all the other family members in Fort Resolution and Hay River.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two visitors from Fort McPherson: Marion Greenland and Stephanie Ross. Welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the members of the Aboriginal Head Start Council that are here with us in the gallery. First, from Inuvik, Teresa McNab and Amanda Bernhardt; from Paulatuk, Alice Thrasher; from Fort McPherson, Stephanie Ross and Marion Greenland; from Behchoko, Louisa Richardson and Marlyss Richardson; from Ndilo, Robin Gladstone, Pam Abramchuk, Fred Tsetta and Reanna Erasmus; from Fort Providence, Joyce McLeod, Belinda Sabourin and Sabrina McLeod; from Hay River Reserve, Rene Squirrel and Trudy Coutrie; from Fort Smith, Janine Rommel. Also their consultants that are here with us: Chalmers & Associates Consulting, Dr. Jennifer Chalmers and Kim Wingert. Thank you for being here with us.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Michael McLeod, former Minister and MLA for Deh Cho.

I'd also like to recognize a long-time educator, my sister Margaret Field and granddaughter Kimberly, and Derek.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset I would like to recognize a constituent who recently received in the mail a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal, Lyda Fuller. Congratulations to Lyda. It's a medal well deserved.

I'd like to also recognize two of our city councillors, Lydia Bardak and Amanda Mallon, who are here with us today.

I cannot ignore Mr. Tony Whitford, so welcome to the House, Tony. I'm sure everybody's going to do that as well.

I'd like to also recognize Kim Doyle, who is the executive director for the Yellowknife Seniors' Society, and Jeff Renaud, who is the new executive director for Avens.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a former colleague from the Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod. We got sworn in a year ago today so your cooling off period is over, so get back to work.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my brother Michael McLeod and his wife, my sister-in-law, Joyce McLeod, and my great niece Sabrina McLeod.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Premier. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the representative of the Aboriginal Head Start for Fort Smith. Aboriginal Head Start is a tremendous program. Both my grandchildren went there. I'd like to recognize Ms. Janine Rommel.

As well, my friend and colleague, a good old Fort Smith boy who moved to Yellowknife, the Honourable Tony Whitford, and my former colleague, as well, who I had coffee with at 7:30 this morning, Mr. Michael McLeod.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome, as you did earlier, Mr. Anthony Whitford. Welcome again, Tony.

I know Michael McLeod, a former colleague, is here somewhere up there.

I may have missed others that I can't see behind me. I know Sheila Bassi-Kellett, a Weledeh resident, was here earlier, as well as Amanda Mallon and Penny Ballantyne.

If I could mention the class that was here earlier, the Grade 6 class from Weledeh School, Jenny Reid and class. Good to see them in the House.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize constituents Mr. Jim Antoine and Celine Antoine. We saw in the paper, as well, that Mr. Jim Antoine was also a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award. I worked with him and his daughter Melaw Nakehk'o, who just received a cultural award this morning. I think the Minister mentioned that. I just want to say to Melaw, keep doing what you love with your love of our Aboriginal culture.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Jim and Celine Antoine, very good friends and long-time friends, as well as Mr. Tony Whitford.

I'd also like to recognize a constituent who was up here earlier, Lillian Elias, who is also the winner of the Minister's Cultural Circle Award in the Elders Category. She's not here right now but she was here earlier.

---[Technical difficulties]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Mr. Hawkins. You can use Mr. Moses' mic. It's off? We thought we had this resolved.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the people who solved the technical problem.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize some of the people who have already been recognized, but I think it's important to highlight their contributions to the territory by mentioning them here.

I'd like to always recognize Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford, a personal friend and long-time friend of everyone in this building.

Mr. Speaker, Kim Doyle is now the new executive director of YK Seniors, and she served me very well as a constituency assistant. With her is Jeff Renaud, who hails from, I believe, Victoria, if memory serves me correct. He's the new CEO of

Avens. He has lots of ideas and I look forward to him bringing his excitement and information to many Members.

Ms. Lydia Bardak; I'd like to use this chance to thank her for her dedicated service and years as a city councillor to the City of Yellowknife.

Of course, another couple is Jim and Celine Antoine. They've been long-time family friends. I've respected them both for many, many years.

Finally, I'd like to recognize Michael and Joyce McLeod. Michael, I miss your grumpy stories here at the Ledge. At this time, I want to thank everyone.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also recognize Jim and Celine Antoine and the family. I'd also like to recognize – I'm not too sure if she's here – Doris Taniton, who was the Minister's Cultural Award recipient of the youth. Also, Mr. Whitford, I'm always reminded of what things you have told me that you said that made a big difference in life. I also want to recognize Mr. Michael McLeod and his wife, Joyce. They told me some pretty good, happy stories, not like Mr. Hawkins. I would also like to recognize some good people in town: Lydia and some other people that I don't see here. Thank you for attending this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'd like to welcome a constituent, Ms. Alice Thrasher. Welcome to the House.

I'd like to welcome all visitors here in the public gallery here today for taking an interest in our proceedings here. Welcome.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Ms. Bisaro.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 7-17(3): PASSING OF RALPH LESLIE CREED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge the recent death of Ralph Leslie Creed, a long-time Yellowknife resident and a Frame Lake constituent.

Ralph moved to Yellowknife in 1981 with his young family. He worked at the mill at Giant Mine for 19 years and at the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission until he retired when he then worked as a stay-at-home grandpa.

Ralph was devoted to his family but also to his community. He gave back to his community through volunteering, particularly as a member of the board of directors for the Northlands Condominium Corporation.

My condolences and those of this House go out to Ralph's family and friends. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 164-17(3):

MRSA SUPERBUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the increasing concern of a dangerous superbug in the Northwest Territories. It reported in the Globe and Mail, October 13th, on Saturday, that this bug is probably one of the most dangerous superbugs that we can have here in the North. It had quadrupled in the Northwest Territories since 2007. This bug is mostly spread in hospitals, but now they're starting to find it more in the smaller communities.

I want to ask the Minister of Health what he is doing to help the smaller communities who maybe do not know about this dangerous superbug and how dangerous it could be. What is the department doing to help the smaller communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. The department is doing their business of advising the local housing authorities through the chief public health officer. The chief public health officer is discussing the clinical practice guidelines with the authorities on what needs to be done to address this virus, the MRSA. That's the work we are doing right now. The public health officer is working with the authorities to get the information out to the communities.

MR. YAKELEYA: Since 2012, this year, there have been 142 cases so far. We're pretty high, according to the people in southern Canada. It's been noted that it's quite dangerous. I want to ask the Minister, again, in regard to people who may show signs or symptoms of having this infectious superbug in them, what type of support or medication is given to these people other than letting them know that there's an awareness campaign going on. What is it that they need to do to take care of themselves?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Like I indicated, the public health officer will work with the authorities, and recognizing that we will advise the communities on the risks of the disease and what type of factors that create an atmosphere in which this virus can spread. Overcrowding is one of the key situations due to the close contact from individual to individual when you have houses that are overcrowded. In some cases, a lot of washing and so on needs to occur and when you have water delivery in the small communities sometimes you don't have

access to as much water necessary to do all of the cleanliness necessary, like as in doing laundry on a regular basis and so on, because of conservation of the water in the household.

We are working with the authorities who are working with the communities to ensure that municipalities are able to provide enough water. The overcrowding situation is something I think can be resolved over a longer term, but in situations like that, we work with the families.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister hit it right on the head: We have a huge problem in our communities with overcrowding and the housing that we have, the quality of housing that we have and the little amount of water that we can receive during the week because of the amount of funding that goes into support. What is his department doing to work with the Minister of Housing or this government to look at the conditions of the housing, the overcrowding? People are moving into their family's dwelling. It's really just an infestation ground to continue with this superbug, and it's going to be awhile if we're going to look at the long-term solution.

I want to ask what this government is doing to kill the superbug that's growing. Is it going to get worse? What is his department doing, working with this government on the housing issue? It's a real time bomb for our people in our communities.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We do recognize it. The department is monitoring the fact that we're expecting an increase of 44 percent from this year, once we project to the end of the year over last year. There are definitely things that have to occur, and those things are, again, trying to work with the communities and trying to really pinpoint where the issue is greatest. We know that in the Tlicho Community Services Agency we are working closely with them to address the issue of our high rates of MRSA in that region. Any area where we consider there to be high rates by community, we will work closely with them to try to assist the community in addressing the issue of working in the prevention of the spread of this virus. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This deadly virus, this superbug, in the report in the Globe and Mail, penicillin and similar antibiotics no longer work on MRSA. Overcrowding is one of the contributing factors of this deadly disease. Now we are seeing that modern medicine is no longer going to be effective on getting rid of this superbug that we have in the Northwest Territories. Just hearing the Minister say that they are expecting a 44 percent increase on this, this is alarming. This is deadly. Other than antibiotics or penicillin not being the cure for this, how can we get rid of this? We have overcrowding in our small communities. What

solutions can the Minister talk with his department to say, let's get rid of this bug here?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct; the drug-resisting infections cost the community and health system billions of dollars yearly. MRSA is not a nationally reportable infection.

What we are doing is requesting information just from other jurisdictions to see what is happening, like trying to look at the best practices on a national level to see if we could employ the best practices here in the Northwest Territories by seeing how other jurisdictions are handling similar issues pertaining to this virus across the country. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 165-17(3):
MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICY

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just following up on my Member's statement earlier. I wanted to ask the question to the Minister of Health on the policy that... Is there a policy and can he share the policy on the timeline for getting medical travel approved for patients and the amount of time it takes to get that communicated to patients for out-of-town travel for medical appointments? Is there a policy? What is it and what is the timeline of getting that information communicated to our residents for out-of-town travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical travel is a clinical decision, first of all. Secondly, the policy is that medical travel, from the office here in Yellowknife, does contact the authority; the authority contacts the patient. The patient would then contact medical travel and make the arrangements for the travel and to make it to the appointment. It should generally be a fairly simple process. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Speaker, it should be a fairly simple process; however, I am continuing to find problems within the process itself. Like I mentioned earlier, I have a constituent who had to wait over a year to get another appointment. The process might be simple, but getting that appointment, if it is a specialty appointment with a specialist, might not be always available, so that simple process is not always there.

Can the Minister provide some information on how many no-shows the department has incurred over the past year for patients who are missing their

appointments in the NWT and southern travel as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: From my understanding, we are moving about 11,000 patients annually through medical travel, so the last number that I have from the Stanton Hospital annual general meeting was that the no-shows are 12 percent. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: With the 12 percent just for Stanton Territorial Hospital, but we are not talking about appointments that are missed down south or even appointments that got cancelled or people not making their flights because they couldn't make the arrangements in such a short time period where they were approved for medical travel and approved for their appointments but couldn't make it because of the late process in getting them the information. That 12 percent alone for Stanton, I am sure, didn't come cheap. Does the Minister have, for Stanton alone, a cost for that 12 percent, where it cost the government for all these no-shows and missed appointments?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have the costs here. I'm sure that we would be able to determine the cost of what it would be when someone misses an appointment, but this is a missed appointment for an individual that doesn't show up at the doctor's office and a percentage of that time will come down to a cost. Sometimes they replace the patient with a waiting list, but what I can do is develop a cost for the percentage.

That percentage was a percentage that came from medical travel. It was all medical travel that includes the medical travel within the territory coming to Yellowknife, going to Inuvik, or also travelling down south to Edmonton. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without just Yellowknife and Stanton travel, would the Minister commit to providing all expenses on missed appointments and no-shows in the Northwest Territories as well as southern travel for patients that went down south and this government covered the expenses and either the patient missed the appointment, they didn't make it on time, or the appointment got cancelled? Would the Minister commit to providing us with those details?

Really, that money could be spent more effectively and we might even be contributing to the problem of these no-shows and missed appointments with the medical travel process.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, yes, I will commit to providing the information to the Member of this House. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 166-17(3):

STATUS OF PHARMACEUTICAL STRATEGY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to keep the Minister of Health and Social Services hopping today. I'm sure he will get a break eventually.

Earlier in our June session, I asked the Minister questions on the status of efforts to reduce pharmaceutical costs. I did get some follow-up response from the Minister after the session, in which he indicated that work is underway to create a pharmaceutical strategy for the Northwest Territories. I would like to begin by asking the Minister what the current status of that work towards a strategy is. Mahsi.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In early 2012, Alberta Blue Cross completed an analysis and report on the NWT pharmaceutical strategy policy options for the Government of the Northwest Territories. This included a number of observations and recommendations to the government.

MR. BROMLEY: I know that that report had been completed sometime before June. I am wondering what the recommendations say. Can the Minister say what the recommendations were and what progress is being made to develop the strategy with those recommendations? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have the actual recommendations from ABC with me here today; however, I do know that the plan is not to continue any work on the pharmaceutical strategy until after the end of this fiscal year due to other priorities in the department.

MR. BROMLEY: That, indeed, is a surprise. Members and committee have highlighted this as an issue, and we're not aware, certainly I was not aware that this has been put on hold. So I'm wondering, the Minister, I believe, was going to take the ABC report out for consultation with, for example, the NWT Pharmacy Association, other stakeholders. Has that happened and what has been their input? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: No, we have not taken this report out. We're looking at some of the key recommendations in there. There were about four or five key recommendations in there that we are looking at closely before we take it out to the public. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, this is very disappointing and a real lack of progress in an area that committee has identified

as important. So I just want to express my great disappointment there, and ask when we will see a draft strategy and if the Minister will table the ABC report in the House. Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't think there is any issue with the department tabling a report. I think we want to take a look at it to have a discussion with ABC on the recommendations that they made. They made some recommendations specifically to why they feel that the pharmaceutical expenses are so high in the Northwest Territories. So we need to have that discussion with them. We'd like to have that discussion with ABC one time before we do a tabling of the report.

I can commit to saying that we will have that discussion to ensure that the information in their recommendations made is based on information that is 100 percent accurate. So after we do that we will be able to table the report. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 167-17(3):
CHILD TAX BENEFIT AND
PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL SCALE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I spoke about the Child Tax Benefit being included as income in the Housing Corporation's changes to their programming. Seemingly little changes that happen often have big impacts in our smaller communities and in this case that is such the case.

We had a commitment, as a full Caucus of this territorial government, to lower the cost of living, yet we make a change to impact parents and single parents like this.

I'd like to ask Mr. Premier, can the Cabinet review this situation where we are, in essence, clawing back the federal Child Tax Benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new public housing rent scales came into effect July 1, 2012, and largely at the call of all the Members of this House to have a system that was much fairer and treated all of our residents in housing more equitably. At that time the decision was made that to be fair, all sources of income would be included in the calculation, and to change from that would mean we're going back to the old rental scale approach, back to a shotgun approach where all different types of support were exempted. So that's why the new public housing rental scales were drawn up so that it would include these forms of income. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. I recall the debate that we had two Assemblies ago and there was a reason we exempted these federal tax benefits to single parents and people of low income. So I'd like to ask, Mr. Premier, how is this consistent with our goal of lowering the cost of living for our residents by including Child Tax Benefit and clawing back the much needed little income that these people need.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: On average a mother with one child receives about \$300 a month in Child Tax Benefit. Two-thirds of that is exempt. One-third of that is included in income assistance. So that works out to about \$100 a month and this is consistent with all across Canada. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: We're all aware that, of course, we're living in the North and the cost of living is much higher up here and that's the reason we had exempted these federal transfers. We are clawing it back, and I'd like to ask Mr. Premier, can he commit for his government to review this situation and correct that and exempt Child Tax Benefit as income. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The new rent scales that were introduced July 1, 2012, charge very low rent for low income households. If you make less than \$1,677 a month, you pay \$70 to \$80 a month in rent. So I think that exempting Child Tax Benefit would have minimal impact on the rent that's charged. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier doesn't seem to at least review it and I'd like to ask the Premier one more time, will he and his Cabinet review this and to the point where how much benefit is this government actually getting by doing that, by taxing our low and middle income people and single parents. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I don't know if the Member is asking us to go back to the old rental scale that was in place, but as a government we're always prepared to review our policies to make sure that they're working the way they're supposed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 168-17(3):
HOME BOARDING FOR STUDENTS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have raised the issue and problems with home boarding of students in Inuvik several times in this House. Students from Tsiigehtchic and Sachs Harbour have nowhere else to go to complete their high school studies, but all too often home boarding does not work out and the students drop out of

school entirely. What is the Minister doing to secure a residence where students can stay during the months they have to study in Inuvik?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is an area that we closely monitor with the regional school board, and that would be the Beaufort-Delta. My department, Education, Culture and Employment, has informed me that there are approximately 20 students home boarding in Inuvik, including eight students from Sachs Harbour, 10 students from Tsiigehtchic and two from Fort McPherson. All students are in place except for the two that we're still working on to place them in the community of Inuvik. So that is closely monitored by the superintendent and also the school board on those placements and the teachers are working closely with the students. So that's an area that we continue to work with the school boards at this time. Mahsi.

MR. BLAKE: One of the reasons home boarding doesn't always work out well is that the students just don't fit in where they are assigned to stay. How are families chosen to board students from Tsiigehtchic, Sachs Harbour and now Fort McPherson, and how are they screened to ensure they are the appropriate choices? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The school board that we work closely with, especially the superintendent and the parents, to identify the students and where they should be staying and identifying the home boarding, the place of residence. Most especially the teachers have been closely monitoring where the students are staying. Eighty percent of the students we're home boarding completed in the school year as well. There is a mechanism for teachers to closely monitor where the students are staying, if their homework and attendance are accurate, and continuously monitoring that.

When it comes to the students that are home boarding in Inuvik, there is a process in place where the school board would have to be informed by the parents and vice versa, and work together with our department, as well, so we can work closely with the Inuvik school as well. That's part of the process that we continue to work with within our system.

MR. BLAKE: Will the Minister be open to a proposal from either the Gwich'in Tribal Council or the Inuvialuit Development Corporation to offer home boarding for the students from the smaller communities?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I believe we are open to proposals that may be before us when it comes to opportunities to deal with these students.

We're more than willing to work with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, if that's the case. I will be meeting with the board chairs, as well, in December, to talk about the complexities of the home boarding and other educational factors that are before us, such as early childhood and other ASA and Aboriginal Languages Strategy. That is the discussion that we will be having. This will be part of the discussion that will be put on the table in the December meeting as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe I heard a yes there. I have no further questions at this time.

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

QUESTION 169-17(3):
STATUS OF ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my statement and ask some questions of the Minister of Justice, who also happens to be the Minister responsible for the social issues committee of Cabinet.

The Premier spoke a bit in his statement earlier about the actions of the government in relation to development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy and I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the social issues committee if he would provide a bit further information, an update for us as to just what work the Anti-Poverty Strategy group has done, kind of where we're at.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've mentioned previously, we have a steering committee in place which consists of government and non-government NGOs and individuals who have lived in poverty. There is also a working group, which the Member has mentioned herself, which has pulled together and done two roundtables where they've had an opportunity to bring different information to the table. They all come with their own perspectives and program areas. They've had an opportunity to discuss the different program areas and set some priorities for an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Northwest Territories.

Originally we had indicated that we wanted to have an Anti-Poverty Strategy in place by Christmas of this year. However, based on comments from Members, based on a suggestion and a request from the working group and the steering committee, Cabinet has agreed to extend that deadline. We have extended the deadline to March 31, 2013.

As the Member has indicated, we want an Anti-Poverty Strategy that is right for the people of the Northwest Territories. It's not just a government strategy, it's a strategy for the people, for governments, all governments, NGOs and industry. We want to get it right. We have extended the deadline.

MS. BISARO: I'd like to thank the Minister for that update and elaborate a bit on what the Premier had said earlier. I know that both the steering committee and the larger group at the roundtables have been working very hard and I know that they have been working on preparing a draft strategy, some kind of a document. I'd like to know from the Minister when this draft document might be available and at that time, when it is available, will it be given to Members and the general public for comments.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We had hoped that we would have something prior to Christmas for the Members to look at, but we are in negotiation with the working group right now, trying to discuss when exactly we might be able to get something to committee and to the public. As soon as I know that, and I will have conversations with the lead department on that, I will get that information to the Member. We hope to have something early or something draft-like for the Members to see prior to Christmas.

MS. BISARO: A draft-like, that's an interesting term. I appreciate it. I think that's a commitment to have a document out there that Members and the public can actually have some input on.

Can the Minister at this point give us any indication of what kind of consultation with the public will be done once this draft or draft-like document is available?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I strive to come up with new and creative terms. We will have the draft available. It will be shared with committee. We've also committed to taking this draft out to community governments, Aboriginal governments, sharing it with the NGOs, sharing with individuals who are actively engaged in trying to address poverty in the Northwest Territories. We will take that out in that way and have everybody give us some feedback before we finalize this NWT document.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to see you didn't cheat me of my last question. To the Minister, I'd like to ask, I appreciate the commitment that we're going to, I think, have broad consultation on the document once it's out there. I'd like to know if the Minister has any idea how long it will take, once the document is finalized, to start implementation.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I've indicated, this isn't a GNWT document exclusively. This is a

document for Aboriginal governments, community governments, Government of the Northwest Territories, federal governments, NGOs and industry. It will have recommendations that every organization and government can help to set their priorities for combating poverty. When we get the document finalized, it will come to the House for more discussion and hopefully we'll see some of the activities begin to roll out through the business planning process. I couldn't say when any individual activity will take place because, quite frankly, I don't know what those individual activities will be.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

QUESTION 170-17(3):
FINANCE COSTS RELATED TO
NUNAVUT DEBT

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of money costs money. What I mean by that is that whenever we have to finance a dollar, it costs the GNWT a lot of money.

Back in Committee of the Whole last session we were doing an extensive review of some of the expenses and supplementary estimates. We came across what I thought was a fairly alarming finding, and that was the money owed to this government from one of our sister territories, the Nunavut government. Upon requesting a review, later on we did get some information from the Minister and my question would be for the Minister of Finance. Because of costs, as I said, money does cost us money. Can the Minister indicate, in terms of a rolling average and maybe breaking it down, how much money was owed to this government from the Nunavut government back in June of this calendar year?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we last discussed this issue there was about \$2.93 million that was owing to us. That number has been now whittled down to \$2.39 million.

MR. DOLYNNY: That is quite an alarming number. Anybody who has a mortgage, who owes money, knows that \$2.9 million being financed does have a cost to it. That cost is borne by you and I. It's borne by the taxpayers. At the end of the day, it affects programs and dollars we don't have. We don't have the ability to finance large sums of money like that at any given time. More alarming than that number is the fact that there's a substantial amount of money that is debt owed to us from a long period of time. Can the Minister indicate, out of that number, how much is owed to us that is over six months old?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The information that I have is that currently there's only \$2,000 owing that's over 90 days.

MR. DOLYNNY: This is a substantial improvement from the last time we asked this question. I'll ask my third question: What was the amount owed to us back in June of this calendar year when this was brought up in the House?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The number provided to the Member in June was \$2.93 million. The number I just gave to him now has been whittled down to \$2.39 million.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should reiterate my question a bit better here, I guess. That was the amount in June that was owed to us that was over six months old; not the total amount but what was six months or older in June of this calendar year. When this issue is brought forward in terms of high debts of finance cost to this government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. No question but I'll give it. Moving on. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 171-17(3):
DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked yet again about the concern of the lack of a treatment centre here in the Northwest Territories. I'm committed behind this problem in such a way that it doesn't have to happen here in Yellowknife; it can happen anywhere that it can be properly resourced to treat people who have problems. Yes, as the Member for Yellowknife, it would be nice if it was here, but I care about the problem more than where it shows up. That's what's truly important. I'll make a deal with the Minister of Health today. I'll stop nagging about this issue if he'll start doing something about this issue.

My challenge to the Minister of Health is this: What is he willing to do in a practical and effective form to help treat hard drug addictions here in the Northwest Territories so we stop sending people out to places like Ontario, Alberta, or even Vancouver?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although it may appear that the drug issue is a huge issue in Yellowknife, we want to identify exactly how huge the issue is. One of the first things that we are doing is to put together groups of individuals that will be looking at the addictions

across the territory, including Yellowknife. So we have a group of people that we've selected that will look at the addictions issues in Yellowknife. That's the first step.

MR. HAWKINS: That's certainly good news. I'm glad to hear that it sounds like we're making headway on this particular file. This particular group that the Minister is able to form, which I have to admit this is public news now for everyone, is he able to describe what mandate this particular group has? Do they have the power to make the suggestion and provide a direction to the Minister of Health to build a treatment centre in the Northwest Territories?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: No. The only people that have the power to determine capital infrastructure is this House.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm talking about a particular mandate that this group would be empowered with. If they decide that the treatment problem is significant enough, as I've been saying for nine years, that people have said over the last six weeks during the municipal elections, people said over four weeks of the last territorial election, that half the population of the Northwest Territories is expecting some type of response on this particular issue. If they say a treatment centre is needed, what is the Minister of Health and Social Services willing to do?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I guess, first off, a Caucus priority was to look at a treatment centre, looking at existing infrastructure. Where the actual treatment centre, if that is the direction that the various forums across the Territories come up with and that is the best direction they feel that it's going to be to have a treatment centre located somewhere in the Northwest Territories in addition to Nats'ejee K'eh, then we will move in that direction.

Right now we're serious. We've employed these 14 individuals who will go across the territory, and they will come to us with recommendations. If a recommendation is to have an actual treatment facility, a physical treatment facility in one location or another, indications were that they were looking for, initially, just discussions in the communities have been looking for a treatment centre near into the Beaufort-Delta area and something in Yellowknife. That was something that we are hearing often. We want to have these people take a closer look at it. It's not going to add that much time to it. We're expecting these guys to come back with a report by the end of this fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. A final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to know a little more about this various group of people and when they're expected to deliver a decision. I couldn't quite hear the Minister's last

comment on his response, although I was listening very carefully. Is he expecting them to provide him a report that he can table here in the Legislative Assembly by the end of this particular year, and if that's not the case, when will be the case that we'll expect a report to be tabled with those types of recommendations, and who is this particular group that he can inform the public?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I think there are a few questions there. What we're doing is we're bringing these individuals together. We've appointed an overall chair of the groups. We have one group that is going to do the Beaufort-Delta. We have another group that is going to do the Sahtu and Tlicho communities. We have another group that's going to do Deh Cho and South Slave, and we have another group that's going to do Hay River and Yellowknife. They're going to get together and they're going to determine what the best action would be to go out into the communities to gather information. At the end of all of their travel, they will get back together again in another location and sit down and determine the best course of action to address the addictions issues. I have no problem whatsoever with tabling the report in the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 172-17(3): CURRENT EMPLOYMENT RATES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I gave kind of an overview in terms of where the Deh Cho riding is in terms of the status of where things are at in the community.

My question today is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. We all know that one indicator of economic prosperity is just jobs. I want to ask the Minister if he could provide an update to this House in terms of the current employment and unemployment rates. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the employment across the Northwest Territories, it does fluctuate in the communities, but we do provide programs into our communities such as the Small Community Employment Program and the others, the Labour Market Agreement and the Labour Market Development Agreement as well. We work with the community organizations to deliver those successful programs and we will continue to do so.

I will provide the Members with the stats of the current status of the labour market in the community, how we can address those areas and what kinds of programs are being delivered.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for giving us another general update in terms of where things are at in terms of employment and unemployment rates.

My follow-up question to that is: What action is the Department of Education, Culture and Employment taking to address and taking measures to reduce unemployment in the communities?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I did touch on some of the programs that we are currently delivering. We work closely with the regional career development officers, and although we may not have them in all communities, those communities that are without it, we do contact through the regional representatives and they deliver various programs at the community level. I will provide the breakdown of various programs that are being delivered at the community level, whether it be the Deh Cho riding, as well, and then the current activities that are happening, whether it be the training that's currently being delivered in the community.

I remember there was heavy equipment, I believe, delivered in Hay River and other places as well. We also work closely with the college to deliver specific training programs into the communities. I will be providing that detailed information to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the support mechanisms that we have in place for people that are unemployed is income support. I want to ask the Minister if he could provide, to this House, reassurances to the people that rely on income support, that the government will remain committed and steadfast to ensure that those services remain as is and that they will be available for people that are, unfortunately, unemployed and looking for opportunities.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I would like to thank the Member for that specific question, because it is an important one. With respect to the income security framework, there are productive choices as well. But at the same time, we realize those individuals are looking for employment opportunities. At the same time, we provide those labour market agreements. A labour market agreement is reflecting on those individuals that don't qualify for EI, so we provide training programs to those individuals.

Yes, I agree with the Member that we need to continue to provide those subsidies, the training programs that are productive choices, and also the Labour Market Agreement to the communities. And also...(inaudible)...community initiative as well. We will continue to provide those services to the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

QUESTION 173-17(3):
FINANCE COSTS RELATED TO
NUNAVUT DEBT

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you letting me get back into the queue here regarding the questions on what I was talking about and the cost of borrowing money, or basically being one who is owed money in accounts receivable.

In my last question I was trying to ask the Minister of Finance was the fact what is the amount of money owed to us, which was a rolling average at that time back in June of this year from the Government of Nunavut, over 180 days.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, with his extensive financial background, we go 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days. What the information I have tells me is that at this point we only have about \$2,000 owing that's older than 90 days, that everything else is less than that, which means we've brought the numbers down and they are being paid in a much more timely way, less than 90 days.

I would also offer to the Member, if it would allow us to have a more informed discussion collectively here, that we could provide a detailed aged listing of all the accounts currently.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate the Minister's offering. In fact, we've already had the offer within the backrooms of our offices. I'm trying to get this information out into the public, and the only way I can do that is when I'm asking forthright questions, and I'm asking the Minister to be forthright back.

I understand what the amount is today. But I think it's because we've brought some light onto the subject a couple months ago and now we're getting current, and I can't say that number out loud, because that number's not public yet, and that's a hard thing for me to ask. I'm asking the question what that amount was less than a few months ago, in terms of what the rolling average was.

As the Minister indicated, this was close to about \$3 million. We are financing \$3 million on a rolling average and that has a cost to it. All I'm trying to do is to show savings in design in how we can set up this account with the Government of Nunavut so that we're more current, on a more current basis and not to overly extend the so-called 180 days that appear consistently through the program.

Again, Mr. Speaker, my question is: What was the amount in June of this year owed to the Government of the Northwest Territories from the Government of Nunavut at over 180 days?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I appreciate the Member's sharp concern and clear eye on the

public finances. I would point out that over time, given my time in this House, there was a time when that number was well over \$8 million, and some of it seemed to be uncollectable. Now we're talking about \$2.93 million down to \$2.39 million from June to currently, and most of it less than 90 days.

I don't have that specific number that the Member asked me. I gave him the large number, the quantum number of \$2.93 million as of June down to \$2.39 million. I would have to commit to get the Member that other specific number that he has requested. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, it is fairly obvious that that number doesn't want to be surfaced here today. I will leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. I have no further questions.

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

QUESTION 174-17(3):
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR
MRSA INFECTIONS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue with my questioning on this superbug infection rate that arises in the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what is he doing with his other Ministers to work on this in a comprehensive manner, Housing, MACA, Health, Education. What is the Minister doing to put together comprehensive information, preventative measures to deal with this situation? Mostly infants are affected. What is the Minister doing with his other colleagues to deal with this dangerous, infectious superbug?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's environmental health officers are visiting communities that are at most risk and working with local staff from those communities on how to address the issue. We haven't done work with the other departments specifically on this as we try to address the issue of overcrowding or trying to address the issue of municipal services, if that is a factor at this time. We have not done that work. We are doing our work with the local health authorities and local health centres to see if we can address that issue in that way. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The problem of Alberta attracts the community acquired MRSA disease, is this department tracking the community acquired... I know the Minister talked about the monitoring, but is he tracking it?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: By knowing where the incidents are and monitoring this infection, we are in a sense, I guess, tracking. That is what is happening. We also are projecting to see if we can

predict what is happening and try to do some prevention work. We are continuing to examine the patterns and the causes of this infection through the NWT, by monitoring the cases that are being reported. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, it is a pretty deadly disease here. It takes the young children, the infants. It can cause some serious infection in internal organs and up to the flesh eating disease. People have died from it.

In regard to the territory having only two oral antibiotics that work against the MRSA and doctors don't want to over-prescribe them and allow the bacteria to build up resistance, why is that? What are we doing to prevent this over-prescription of antibiotics?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, drug-resistant infections cost a tremendous amount to the health care system. I think that these are clinical decisions made by doctors and that is their decision, is to not over-prescribe a certain drug into the system due to the fact that the virus or infection may be able to build up an immunity to that drug, then that is something that the department will follow. These decisions are clinical and then we try to take the advice of clinicians. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Given the situation that we are in the Northwest Territories and the limit of resources we have to combat this superbug, would the Minister consider, with all the colleagues, to look at radical change in housing situations? It is like putting a bandage type of solution on, because the root of the issue and the root cause... What is the root cause of this superbug?

One of the contributing factors is overcrowding in homes and children. Is it something that we really need to take a hard look at the housing in our communities and look at the overcrowding? Can the Minister commit that he will have this discussion with the Cabinet on looking at the overcrowding in our small communities?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, we can take a look at the patterns of where the infections are occurring and correlate them to whether or not they are caused by overcrowding.

Overcrowding is probably the number one factor to the spread of this infection. I can talk to not only the Minister of the Housing Corporation but also other Cabinet colleagues on this issue to try to address that as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 3-17(3): DIRECT APPOINTMENTS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Hawkins to the Premier on May 30, 2012, regarding direct appointments. Mr. Hawkins asked for a list of all direct appointments made by the Cabinet of the 17th Assembly, noting the employing departments and the reasons for filling the positions through direct appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise this House that the Cabinet of the 17th Assembly has recommended 57 individual direct appointments from the beginning of the term to date of the Member's question.

Sixteen of these direct appointments concerned term appointments to positions in the Ministers' offices which will expire shortly after the next general election. Fifteen of these appointments were, in effect, reappointments of individuals who had worked in term positions in the Assembly building during the 16th. More recently, a term direct appointment was made to fill a vacancy left following an executive secretary's decision to relocate to another province.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House are familiar with one-year internship placements for northern post-secondary graduates. As of May 30th, 13 individual grads have been direct appointed to one-year term positions under this program. This includes one intern position in the Executive, one in Environment and Natural Resources, two in Health and Social Services, four in Human Resources, two in Industry, Tourism and investment, two in Transportation and one at the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Six deputy minister level positions were filled at the beginning of this Assembly, three of which involved the reassignments of portfolios and three of which involved the appointment of individuals who had not previously held deputy minister portfolios. Three of the direct appointments concerned the reassignment of deputy ministers' secretaries.

The remaining 19 recommended direct appointments concerned four positions in Education, Culture and Employment, six positions in Environment and Natural Resources, one position in Executive, two positions in Finance, one position in Human Resources, two positions in Health and Social Services, and three positions in Industry, Tourism and Investment. The 19 direct appointments were recommended so as to:

- support the career development of an affirmative action candidate from outside the public service where an open competition would

not be an appropriate way of filling the positions (six cases);

- support the advancement of an existing employee who has successfully completed a formal training/preparatory assignment directly related to the position (six cases);
- retain specialized and unique experience within the public service while supporting the career development of long-term employees who have demonstrated both ability and commitment to the organization (six cases, four at the associate or assistant deputy minister level); and
- secure services where recent recruitment practices for similar positions indicate that an open competition would not be an appropriate way of filling the position (one case).

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 4-17(3): WSCC HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Bromley to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission on June 4, 2012, regarding WSCC health and safety performance. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is responsible to administer the Workers' Compensation Act and the Safety Act and, as such, regularly evaluate the health and safety performance of large employers, including the GNWT, under the Safe Advantage program.

Safe Advantage is a safety incentive program, developed in response to recommendations of the government-sponsored Act Now report, calling for greater fairness and employer accountability in the areas of compensation claim costs and safety. The program provides for refunds to employers with proven safety and return to work practices and low claims cost experience. Employers with poor safety and return to work practices and poor claims cost experience are required to pay penalties.

As part of the Safe Advantage program, management practices are evaluated. Employers must complete a Management Practices Questionnaire that includes two sections: prevention and return to work. The prevention section evaluates the employer's health and safety program. The return to work section assesses how the employer reintroduces injured workers to safe and productive employment that eliminates or minimizes wage loss as soon as medically safe to do so.

An employer must achieve a verified score of 70 percent for each section of the questionnaire to pass. A failing grade on either section results in failing the questionnaire. For employers already receiving a penalty for high claims cost experience, their penalty is increased by 50 percent for failing to

implement adequate prevention and return to work programs.

Under the Workers' Compensation Act, the GNWT, as represented by the Minister responsible for the Public Service Act, is an employer. As such, the WSCC evaluates the claims cost experience and the requirements for establishing health and safety programs and committees for the GNWT as a whole. Establishing and tracking at the departmental level is an internal responsibility to the GNWT. In support of the GNWT, the WSCC has provided a breakdown of claims cost experience by department and agency.

Over the last three years, claims cost experience for the GNWT has more than doubled. Last year the costs were 60 percent above a sustainable level, based on assessments paid by the GNWT into the Workers' Protection Fund. This increase in claims cost experience has resulted in increasing Safe Advantage claims experience penalties.

In the year prior to the current Safe Advantage program year, the GNWT Management Practices Questionnaire was verified based on the Department of Human Resources office in Yellowknife. That verification resulted in the GNWT's first passing score for health and safety programs, and for that year no additional penalty was applied beyond the claims experience penalty.

To ensure GNWT health and safety programs are being fully implemented to protect all GNWT employees across the GNWT, the WSCC verified the current year questionnaire based on an alternative location. This practice of selecting a random location for verification is used for any employer with numerous operating locations. The GNWT was given four weeks' notice as to the location of the verification. The final result for the GNWT this program year was 33 percent on prevention and 90 percent on return to work. This score of less than 70 percent resulted in an additional penalty being applied.

GNWT Safe Advantage penalties have risen from zero dollars in the 2009-2010 program year to \$243,583 in 2010-2011 and \$508,625 in 2011-2012. Although the Department of Human Resources has taken significant steps in the development of health and safety programs in the last few years, current results demonstrate that there is work to be done across the GNWT to ensure the safety of all of our employees and to reduce claims cost experience.

Mr. Speaker, the WSCC's vision is to eliminate workplace diseases and injuries. They have been working with and are committed to continuing to work with the GNWT to ensure workplace safety and care for workers. The health and safety of our workers needs to be a priority of this government and it is each of our responsibility to ensure we

make this happen. Later today I will table this document.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 5-17(3): CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION COSTS

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Bromley to the Minister of Transportation on June 6, 2012, regarding climate change adaptation costs.

- a) Settlement of the Dempster Highway due to permafrost thaws;
- b) Increased road and gravel applications to South Slave highways;
- c) Costs associated with the delayed opening of the Tlicho winter road;
- d) Extra frost and ice removal at the Inuvik Airport.

It is difficult to differentiate between routine and climate change included O and M costs for individual activities such as those listed above. In a 2007 report, Climate Change and Transportation in the NWT, the impacts of climate change on all-season roads and airports as a whole were estimated at a minimum of \$1.2 million annually in direct costs to the Department of Transportation.

In addition, seasonal disruptions and shortened winter road seasons can impact the cost of living and of doing business. These indirect costs are difficult to quantify.

- e) Increased de-icing glycol use at the Yellowknife Airport and construction of increased glycol storage facilities.

The Department of Transportation has tracked glycol use for the last six years. In that time, total volumes have fluctuated from year to year. Anecdotally, usage has increased since prior to tracking and is evident from the need for larger storage facilities. Total annual glycol usage reported by air carriers is as follows:

- 109,403 litres in 2011-2012;
- 96,684 litres in 2010-11;
- 122,825 litres in 2009-10;
- 88,787 litres in 2008-09;
- 74,014 litres in 2007-08; and
- 112,919 litres in 2006-07.

The construction of the Glycol Retention and Treatment Facility cost \$210,000. The construction of the Glycol Interim Snow Storage Area Facility cost \$650,000. Much of the work, including engineering, was carried out by own forces.

- f) Development and purchase of ice spray technology for use in ferries.

The replacement cost of ice spray equipment is \$300,000 per unit. Incremental investments, made

through the strategic initiative Reducing the Cost of Living funding by the Department of Transportation since 2009 to accelerate ice crossing construction are as follows:

- Dempster Highway, \$300,000;
 - Fort Simpson region, \$150,000;
 - Tulita/Deline, \$250,000.
- g) Purchase and introduction of ice-penetrating radar to estimate ice thickness.

The department purchased four ground penetrating radar units at an average cost of \$35,000 each, including initial training.

- h) Increased highway maintenance shift costs.

Based on a forced growth submission from 2006-2007, the increased highway maintenance shift costs are \$852,000. Adapting to climate change was one of many factors for reorganizing.

- i) The climate change assessment study being prepared with the transportation system.

The Highway No. 3 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment by BGC Engineering Inc. cost \$110,000.

- j) Construction of test strips on Highway No. 3 between Yellowknife and Behchoko.

The four test sections on Highway No. 3 between Yellowknife and Behchoko to be constructed this summer are estimated to cost \$1.5 million.

- k) Development of a protocol for assessing the vulnerability of airports.

The development of the protocol for assessing the vulnerability of airports to permafrost degradation as a result of climate change cost \$6,500.

- l) Preparation of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

The provision of the Department of Transportation Climate Change Adaptation Plan is estimated at a cost of \$230,000.

- m) Organization and delivery of winter road adaptation workshops.

The organization and facilitation of a winter road adaptation workshop is estimated at a cost of \$50,000. The workshop will bring together practitioners, scientists and engineers to assess the vulnerability of Northwest Territories winter roads to climate change and determine the most cost-effective means of adaptation.

- n) Participation in the National Transportation Canada information networks on climate change adaptation.

The Department of Transportation expends approximately \$10,000 annually for staff to attend four network meetings of which two are held in the North.

- o) Development of a Best Practices Guide for Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Winter Roads.

The total cost of the Best Practices Guide for Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Winter Roads was \$144,000, of which the Department of Transportation contributed \$10,000. Other provincial/territorial jurisdictions contributed the balance of the cost.

- p) Development of a Best Practices Guide for the Construction of Transportation Infrastructure on Permafrost.

The total cost of the Best Practices Guide for the Construction of Transportation Infrastructure on Permafrost was \$130,000, of which the Department of Transportation contributed \$30,000. Other provincial/territorial jurisdictions contributed the balance of the cost.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 6-17(3): YELLOWKNIFE OFFICE SPACE

I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Dolynny to the Minister of Public Works and Services on June 6, 2012, regarding Yellowknife office space.

1. As of February 2012, the total inventory of Class A and B general purpose office space in the Yellowknife market was reported to be 71,349 m², or 768,000 square feet. Of this reported inventory, 465 m², or 5,000 square feet, was vacant, for a .65 percent vacancy rate.
2. As of June 2012, the reported inventory of Class A and B general purpose office space was 76,459 m², or 823,000 square feet. Of this reported inventory, 5,574 m², or 60,000 square feet, was reported vacant, for a vacancy rate of 7.29 percent.
3. Based on the current estimated rate of absorption of new general purpose office space in the Yellowknife market, the vacancy rate is projected to approach 325 m², or 3,500 square feet, close to zero percent, prior to the completion of the new GNWT office building in 2015.

Once the new Government of the Northwest Territories office building is operational, the total inventory of Class A and B general purpose office space in the Yellowknife market is estimated to be 82,459 m², or 887,583 square feet.

The vacant inventory for Class A and B general purpose office space upon completion of the new GNWT office building is estimated to be 6,325 m², or 68,083 square feet, for a vacancy rate of 7.67 percent, which is considered healthy under normal competitive market conditions.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 7-17(3):
 SENIOR MANAGEMENT
 PERFORMANCE BONUSES

I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Hawkins to the Minister of Human Resources on June 8, 2012, regarding senior management performance bonuses.

The Department of Human Resources has prepared a document entitled Performance Bonuses Paid Out in 2011-2012, which provided the number of performance bonuses paid to GNWT executive and senior managers in the 2011-2012 fiscal year by range for performance in 2010-11. The department has also reflected this information, by department, agency and corporation, in a document entitled Performance Bonuses Paid Out in 2011-12 By Department, Agency and Corporation. Due to the lengthy and detailed nature of this information, I will be tabling these documents later today at the appropriate time.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 8-17(3):
 TRANSFER OF FEDERAL POSITIONS
 WITH DEVOLUTION IMPLEMENTATION

I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya to the Premier on June 8, 2012, regarding the transfer of federal positions with devolution implementation.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is currently negotiating with the Government of Canada for the transfer of authority and control over Crown lands, resources and rights in respect of water in the Northwest Territories. The negotiations focus on transfer of authority and control of resources and, therefore, there is no predetermined number of positions involved. The Government of the Northwest Territories will determine the appropriate organization structure, utilizing the \$65,300 million in annual funding negotiated with Canada. This funding will be administered through an adjustment to the gross expenditure determined through the formula financing arrangement with Canada.

The Government of Canada will be laying off Northwest Territories staff in the programs affected by devolution. The Government of the Northwest Territories has committed to provide a reasonable job offer to all affected employees six months prior to effective date. The reasonable job offer includes a commitment to match as closely as possible the location of affected employees. The final decision on which employees are laid off will be made by Canada, likely close to the six-month deadline for the reasonable job offers.

A high-level organizational design is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2012, and a detailed organization design will be finalized for May 2013. The detailed organization design will

include recommendations on the number of positions to be established and their location. I have committed to keep the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning informed of the progress of the organization design work underway.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 9-17(3):
 SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

Finally, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Hawkins to the Minister of Finance on June 11, 2012, regarding small capital projects.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the analysis of Small Capital Projects for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Moses.

**Reports of Committees
 on the Review of Bills**

BILL 2:
 MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW
 AMENDMENT ACT, 2012

BILL 8:
 AN ACT TO AMEND THE
 SECURITIES ACT

BILL 5:
 LEGAL AID ACT

BILL 7:
 AN ACT TO AMEND THE
 JUDICATURE ACT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 2, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2012, and Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, and wish to report that Bills 2 and 8 are now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Further, the Standing Committee on Social Programs wishes to report that they are also reviewing Bill 5, Legal Aid Act, and Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, and would like to report that additional time is required to complete the review of Bills 5 and 7.

MOTION TO EXTEND 120 DAY
 REVIEW PERIOD FOR BILLS 5 AND 7,
 CARRIED

Therefore, in accordance with Rule 70(1) and (3) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I move, seconded by the

honourable Member for Range Lake, that the 120 day review period for Bill 5, Legal Aid Act, and Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be extended to November 8, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The 120 day review period has been extended to November 8, 2012, for Bills 5 and 7.

Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Abernethy.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 51-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT
1-17(3) ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2010-2011
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION AND
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF THE NWT

TABLED DOCUMENT 52-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT
2-17(3) ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2010-2011
NWT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 53-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 12-17(3),
MENTAL HEALTH COURT
DIVERSION MEASURES

TABLED DOCUMENT 54-17(3):
ANNUAL REPORT: ACTIVITIES OF THE
RENTAL OFFICE
APRIL 1, 2011, TO MARCH 31, 2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 55-17(3):
PERFORMANCE BONUSES PAID OUT
IN 2011-12 (FOR 2010-11)

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following four documents, entitled GNWT Response to Committee Report 1-17(3), Review of the NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2010-2011 Annual Report; the GNWT Response to Committee Report 2-17(3), Review of Human Rights Commission 2010-2011 Annual Report; GNWT Response to Motion 12-17(3), Mental Health Court Diversion Measures; and Annual Report: Activities of the Rental Office for 2011-12. Finally, further to my Return to Written Question 7-17(3), I wish to table the following document, entitled Performance Bonuses Paid Out in 2011-12. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Lafferty.

TABLED DOCUMENT 56-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT
3-17(3) ON THE REVIEW OF THE
2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER

TABLED DOCUMENT 57-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 5-17(3),
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

TABLED DOCUMENT 58-17(3):
GNWT SAFE ADVANTAGE CLAIMS COST
EXPERIENCE AND PENALTIES

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled GNWT Response to Committee Report 3-17(3), Review of Languages Commissioner's 2010-2011 Annual Report, and GNWT Response to Motion 5-17(3), Early Childhood Development. Finally, further to my Return to Written Question 4-17(3), I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT Safer Advantage Claims Cost Experience and Penalties. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 59-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 2-17(2),
OLD AGE SECURITY

TABLED DOCUMENT 60-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 3-17(3),
INCREASED SUPPORT FOR
RENEWABLE ENERGY

TABLED DOCUMENT 61-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 9-17(3),
ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT
OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE

TABLED DOCUMENT 62-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT
4-17(3), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF
STATUS REPORT OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following four documents, entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 2-17(2), Old Age Security; Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 3-17(3), Increased Support for Renewable Energy; Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 9-17(3), Establishment of Independent Ombudsman's Office; Government of the Northwest Territories Response to CR 4-17(3), Report on the Review of the Status Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 63-17(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 4-17(2),
IMPROVING DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 4-17(2), Improving Drug and Alcohol Programs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Miltenberger.

TABLED DOCUMENT 64-17(3):
NWT CAPITAL ESTIMATES 2013-2014

TABLED DOCUMENT 65-17(3):
DEPARTMENT SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled NWT Capital Estimates 2013-2014, and further to my Return to Written Question 9-17(3), I wish to table the following document entitled Department Small Capital Projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Tabled document 64-17(3) is moved into Committee of the Whole. Mr. Clerk.

TABLED DOCUMENT 66-17(3):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 1-17(3),
RENTS CHARGED TO SENIORS
LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a response to a petition provided by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, in response to a petition tabled by Mr. Norman Yakeleya on June 13, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Hawkins.

TABLED DOCUMENT 67-17(3):
MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT –
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
APPEALS TRIBUNAL

TABLED DOCUMENT 68-17(3):
RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION 68-17(3),
STAND-ALONE CAMPUS FOR AURORA
COLLEGE CAMPUS IN YELLOWKNIFE

TABLED DOCUMENT 69-17(3):
NWT HANSARD – MAY 31, 2012
PAGES 770-771 – ORAL QUESTION 68-17(3),
STAND-ALONE CAMPUS FOR AURORA
COLLEGE CAMPUS IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three things I would like to table. The first document I would like to table is a Members' Code of Conduct with the WSCC Workers' Appeals Tribunal. This is in response to a particular question I raised in the House in May, where research found no conflict of interest policy at the time, but that has been since corrected. I would like to thank Mr. Colin Baile for his assistance and appreciating this particular problem at this time.

The second item I would like to table and the third item are related, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter to me from Minister Jackson Lafferty regarding Question 68-17(3), stand-alone campus.

The third item is compendium page 770 and page 771. It's the exchange over my concern over the stand-alone campus at Yellowknife Aurora College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 64-17(3), NWT Capital Estimates 2013-2014, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Good afternoon, colleagues. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. One document that's in Committee of the Whole today is Tabled Document 64-17(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Madam Chair, I move that we report progress.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 64-17(3) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have a seconder to the motion? Mrs. Bisaro.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, October 18, 2012, 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. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 64-17(3), NWT Capital Estimates 2013-2014
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 18, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

