



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**5<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 33**

**17<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, June 2, 2014**

Pages 4545 – 4588

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

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**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

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*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Hon. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe)

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*Minister of Transportation*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

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**Mr. Frederick Blake**

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**Mr. Robert Bouchard**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**

(Weledeh)

**Mr. Daryl Dolynny**

(Range Lake)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**

(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**

(Yellowknife Centre)

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*Employment*

*Minister responsible for the Workers'*

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*Community Affairs*

*Minister of Lands*

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*NWT Housing Corporation*

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(Thebacha)

*Government House Leader*

*Minister of Finance*

*Minister of Environment and Natural*

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*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Hon. David Ramsay**

(Kam Lake)

*Minister of Justice*

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, June 2, 2014****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 72-17(5):  
NWT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGY  
AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, with increased legislative and regulatory authorities, the Government of the Northwest Territories is positioning itself to take a more proactive and direct approach to expanding the territorial economy and to providing long-term and lasting economic growth and opportunities for the people of the NWT.

Last year this government released the Economic Opportunities Strategy and the Mineral Development Strategy. We could not have completed these strategies without our partners in industry, business and community associations, and the federal government. I want to acknowledge the valuable input we received through our engagement with local and Aboriginal governments as well as residents and business owners from across the NWT. I also want to thank the members of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure for your input and guidance on both of these strategies.

Mr. Speaker, we are aiming to release the implementation plans for both the Economic Opportunities Strategy the Mineral Development Strategy by June 30.

The Economic Opportunities Strategy Implementation Plan will map out the priorities, approaches and resources that the GNWT will be undertaking to address the 117 recommended actions outlined in the strategy, led by Industry, Tourism and Investment. It is focused on four key areas: supporting the territory's small business community; growing a stable and attractive entrepreneurial environment; pursuing major

investment projects; and attracting, retaining and preparing residents to be active participants in the prosperous and sustainable new economic environment that we are building.

The Mineral Development Strategy Implementation Plan will provide a blueprint to achieve specific goals outlined in the strategy. These include growing a sustainable mining sector, encouraging responsible mineral development and exploration, improving geoscience information and research, enhancing Aboriginal capacity and creating a Mining Incentive Program.

We will continue to collaborate with our partners who helped to develop these strategies, and work together to promote the Northwest Territories as a place to invest, work and live.

Mr. Speaker, a key element of devolution was that this government and this Assembly would gain the tools to shape and direct the economy of this territory for the long term. Capitalizing on our full potential takes the kind of strategic thought and planning reflected in these strategies and implementation plans. I look forward to working with Members to advance both of these strategies and ultimately to achieve our vision of a prosperous territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 73-17(5):  
OUR ELDERS: OUR COMMUNITIES**

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, every day, seniors across the NWT make important contributions to their families, their friends and their communities.

We don't always give them the credit they deserve, but recognizing June as Seniors Month in the Northwest Territories and June 15<sup>th</sup> as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is one way to show our appreciation to NWT seniors.

Today we are wearing purple boutonnieres to raise awareness about elder abuse and its many forms, financial, emotional and physical. I would like to welcome and recognize members of the NWT Seniors' Society and the Yellowknife Seniors' Society present in the gallery today.

Seniors and elders are important keepers of traditions and culture. They are a valued source of wisdom and guidance and are role models and mentors for younger generations.

Elders and seniors should be given the best care possible, and our government is committed to meeting their health care and social needs. Partnerships with seniors' groups help to ensure seniors receive the support they need.

Mr. Speaker, seniors are the fastest growing population in the NWT. In the past decade the seniors demographic has grown at a rate of more than 5 percent per year.

A goal of the Department of Health and Social Services is to enhance the continuum of care to ensure seniors remain independent and in their own homes and their own communities for as long as possible. We know that providing home and community care services for seniors reduces the demand for long-term and acute care and helps seniors maintain their quality of life. We all benefit when our elders are able to remain active and independent members of community life.

The GNWT already offers a range of programs and services that help seniors live independently, including home care, seniors housing, and the Extended Health Benefits Program for seniors. Home support is already available in every NWT community, and home nursing is available in communities with nursing staff. The department is also working with the NWT Housing Corporation to address independent housing needs in NWT communities.

However, Mr. Speaker, we know that as this segment of the population grows, we will need to change the way we offer services. After an extensive review of continuing care services in the NWT which helped identify needs, best practices and system gaps, we have developed a strategic framework which outlines the broad principles that will guide how we design and deliver programs and services in the future. The framework document *Our Elders: Our Communities* outlines seven priorities for healthy and active aging. These priorities include:

- ensuring that we continue to deliver home and community care services that meet the needs of elders and communities;
- making sure that services are integrated and coordinated;
- recognizing that we need to support caregivers;
- working with our communities to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of their elders and seniors;
- providing accessible and current information to seniors and their families; and

- continuing to explore and implement sustainable best practices.

Encouraging healthy and active aging promotes independent living and allows elders to contribute their knowledge and wisdom within their community. This benefits everyone.

This approach also supports a sustainable health system by increasing community supports, which reduces the need for acute care services and long-term care beds, and it helps to achieve our vision of ensuring the best health, best care and a better future for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling the document *Our Elders: Our Communities*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 74-17(5): UPDATE ON WATER MANAGEMENT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, making sure our children inherit a healthy environment that supports traditional lifestyles in a modern economy through the wise use and protection of our natural resources is one of the main goals of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

As you are aware, as of April 1, 2014, ENR took over responsibility for managing water resources in the Mackenzie Valley and inland waters in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region through the administration of the Waters Act and Regulations.

This new legislation gives the Government of the Northwest Territories the authority to make sure water is used in a sustainable manner and is protected and conserved for future generations.

With Rivers to Oceans Day coming up the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>, it is timely to provide Members with an update on water management in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the principles and vision of the Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy continue to guide our actions post-devolution and ensure conservation of this valuable resource. We continue to build awareness of water stewardship among youth, with activities planned with Grade 3 students on Rivers to Oceans Day.

We are fulfilling our enhanced responsibility for water resource management, guided by the goals of the Water Stewardship Strategy. Through monitoring and assessment, research partnerships and advisory roles, the spirit and intent of the strategy is followed and applied.

There are many important programs and activities we carry out with our increased water management responsibilities. For example, in the fall of 2014 we

will finalize a new Canada-NWT Memorandum of Agreement on Hydrometric Monitoring for the NWT, for continued baseline monitoring of water quantity at key sites across the territory.

We continue to regularly sample water quality in major transboundary rivers as well as through a network of special interest sites.

We are working with NWT communities and other partners to build upon, and support, the NWT-wide Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring Program in the Mackenzie River Basin to help answer community questions about water. Monitoring results have been shared with involved communities and other water partners through regional meetings, workshops and the 2014 water calendar.

A booklet outlining monitoring results for 2012 is now available. Results for 2013 will be communicated in upcoming months.

In late October 2013, following the Obed Mountain Coal Mine spill near Hinton, Alberta, ENR worked with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to quickly mobilize and get water sampling equipment in place to address residents' concerns about downstream waters in the NWT. ENR provided sampling equipment and gave ongoing updates about the spill to the public. Spring sampling is now underway and results of the monitoring will be released later this spring.

I am happy to report we expect there will be little or no impact on NWT waters.

ENR recently supported the Town of Hay River's emergency measures office during breakup of the Hay River by producing daily breakup reports for the director of protective services and testing an ice jam flood risk model developed by the University of Alberta.

The ENR network of climate monitoring and snow survey sites across the NWT provides valuable information to a broad range of clients and researchers.

Mr. Speaker, we will be relying on the continued support and involvement of Aboriginal governments and other partners as we build capacity and undertake northern-focused research with a greater emphasis on the biological aspect of water monitoring.

ENR continues to support NWT communities in developing source water protection plans. ENR developed a community source water protection guidance document that has been distributed to NWT communities and water partners.

Collaborative partnerships are being established between ENR, other GNWT departments, Aboriginal groups, environmental non-government organizations, community representatives, federal

government departments and academic institutions in efforts to establish community-based monitoring initiatives related to source water protection.

Significant progress has been made on negotiations of bilateral water management agreements with Alberta and British Columbia. An intentions document is being developed for each to serve as a basis for the NWT to negotiate final bilateral agreements. Aboriginal consultation and public engagement regarding negotiations of these agreements are ongoing. We continue to pursue transboundary water management agreements with Saskatchewan and the Yukon.

Along with the regulatory responsibilities of reviewing water licence applications, providing technical advice to NWT regulatory boards and inspecting and enforcing water licences, ENR is now responsible for approving Type A water licences. Since April 1, we have approved two amended Type A water licences, CanTung and Con Mine, in a thorough and timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, ENR is stepping up and successfully meeting the challenges of our new water management responsibilities post-devolution.

We remain committed to our vision of keeping the water of the NWT clean, abundant and productive for all time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 75-17(5): HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATIONS

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to inform you that Cabinet has agreed to begin developing regulations under the NWT Oil and Gas Operations Act that will set out filing requirements for projects involving hydraulic fracturing.

The Northwest Territories has significant natural resource potential that could help create prosperity, jobs and economic opportunities for Northerners and the whole country. Devolution has given the Government of the Northwest Territories new powers to manage resource development. We are committed to using those new powers to ensure that the development of Northwest Territories petroleum resources proceeds in a responsible, sustainable way that creates prosperity for our residents, while protecting the environment and human health and safety.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the GNWT mirrored the federal legislation that was in place prior to April 1, 2014. Our government assumed responsibilities for an already well-developed environmental protection and regulatory system as part of devolution. It is the same system that has overseen the development of diamond mining and

other projects in the Northwest Territories. That system already allows hydraulic fracturing under guidelines established by the National Energy Board prior to devolution.

Our strategy was to devolve and then evolve. Developing a made-in-the-North regulatory system that promotes responsible, sustainable management of our natural resources and protection of the land and environment is an ongoing process. That work is aimed at refining the current system to better reflect northern priorities and values. Developing regulations for hydraulic fracturing filing requirements is part of that process.

This is an important issue and we are putting together a plan for how we will proceed. We will not develop regulations without consulting Members, the public, Aboriginal governments, industry, NGOs and other stakeholders. Any regulations we do develop will be based on current science, recognized best practices and will consider all the views presented during consultations.

The GNWT has been working on this issue since early 2012 and has already undertaken research into environmental best practices used by industry and regulators in other jurisdictions. Standing committee has been involved in this process and I want to recognize their contributions. We will benefit from the significant work that the GNWT has already done and will also draw heavily from the good work that the National Energy Board had done in developing its hydraulic fracturing filing requirements. This will be an opportunity to strengthen those requirements and ensure they align with northern priorities and values.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to remember that decision-making around resource development, including hydraulic fracturing, is shared among several Ministers at both the federal and territorial level and boards established under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. Proponents must also have a land use permit and a water licence, issued by regulators other than the regulator for oil and gas operations. These decisions are guided by an established legislative and policy framework that includes the MVRMA, territorial legislation, the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, Sustainable Development Policy, Water Strategy, Economic Opportunities Strategy and commitments under settled claims.

New hydraulic fracturing regulations would complement the integrated, already well-developed environmental protection and regulatory systems in the Northwest Territories. They would apply to any hydraulic fracturing projects in the NWT, in both the Mackenzie Valley, regulated by the NWT oil and gas regulator, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, regulated by the National Energy Board. New regulations would provide clarity to decision-

makers, industry and the public around filing requirements, ensuring proponents understood NWT expectations before they prepared their applications.

Mr. Speaker, the Canol shale holds an estimated two to three billion barrels of oil which, if developed, would create prosperity for the residents of the Sahtu and provide for royalties to the GNWT that could support investment in NWT priorities. We are all aware of the proposed hydraulic fracturing activities in the Canol shale and the often heated and polarized debate around the use of hydraulic fracturing as a technique to extract petroleum from certain kinds of rock formations.

Our government is committed to protecting the health of our people and environment and creating prosperity for our residents by responsibly and sustainably developing our natural resource potential. We will continue to work with the people of the NWT, industry, the Sahtu, Aboriginal governments and Members to identify and adopt best practices on hydraulic fracturing that will allow us to balance our commitment to protecting the environment with efforts to create prosperity for NWT residents. We will provide more details on how we will proceed with the development of regulations and the timelines for consultation in late June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HAY RIVER ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR POSITION

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a little story I want to tell today and it ends with a question. What are we supposed to tell them?

For many, many years, Hay River has had an electrical inspector who works under the Department of Public Works and Services. Most of you will know that that was Stanley Norn. Stanley Norn recently retired, and congratulations to him on his retirement.

Now, the job was out for competition and candidates applied. This is a position that we have to fight to keep in Hay River. If a candidate who applies for the job lives in a different community, they can't then just say, can you move that position to my community so I can stay home and do the job?

Mr. Speaker, we not only have to fight for decentralization to get new positions into our communities but it looks like we have to fight to keep the ones we've already got and have had for



many, many years. It's not just a political decision. It comes down to issues like where are the majority of the electrical permit applications made? Where are the majority of electrical contractors? Where is the majority of the work that this electrical inspector would be doing? Where is it located? If it's located in Hay River, the job has to be kept in Hay River.

So, Mr. Bouchard and I have both received communication from several electrical contractors in Hay River who are extremely concerned that they will not have ready access to an electrical inspector to process their applications when they need to pull a permit to do work in Hay River.

So, in response to that, we need to get some answers on what's happening here. If we can apply for government jobs in a different location and then say can you just move the job to where I live, then I think everybody in Hay River should apply for a job with the government in Yellowknife, and when they are the successful candidate, they can just ask the staff, can we just stay in Hay River and do that job that's actually a job in Yellowknife?

I think that we owe these folks in Hay River some answers. I don't know if decisions have been made, but I had to bring it up here publicly today. We have not named any name of the candidates or potential candidates or where they live, but it's a pressing issue for us as MLAs for Hay River.

Later today I will have a question for the Minister of Public Works and Services: What do we tell our concerned citizens about the position of the electrical inspector for Hay River? Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL  
SCUBA/MARINE BIOLOGY CLASS 2013-2014

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we witnessed earlier today in the Great Hall with the education presentations, we have many great teachers throughout the Northwest Territories. There are those in our education system that are here to teach and those who serve to inspire their students to great heights.

Keeping on this theme, I'd like to dedicate my Member's statement today to a group of inspiring Yellowknife teachers at St. Pat's High School for going above and beyond what is expected as an educator.

Of course, I'm referring to the special St. Pat's Scuba/Marine Biology 2013-2014 Club Administration Team comprising of Mr. Brent Simmons who is a PADI rescue diver, Mr. Todd Stewart, who is a PADI advanced open water diver and the driving force behind the program, Ms.

Michelle Thoms, the main course and scuba instructor.

The St. Pat's Scuba/Marine Biology Class is a club that was started in 2000. During the past eight years, the club has taken five trips to British Columbia and as of this past May, three trips to Cozumel, Mexico.

The club's main objective is to educate youth about marine environment, using safe and environmentally friendly techniques, the completion of a scuba certification and collection of data from a marine biology project.

Students receive credits for the marine biology course, learn First Aid and CPR and graduate with a PADI diver certification, which is also a high school credit course.

The students worked very hard at fundraising leading up to this trip and must maintain school-based academic and attendance requirements. Like any adventurous activity, there are always potential risks; however, I can assure you that these teachers supervised all the training, all PADI guidelines and provided a safe diving experience for their students.

I have great faith in our education system, knowing that we have teachers like Mr. Simmons, Mr. Stewart and Ms. Thoms going that extra mile to inspire our youth in lifelong learning.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, join me in appreciation for their efforts. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
DECENTRALIZATION STRATEGY

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss an issue that I've brought up in the House before. It's a priority of the Assembly to do decentralization, to put jobs out in the regions from a priority of this Assembly when we started. Now I'm going to be questioning Cabinet and the Premier today about how and the timing of this.

Mr. Speaker, you well know that this session is very short before we go into the summer break, but then when we come back in September we'll be looking at business plans of departments of how these departments are going to be run and operate over the next year. In that planning session I would hope to see some of the discussion on how we're decentralizing some of the activities that these departments are doing.

The question that I have today, and I've asked in this House before, is there must be a big plan. I've heard, and it has been indicated by some of the Ministers, that there is a plan, we kind of have an idea, you may get this, you may get some other

positions, but we've never ever seen a plan here on this side of this is how it's going to be laid out.

We've talked about devolution and the positions there, and we were held up by the federal government on some of the work that can be done. We have plans out there from the department side of we're going to build these types of houses in this type of locations. The thing is, have we incorporated those construction plans along with a plan to decentralize the government?

I will have questions later for the Premier of the Northwest Territories on decentralization and when is the big plan coming out to the general public and to this side of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COST OF HOME HEATING FUEL

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The cost of fuel is hurting homeowners in small communities across the NWT. Seniors and those on a fixed income are especially vulnerable to increased fuel prices.

Since 1999, heating oil and propane prices have increased over 200 percent in many places. Last week Petro Canada rack rates in Hay River price diesel and furnace fuel oil at \$1.01 per litre. Global demand and prices for fossil fuels continue to rise.

Government needs to look at ways to standardize fuel prices like other provinces have done. We could establish rates for private, commercial and industry customers, first in areas served by the petroleum products division and then consider ways to broaden support to the whole NWT.

We know that our years of subsidizing energy prices are dwindling. Fuel prices are among the greatest cost to individuals, communities, corporate taxpayers and the environment. We need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Not only is it draining our bank accounts, it costs the planet and people more than we can afford.

Consider the changes to our culture alone due to dependence on fuel. Fossil fuel production threatens water supplies and air quality. It compromises cultural traditions and alters our relationship to the natural world.

Advances in technology have generally made our lives easier and longer, but we also rely less on each other. People feel like they have to spend all their time working to have money and things. For the most part, modern lifestyles depend on machines and the ability to travel long distance in a short time. That isn't all bad, but we need to remember we're in a balance with nature.

We're making some positive changes in promoting biomass heating systems in homes and public buildings. We need to make sure private

homeowners and eligible public housing tenants can take full advantage of more stable prices of biomass energy. The government has launched a Solar Energy Strategy, and the Diavik Mine is powering some of its own operations with wind.

We need to help Northerners manage the price of fuel while working on longer term solutions to reduce our reliance on expensive energy. I look forward to more discussion on energy solutions for the NWT over the next few days.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING ISSUES IN PAULATUK

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, housing conditions in remote communities matter to all Members of this House regardless of what constituency you represent. I want to talk about some of the public housing conditions in Paulatuk here today.

I've been reading some of the condition ratings provided in detail by the Housing Corporation, and I am quite concerned, and I think we need to discuss them today. Now, if you have visited or perhaps been in contact with any of the families there recently, you would hear one point of view, and of course, if you have asked for information such as I have, the Housing Corporation would have provided a briefing note which says one thing, which is a different view, and furthermore, they provided stats to back that up which, oddly enough, is something else.

Take, for example, that the Housing Corporation says that there are five units that fall under the condition rating of liveable. But, you know, when you go through their stats, they don't actually line up. When you ask them how many units are available for families out there, they'll tell you that there are three under one condition and two under another, and that adds up to five. But if you talk to people in the community, there are actually nine units sitting there unavailable for people to live in. It causes people to wonder, or at least it causes me to wonder: who is doing some of these condition ratings, who is counting houses, how do you lose houses, what is their ability to do condition ratings, do they actually have competencies to do these types of things, and how do we allow this to happen?

Frankly, in talking to the people in the community, they feel that these conditions that they're living under are bleak without any hope. I hear stories that the houses there are fraught with mould, the inspections are not being done, the repair and maintenance is non-existent, and as everybody knows, most certainly people like yourself, when it costs \$7 or more a pound to fly up anything, if you

shipped up one sheet of drywall, which could weigh 40 pounds, you're paying \$280 just to get that one sheet of drywall to Paulatuk, for goodness sakes. The question is: Do we have the money and are we doing what we should be obliged to, to help the people there?

I have a lengthy Member's statement, and I don't know where to begin. There is just so much to say about the mould there and the conditions people are living under, the fact is, are we being fair and honest with the folks there? Clearly, there is a significant need there, and I would definitely say that the responsibility of our government needs to listen clearly to this point. When we own 75 percent of the housing in Paulatuk, 60 out of 80 units, it doesn't leave you a lot of options on where to go, so people learned that they cannot complain or they'll be shunned. That has to end. We need something done.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH – MAY 2014

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May was Speech and Hearing Month, and many of us take our ability to communicate for granted, but the ability to speak, hear and be heard is far more vital to our everyday lives than most of us realize. One in six Canadians has a speech, language or hearing problem.

Each year Speech-Language and Audiology Canada dedicates the month of May to raising public awareness about communication disorders. This year in the month of May, speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel joined forces to highlight the importance of early detection and intervention in the treatment of communication disorders. Whether working with a child with autism, an adult with impaired hearing or an elderly person recovering from a stroke, their goal is this: to help people speak well, hear well, live well.

We have many chronic health conditions in the North, and hearing loss is one of them. Canada wide, hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic condition behind arthritis and hypertension, and half of all cases of hearing loss are preventable.

Hearing loss is one of the most common major conditions that is present at birth. Approximately three to five babies per 1,000 born each year have some degree of hearing loss. It's a condition that affects a child's understanding and use of language, and it's one that can be easily screened for in newborns. It's a condition that can affect a child's cognitive, social, emotional, academic and communication development, and the sooner the

hearing problem is detected the better the chances for improvement and future success of the child.

That said, historically, hospitals only screen high-risk babies for hearing loss, but studies show that nearly half of all babies with hearing loss have no high-risk factors, so they don't get screened. All newborns should be screened. Early identification allows for earlier intervention, which can enhance a hearing-impaired child's development. An accurate and objective hearing screening test on a newborn can be completed in less than five minutes. The typical quoted cost is about \$35. On the flipside, every case of unidentified hearing loss has been estimated to cost taxpayers \$1 million.

We do have a hearing screening program in the NWT for newborns.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to my colleagues. Our hearing screening program is sponsored by the Stanton Territorial Health Authority and the Department of Health and Social Services, and it's delivered at every birthing centre in the NWT. However, it is a voluntary service for parents.

All children in the NWT deserve access to proper hearing screening to help them reach their full potential. Newborn and infant hearing screening programs must be mandated for all NWT newborns, no matter where they are born. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON VISION HEALTH MONTH 2014

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, sometimes we do face challenges with a lack of resources to provide certain programs and services in the Northwest Territories. As a result, we often have to partner up with organizations from the South, and a particular organization is the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Although it's June, I'd like to take time to reflect that the month of May was, and is, Vision Health Month, and actually the Senate of Canada officially declared May as Vision Health Month.

As the primary provider of vision rehabilitation programs and services to Northwest Territories residents with vision loss, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind Alberta and Northwest Territories Division knows first-hand the importance of vision health.

At this time I would like Members and residents of the Northwest Territories to consider some of the following facts about vision health and vision loss. Seventy-five percent of vision loss is avoidable

through prevention or treatment. Many serious eye conditions have no symptoms and can only be detected through a comprehensive eye exam. Even someone with 20/20 vision may be at risk, and those working with vision loss face additional health risks such as clinical depression, increased risk of falls and increased admittance rates into nursing homes.

In the Northwest Territories there are more than 1,000 residents living with vision loss. This number is expected to grow exponentially with an aging population. As you heard earlier today, the seniors demographic has been growing at a rate of more than 5 percent a year, as the Minister of Health alluded to a little earlier today.

The first step towards avoiding vision loss is to visit a vision health professional to receive a comprehensive eye exam. For more information, members of the public, health professionals, Members of the Legislative Assembly can actually find more information by visiting the CNIB website, cnib.ca.

At this time I would like to thank Mr. John J. McDonald, the executive director and regional vice-president of the CNIB Alberta/Northwest Territories Division for contacting all Members of the Legislative Assembly to recognize the important work that they are doing for residents of the Northwest Territories in bringing this important matter to the table for all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear increasing concerns from parents, teachers and education professionals regarding ECE's plan to implement a free kindergarten curriculum that many feel is inappropriate for the NWT. The curriculum, apparently a blend of kindergarten, pre-kindergarten and early grades, not only lacks benefits for four-year-olds, it may even be harmful to some aspects of child development.

The fact that our smaller communities recognize that go slow approach is required, means that we have some opportunity to get it right before irreversible damage is done. We must get professional early childhood educators in place from Junior Kindergarten suitably and ensure the development of appropriate northern JK curriculum.

Fortunately, a substantial body of work is available, a made-in-the-North program developed over the past 17 years by the Aboriginal Head Start program. For example, Aboriginal Head Start staff found that the conventional early development indicator currently in use by ECE is not appropriate

for Aboriginal students in our small northern communities. Through intensive focus and expert consultations, AHS derived an alternative assessment through which they enabled steady improvements in program performance. It is well documented and included in their rigorous evaluation reports and has been ignored by ECE in ECE's blind rush to implement their latest edict. No attempt has been made to use the wealth of northern and Aboriginal knowledge that the AHS Council has put at the government's disposal.

All available studies point out that in order to be effective, early childhood education programs must be of the highest quality and delivered by qualified child development professionals to be successful. Hybrid programs don't work and are, in fact, harmful. Four-year-old children have much different needs than five and six-year-olds. People who are qualified to deliver early childhood education programs have completely different qualifications from kindergarten and early grade teachers. To ask staff to work with children that they are not qualified to teach is unfair to both the staff and the children.

Success hangs in the balance. To date, the Minister has refused to meet with AHS leaders and his staff have ignored their input. Will the Minister commit to integrating the experience and knowledge available through the Aboriginal Head Start program experience, and will he guarantee qualified professional early childhood educators to deliver an appropriately northern pre-kindergarten, not hybrid, program for every JK group?

I will have questions for the Minister. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over 100 years ago, Aboriginal children in Canada were sent to Indian residential schools funded by the federal government and run by Christian churches. Children were stripped of their language and cultural identity. Many were abused and neglected. Traditional practices that once bonded families together were damaged.

Canada's attempt to wipe out the Aboriginal cultures failed, yet we're still reeling from the effects. There's an urgent need for reconciliation for the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. May 26<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Reconciliation and Healing declared by our government, so it's a good time to talk about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, or the TRC as it's commonly known.

The TRC emerged out of a \$5 billion settlement in 2007 between the federal government, Canadian churches and the Aboriginal people. Through the TRC independent assessment process, nearly

40,000 claims have been made. Over four million government and church documents have been collected. The testimony and the evidence has been described as devastating, incredible, beyond belief and out of this world.

In March 2014 I was fortunate enough to attend the TRC national event in Edmonton. Thousands of survivors, including myself, gave witness statements. Dozens of church representatives were also on hand to offer personal apologies.

During the event, the Alberta Aboriginal Relations Minister announced that K to 12 curriculum will include contents on the history of the residential schools.

In a similar move, the mayor of Edmonton unveiled plans to educate all city municipal workers. Edmonton has one of the largest urban populations in the country. The goal is to provide services in a more sensitive and compassionate manner

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has shed light on the shameful past as part of our past. It has accomplished a great deal. Now we need to keep the momentum going. One way to do this is to recognize how the legacy of residential schools affects Aboriginal families today. Thousands of NWT residents are dealing with this legacy. It is called intergenerational trauma. This trauma is one of the root causes of child maltreatment. It also contributes to alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence and poverty.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. YAKELEYA:** In fact, in a recent report in the House, the Auditor General said that child and family services are failing Aboriginal families in the Northwest Territories, so the government has a major task ahead to change the welfare system.

During oral questions I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LIARD FERRY SERVICE SCHEDULE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Summer has begun and the ferries across the NWT are starting their engines. At a constituency meeting in Fort Simpson last fall, the people in my riding raised the possibility of running the daily ferry at the Liard crossing from 7 a.m. until midnight. It currently runs from 8 a.m. until midnight, and people are often in a rush to attend business in Hay River or Yellowknife or make other travel connections. This spring I had initial discussions with the Department of Transportation to propose operating the ferry between the hours of

7 a.m. and 11 p.m. They suggested there would be no added cost, but to constituents there is a lost benefit if we travel to Hay River for an early appointment but still have to rush to make it back for an 11 p.m. closing.

I recently took it upon myself to survey the community on this issue. The majority of the people I spoke with prefer a 7 a.m. start. There were several that wanted a 6 a.m. start, but the consensus among residents and businesses is to keep the ferry open until midnight and not close an hour earlier. I support serious consideration of a 7 a.m. until 12 a.m. operating hours. Over the last two years I have seen increased demand for the ferry services, especially at the earlier hour.

The potential operation of the Prairie Creek Mine will bring more travel between Fort Simpson and other regional centres. The government is also trying to promote tourism and road travel throughout the Northwest Territories. These economic reasons alone support extending ferry operations by just one hour. Residents of Fort Liard will also benefit when travelling down Highway No. 7. They can arrive in Fort Simpson sooner and/or business travellers can depart down Highway No. 7 by 7 a.m.

I am sure Members of this House are familiar with the frustration road travellers experience and sometimes bring to MLAs when they miss the ferry crossing and have to sleep in their vehicles, or their travel plans are upset by inconvenient operating hours.

We can improve things by running the ferry on a more convenient timetable, and also extending the Lafferty ferry service by one hour is a reasonable request. It's a small thing that can make a big difference.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address Junior Kindergarten that the Minister has approved for our school in the fall.

The Minister has approved this with no further funding and lack of adequate space for the new program. How does the Minister expect to have our teachers instruct the students and teach them in a learning environment with no money, no space and no plan? Our communities throughout the North have commented in-depth regarding the Junior Kindergarten Program. We need an extra \$40,000 to \$50,000 to help implement the program, similar to the communities that have taken on the pilot project this past year. We need to have the proper

resources to carry out Junior Kindergarten, but we need funding in order to help that happen.

Education is high on our priority list. One of our goals for this Assembly is healthy, educated people free from poverty. Our priority states: ensure a fair and sustainable health care system by investing in prevention, education and awareness and early childhood development. How can we, as a government, make these priorities happen without adequate funding? Our children need us to be their voice. Yes, we want them in school. Yes, we want them to learn. The most important time for these children to learn is in the early stages of their lives. I urge the Minister to please give us the funds and help us to implement Junior Kindergarten in our schools.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF  
MICHAEL EUGENE BRIDGMAN  
OF LUTSELK'E

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

Today I would like to pay tribute to the late Michael Eugene Bridgman of Lutselk'e, who passed away on March 31, 2014. Mike was the husband of Debra Bridgman and had two daughters, Chantyle and Sarah, who lived down south in Ontario. Mike had six grandchildren, a brother named Randy and two stepsons, Michael and Paul.

Mike was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, July 6, 1951, and spent the majority of his working years working for the Ford Motor Company where he was a welder and in assembly, and he spent 30 years doing that.

Mike believed in education. Towards the end of his career he got a degree in psychology and then applied for a job, when his wife became a teacher in Lutselk'e, as an adult educator and was an adult educator from 2010 until his passing last March.

Mike was a very dedicated person to the community. Debra was transferred to the Beaufort-Delta and had many conversations with Mike, asking him if he was interested in finding work in adult education in the Beaufort-Delta, and he was. He wanted to join his wife, but at the same time he was torn because he loved Lutselk'e.

Mike had joined the Rangers there, and he was very well liked and a popular individual in Lutselk'e. The community misses him, and last Friday they held a memorial, which the majority of the community showed up for.

Mike loved Lutselk'e. He was always out on the land, and because of his background in mechanics and welding and so on, he taught a lot of technical

skills to even adult students in Lutselk'e. Recently, when the Department of Education built a new adult learning centre he was very excited. He was the first teacher to be in there and he'd indicated that really helped a lot of his students.

Again, Mike will be very sadly missed by his family and the community of Lutselk'e. Everyone that had encountered Mike always thought he was a great guy. Thank you.

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

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

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

I'd just like to recognize and also welcome Education Hall of Fame inductees that are here with us for 2014. They are as follows: first, from the Beaufort-Delta Region, Lorna Storr. Lorna Storr is with us today. Welcome.

From the Deh Cho region, Martina Norwegian.

From the North Slave region, Liz Baile.

From the Sahtu region, George Cleary.

Not with us here today, but Celine Marlowe is another one from the South Slave region.

Also here with us as Minister's Choice Award is Valerie Carter. Mahsi and welcome. Congratulations.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a few people in the gallery today from the NWT Seniors' Society and the Yellowknife Seniors' Society: Dawn Lacey, Barb Bromley, Esther Braden, Yvonne Quick, Martha MacLellan and Kim Doyle.

I'd also like to recognize and congratulate all of the inductees into the Education Hall of Fame. In particular I'd like to recognize Val Neville Carter. Everybody in their life has somebody who's had a positive impact on their life, and if they hadn't known that person, they might not be where they are today. For me one of those individuals is Val Neville Carter, who was my Grade 5 teacher. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything that she's done for the people of the Northwest Territories and for me as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to welcome everybody who is in the gallery with us today. I also wanted to recognize two Pages

that I have working in the Assembly from the constituency of Kam Lake. I have a Ms. Sahara Lafferty and also Ms. Hayly Soares that are with us. They both attend Ecole St. Joseph School, also located in Kam Lake. They are in Grade 8 and I would like to welcome them and also thank all the Pages for the good, hard work they put in for Members during our session. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Premier McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome all the visitors in the gallery and Gordon Graydon, who walks with me occasionally in the fieldhouse. I also want to recognize a Page from Yellowknife South, Chris Sangris, and also thank all the Pages for all the good work they do here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. R.C. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Lorna Storr, a well-deserved induction into the Education Hall of Fame. I've had the opportunity to know and work with Lorna for a number of years. I don't think she has missed an Arctic Winter Games since they've started in 1970. I look forward to seeing her at many more.

I also want to congratulate the other recipients for being inducted into the Hall of Fame. It's very important that we recognize the contribution that our educators make across the Territories. Judy also sends her congratulations. She asked where your clipboard was. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Lorna Storr from Aklavik, one of the longest serving teachers in the Mackenzie Delta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to extend my congratulations to the winners of the Education Hall of Fame awards today. Congratulations to every one of them. I also can't see them, but I want to mention the seniors who are here with us today. I am wearing my purple jacket specifically to raise awareness of elder abuse. I do have three Frame Lake residents I want to single out amongst the crowds up there, so to speak: Kim Doyle, Yvonne Quick and Gordon Graydon. Welcome, everyone, to the Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to recognize the Hall of Fame inductees who were honoured today. I want to recognize Mr.

George Cleary from the original workplace of ice hockey in Canada.

---Laughter

Also, Mr. Cleary being one of the architects of the Sahtu Dene-Metis Land Claim negotiations along with my cousin and his wife, Doreen. And also the other inductees, thank you very much for your hard contribution to education for the people of the North.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to, as we begin Seniors Month, recognize the NWT and Yellowknife seniors, in particular a couple of Weledeh residents, starting with my mother, Barb Bromley; Barb Hood, president of the NWT Seniors; and I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing all the inductees of the Education Hall of Fame today. I listened to their comments and their commendations, astounding dedication and service on behalf of the people, especially the wee people of the Northwest Territories, which I know the seniors will appreciate too.

Could I just mention Val Carter? It was great to see her – I haven't seen her for a long time – and her number one teaching assistant, of course, John Carter. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Martina Norwegian to the gallery and congratulations on your induction into the Education Hall of Fame. Hopefully, you will see the test run of the Lafferty ferry this summer. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been given a long list of seniors to recognize, so I will go through them quite quickly and I will even re-recognize a few. We'll make sure we get them all. I've got Barb Hood, NWT Seniors; Kim Doyle, YK Seniors; Yvonne Quick and Carol Robinson; Mrs. Esther Braden; Dawn Lacey; Martha McLellan; Barb Bromley; Patricia Jasper; and, finally, I would like to make special mention to Mrs. Marlowe and Mrs. Carter for their educational contributions. I would also like to recognize George and Doreen Cleary, who I know. The first thing Lorna Storr said to me this afternoon was she is still scarred from the jiggling contest I did with her in Tuk a few years ago. Martina Norwegian from Fort Simpson and Liz Baile, who's not only a friend but a constituent and a neighbour in Yellowknife Centre. Congratulations to one and all. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would like to welcome all our elders here today. It's

always good to see Mrs. Bromley in the House. Come watch your boy, Mrs. Bromley.

---Laughter

I would really like to congratulate all our hall of famers for teaching. You have done so much for the Northwest Territories. Thank you so much for the contributions you've made for our youth. They are so precious with regard to their learning. Keep up what you're doing. Keep up the good work.

Lorna Storr, congratulations. You are one of the best coaches. I took a lot of her coaching style, which is a winning style, of course.

---Laughter

Thank you so much for what you've done for everybody in the Beaufort-Delta. You are still going to be coaching. You're not going to get away from us.

I'd also like to welcome into the House today, I was happy to have Kaydence Storr, the granddaughter of my uncle, Vince Steen. If you could stand up. Let's welcome her into the House.

I'd like to welcome everybody here today. Thank you for taking an interest in the proceedings here today in the House.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Mr. Yakeleya.

### Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 8-17(5):  
2014 EDUCATION HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT -  
MR. GEORGE CLEARY

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge Mr. George Cleary, originally from Deline. Today George received a 2014 Education Hall of Fame Award.

George began his career as an educator in his early years of life. Although he moved to other professions, George continues to support educating his people in leadership roles and the importance of self-reliance and self-responsibilities.

Congratulations to George and his family on this worthwhile award.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 332-17(5):  
HAY RIVER ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR  
POSITION

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today, my questions are for the Minister of Public Works and Services.

Can the Minister confirm that a recent competition was held to attract and recruit an electrical inspector for Hay River? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can confirm that that competition was held.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** As a result of that competition, can the Minister confirm for me that the position of electrical inspector with Public Works and Services will continue in Hay River as it has been for many years? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** As the Member indicated, there was a competition held. We had offered the position to an individual who was in another community. The individual had requested a desire to remain in their community. We had looked at the numbers to see if something was possible for the individual to remain in the community. Initial numbers we had looked at indicate that the position would be best to remain in Hay River. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** So, in response to the constituents who have raised a concern to us as MLAs about the availability of an electrical inspector in Hay River, and back to my question in my Member's statement about what shall we tell them, can today we tell them that the electrical inspector's position will continue to be located in Hay River? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, the position of electrical inspector will remain in Hay River.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

QUESTION 333-17(5):  
YELLOWKNIFE DAY SHELTER CLOSURE

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend marked the end of an era of the territorial Dene Ko Day Shelter located in Yellowknife. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I said territorial day shelter because that is exactly what this shelter provided: a home, a refuge and a place to feel human for over 300 homeless people from all over the territory.

Sadly, this era has come to a close with little information from the Department of Health and Social Services nor its Minister as to its return. Before I ask my questions to the Minister, I would like to take this moment to recognize the long-standing operators of the John Howard Society for their tireless efforts and, of course, to the temporary contractors of the NWT Disabilities Council that hung in there.

The debate of lack of funding for the shelter has been, for many years, a baseline of discussion in this House. Now that it is officially closed and our



downtown streets are once again facing the rigors of homelessness and poverty, we have heard absolutely nothing from the Minister on this subject.

Can the Minister indicate to the House what he is doing about this? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the winter session I think I clearly articulated that we are intending to open the shelter in September. But before we do that, we have a significant amount of work to do.

The shelter just about closed down earlier this year, and we worked really hard with Yellowknife Health and Social Services to find a provider to keep it open until May. That provider has provided us with some additional data that's going to help us figure out the best course of action for the day shelter.

A couple of things: the building that the day shelter was located in has shut down and it will be torn down, so we have to find a new location and we have to look at the model, but these are all things that I said in the winter session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is right; it was discussed in the winter session, but we don't know where to find a lot of this communication. It was just mentioned in Hansard.

Communication is key to transparency and accountability. As of this date we've heard or seen little in the way of communication since the winter session.

Can the Minister shed some light on what form of communication we can expect to see as we anticipate the reopening of the shelter? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I've been talking to the chair of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority and the CEO, and I've asked them to find a solution to the upcoming September. They are working very closely with a number of NGOs in town, trying to find alternate providers, alternative locations.

When we are closer to having a decision with respect to where that location might be and who the provider will be, we'll be advertising that information throughout Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories,. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I appreciate the Minister's response. Homelessness, poverty, mental health and addictions, all these programs require significant investment. As my grandfather always said, talk is cheap, whiskey costs money.

Can the Minister indicate to the House what level of funding his department is willing to invest to properly find a suitable operator and facilitator for the shelter once it is open? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services and Yellowknife Health and Social Services aren't in this alone. We do have a relationship with the City of Yellowknife who has, to date, contributed \$50,000 per fiscal year. On top of that \$50,000, the health and social services system here in the Northwest Territories contributes an additional \$250,000, \$175,000 from the mental health and addictions budget and \$75,000 from the anti-poverty budget. So, combined with the city, there's a \$300,000 budget to operate this facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know very well that \$300,000 isn't going to be sufficient to run this shelter, as has been proven in the past.

We have learned from our past that merely providing four walls is not in the best interest for those who use this shelter. Many MLAs have demanded that we offer rehabilitation options and hope for our homeless.

What is the Minister doing specifically to address required enhanced services and proper funding for such services as we await the opening of this new territorial day shelter?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we'll have a better idea what the costs will be and how far \$300,000 will go once we've actually completed the review. As I've said, the provider who has helped us out for the last two months – the NWT Disabilities Council – has pulled together some really good information that's going to help us inform the way we move forward and as far as what the design will look like and what types of services, if any, are provided in that facility. At that time I'd be happy to come to committee and the public with that information so everybody knows what we're talking about. But until that time, we don't know if we're going to need additional money. Plus, we're always looking to partner with other organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

#### QUESTION 334-17(5): DECENTRALIZATION STRATEGY

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, decentralization has been a priority for this Assembly. My questions today will be for the Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Is the government expecting to announce any further government decentralization anytime soon?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we've pointed out, we've taken a three-phased approach to decentralization. We've now completed phase one and phase two and started phase three. I'm pleased to say that to date we've decentralized 124 positions from Yellowknife to centres outside of the capital, and we are actively discussing other opportunities for further decentralization under phase three. Through the leadership of the Minister of Finance and the Department of Finance, our expectation is that we will be able to identify to the standing committees as we undergo the 2015-16 business planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that we'll maybe get some updates in the business planning session.

Has the Premier and his office and the Cabinet come up with this bigger plan of how this thing is going to roll out, considering the housing needs, the office space needs and how exactly these positions will be decentralized?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We always have a plan, so you can be sure of that.

As we've announced in the budget, we will be spending \$21 million over three years to build 100 houses in communities throughout the Northwest Territories. We are also spending \$783,000 for an additional 69 market rental housing units, and we've also approved in the Infrastructure Acquisition Plan for 2014-15 \$300,000 for office space acquisition.

Our Department of Human Resources has implemented a Regional Recruitment Strategy to address the high vacancy rates outside of headquarters. With the 2015-16 Business Plan, we'll be identifying which positions and how many positions will be decentralized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier has indicated that they have a plan in place and they've indicated some of the expenditures that are tied to that plan.

Is it possible for the Premier to share that plan with the general public and the Members on this side, because we haven't seen that plan yet.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As it is our normal practice to brief the standing committee on all of these plans, we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if there's a direct correlation. When I

look at the housing expenditures, is that where all the positions are going?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** It's not a quid pro quo. We will identify some of the houses to go to remote communities, but it doesn't necessarily mean we will put a decentralized position in there immediately.

As we go through the business planning process, which we'll be meeting with committees early this fall, at that time we expect that we'll be able to outline the positions that will be decentralized.

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

QUESTION 335-17(5):  
COST OF HOME HEATING FUEL

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The past previous winter, I think, was on record as the coldest winter we've experienced, and likely as the trends towards global warming continue, likely we're going to see more cold winters up here in the NWT. Of course, colder winters have an effect on people's homes in terms of their heating costs. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services.

How does this government help NWT consumers control the fuel pricing?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do this in a couple of ways. For communities that are under the petroleum products division where we are providing fuel, we only charge to the individuals the cost of the fuel plus a commission plus the transportation of the fuel. In situations where we have, in the middle of winter, a sharp increase like we had seen last February, we use the Stabilization Fund that we use to run the PPD as a division to make sure that we keep the prices stable until after the winter season, and we use up some of that Stabilization Fund in order to do that.

**MR. NADLI:** I'd like to thank the Minister for highlighting at least one measure that the government is undertaking. It's stabilizing the fuel prices.

What kinds of current measures are in place to help consumers meet the high price of fuel, and also, in the future, what measures would the government contemplate if indeed we have a higher than average cold winter up here and it, of course, affects the consumers and maintaining their fuel costs to heat their homes?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Another method that the department is using, the Department of Public Works, we are trying to become anchor tenants in a lot of the communities where it's not feasible for

individual companies to have a biomass presence. What we're trying to do as we make our units more energy efficient, we're introducing biomass in some of our buildings so that there is some volume there for an individual to be able to... A business can be created in the small community where biomass becomes feasible for them as the distributor into a community because they would have a good anchor tenant as in the Government of the Northwest Territories. This would allow to bring in, for example, the wood pellets at a reasonable cost so that they can resell those back to individuals that can convert their units from just fuel to a combination of fuel and biomass or just biomass.

**MR. NADLI:** I think it's an acknowledged fact and reality that the biggest factor, in terms of determining the vibrancy of the economy, is just the cost of infrastructure, and one of them is in terms of the fuel prices. At some point government has to step in on behalf of, of course, its citizens, and so I wanted to ask the question: What steps is the government taking to standardize fuel pricing? The Minister has outlined some complementing initiatives such as biomass as one example.

At some point will the government look at standardizing fuel prices for the NWT?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The Department of Public Works is responsible for providing fuel, heating fuel to communities where there are no other individuals that find it feasible to provide that product to the people. So in communities where our department is providing fuel, we do that and it's just at a cost basis. There is no actual increase to the charge of fuel other than just to get it into the community and provide it to the individuals. We do have some charge that's in the Stabilization Fund. That is something that I had indicated earlier that that type of stabilization fund is then used to support the communities or provide funding to the communities where the prices go up sharply, and we try to stabilize the costs with that.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is in terms of fuel and its pricing in terms of the oil and gas industry. Surely the Minister of Public Works and Services, in terms of the department monitoring the fuel prices and its fluctuations, what future trends can northern consumers expect in terms of fuel pricing as we go into the summer, the fall and the winter?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The department does buy all fuel at wholesale. We do try to look for the best wholesale price. Having said that, I am not able to answer the Member's question. I don't have the information of what our anticipated fuel costs would be going into the future.

What we do is we have the trends that we recognize that fuel goes up and down on a daily basis and then slowly inching upward, but we recognize that the wholesale purchase this year compared to the wholesale purchase last year was substantially higher this year. Therefore, there were increases of up to 19 cents, 20 cents on a litre of gasoline, fuel products and so on this year over last year.

Unfortunately, going into the future, I don't have that information with me, but I would be willing to provide that to the Member if I can get that from the organization that works on that for us.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Colleagues, before we go on today, I'd like to welcome my daughter Chelsey into the House. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 336-17(5):  
PUBLIC HOUSING ASSESSMENTS  
IN PAULATUK

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has provided me with a briefing note. The Minister has provided me with some stats. The Minister has provided me with some further information, and oddly enough, all these three pieces of information conflict with each other. I've talked to the people in the community of Paulatuk and their information conflicts with all three pieces even further.

I'd like to ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation who is doing these particular assessments on these units, what is their qualification, what are their competencies and when were the assessments of these units in Paulatuk last done to know that they're up to date, because the condition ratings given to me in these pieces of paper are not what's actually on the ground, and I would challenge him to say that they're being done by qualified, professional people who can make these proper assessments.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. R.C. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a lot of confidence in our LHO maintenance ability to do these condition ratings. We do have some training with them. The latest batch of condition ratings would have been completed as of March 31, 2014. Out of the 2,160 units across the NWT, we've got 2,146 that have been completed. They were completed as of March 31, and again, we do have a tremendous amount of confidence in our LHO maintenance staff's ability to do these condition ratings as they have been doing them for a while.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I'm glad we have confidence in these people who deliver the program, because somebody who, obviously, we have confidence in

said all the molding material was removed, area was treated, new material was installed, and by the way, that's the fall of 2014. There is conflicting information with this work done. I'm speaking to people in the community. The Housing Corporation owns 75 percent of the housing units. There is nowhere else to go. They're deplorable.

Will the Minister step this up and do an evaluation of all the housing in Paulatuk, because there are no options and nowhere to go, and people are living in unhealthy, unsanitary conditions there that need to be addressed now.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Two of our units in the community are very good, but I will commit to going in there and doing an assessment. We have people from our district office going up there all the time and working with the community, and some of the numbers may be different because the numbers that we use are the assets that we control. There may be some homeownership units that are in there that the residents might be counting amongst our units because Housing would have been responsible for building those units in the first place, but at the end of the day they're homeownership units.

I will follow up and make sure that all of the information that we have is current and up to date, and I will share it with the Member as well as the MLA for Nunakput. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Back to my very first question, I will accept that as an offer, but back to my first question. I want to find out what competencies that these people who are going to go in there and do these particular assessments. I suspect that the everyday person can spot mould, but are they aware of what type of mould it is and how dangerous it is?

We have overcrowding in that community and we have zero options. We own 60 of the 80 units in that town and there's nowhere to go, but there are nine sitting empty with nothing being done, but your information provided to me says there's only three. So we need to find out what's actually happening on the ground. What is the Minister prepared to do?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** As I said before, I'm prepared to confirm all of those numbers, any information. I'll confirm the nine units, whether some of them are homeownership units that may have been just lumped together with our own assets.

As far as the mould issue goes and the competency, again, our folks on the ground, because there are more and more issues with mould, there are many remediations, and that we try to communicate to the residents of the communities, but once we identify a unit with mould, we either try to remediate it, or in some

cases where it's not being able to be remediated, we will dispose of the unit.

Again, I will confirm all that information and make sure all of the information correlates and I will share that with the Members. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're getting somewhere on this file and I want to be very clear. Will the Minister send proper professionals with appropriate credentials to go and assess those particular units, not send some secretary in there to walk out or some administrative assistant to walk in there, count heads, count bodies, whatever the case may be to say is your unit well. I want competent professionals that can go in there, assess them properly, develop a plan with the community and show them that the housing issues matter to them. Because right now I'm getting calls that there's an oil spill in that town, people don't know what's going on, they see pads all over the ground, it's springtime. That means that fuel could be going anywhere. We need to ensure that this community is safe and taken care of. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I can assure the Member that this community is safe and is taken care of. As with every other community, there are small issues that we have to deal with from time to time. As far as the mould goes, our folks in the community are getting more educated on mould and its effects. If they see mould and they need a further opinion, we do have folks in the district offices now that have taken mould identification and remediation training. We will send them to the community as we did with another community in the Beau-Del where we heard in the community meeting that they had some issues with mould. The very next day we had one of our folks go in there that just completed the training, and I haven't heard the latest out of that yet, but we're looking forward to seeing that.

Again, I mean, I will make sure that in dealing with these issues that all those folks are qualified, and if there is some identification that they're unable to work with, then they will call in the appropriate people. We're not sending secretaries or administrative assistants into these units to do the condition ratings. All of our LHO maintenance people are qualified. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 337-17(5):  
INFANT HEARING PROGRAM

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my statement and ask some questions of the Minister for Health and Social Services about infant hearing programs in the NWT. I know we

have an Infant Hearing Program and I guess my question to the Minister is if he could explain to me so that I'm truly clear on what we have.

What is the content of our Infant Hearing Program and when was it first started in the NWT? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A universal newborn hearing screening program was introduced as part of the GNWT's Early Childhood Development Action Plan, 2001-2004. Stanton, the audiology department there has been delivering the universal newborn hearing screening program since June 2004, which is called the IHP, or the Infant Hearing Program.

This program is delivered at all birthing centres in the Northwest Territories and aims to identify infants with permanent hearing loss by the time they're three months old and provide the necessary services to support communication development by the time they're six months of age.

Since beginning the IHP, more than 3,650 newborn babies have been screened for hearing loss, and this is as of March 31, 2013. Since 2005, the IHP has tracked outcomes and produced an annual outcome indicator report.

As indicated, in addition to the IHP, children are screened for hearing impairments during routine development screening or the well-baby clinics throughout the Northwest Territories. So, currently all babies in the Northwest Territories have access to screening for hearing loss or difficulties in the Northwest Territories. All babies. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for that explanation. I guess I'm just not exactly sure, my understanding is that this is a voluntary service that parents do not have to have their kids tested at birth.

So I'd like to know from the Minister, he said that the program runs in all birthing centres, but that presumably means that if a child is born, for instance, in Alberta, they have to go to Edmonton to be born, if they're not screened there, when they come back here do we know whether or not they've been screened?

Can the Minister confirm to me or give me some assurance that every child in the NWT, any newborn child, whether they're a week old or five minutes old, are screened for hearing loss? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you. Babies born in the Northwest Territories utilize the IHP program here that we have in the Northwest Territories. As far as NWT residents that are born outside of the Northwest Territories, I can't say that they are receiving the IHP because I don't know

what programs exist in other jurisdictions. But I can say that through health clinics and health processes here in the Northwest Territories we do have well-baby clinics, and hearing loss is one of the things that's assessed for parents and babies. So if somebody is born out of the Northwest Territories and comes back and goes to a well-baby clinic, they will get the same assessment. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. Some of the information that I have indicates that we try to identify children or infants with permanent hearing loss. My concern goes to infants who have some hearing loss, because some hearing loss is going to impact kids as much as permanent hearing loss.

So to the Minister, if we have a child with some hearing loss as opposed to permanent hearing loss, do we follow up with supports and with treatment? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** There are a wide range of degrees of hearing loss that children may experience. Regardless of the hearing loss identified, rehabilitation services are provided. So hearing aid prescriptions and other types of things, fitting. There's also speech-language pathology which is available and will help individuals who have some degree of hearing loss. So there are programs available to youth, children and babies in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to the Minister. My last question goes to the staff that he was just talking about, the speech-language pathologists and the audiologists. In my time here I have learned that we have great difficulty often in filling both of those positions because they're very specialized.

So can the Minister tell me whether or not all the positions that we have identified – staff members of speech-language pathologists and/or audiologists – are those positions filled right now and where are they located? I'm presuming that most of them are centralized as opposed to being in the regions. Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** These are hard to recruit positions and I don't actually know the status today of the individual positions, which ones are vacant, which ones are not, but I'll be happy to provide that information to the Member and committee right away. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 338-17(5):  
ASSISTING SENIORS ACCESSING  
MEDICAL TRAVEL

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being that we're wearing these purple boutonnieres today to raise awareness about elder abuse, I have questions today for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I also just want to thank him for supplying this to raise that awareness today in the House.

When we send some of our senior population out for medical services, whether they go to Edmonton or come to Yellowknife, does the department or the health authorities monitor our senior population when they travel outside of the Yellowknife or from the small communities to Yellowknife? How do they monitor their clients to make sure they are making their appointments or just being in a safe environment without any harm and making sure they get to their appointments on time in a safe manner and that they are taken care of from their point of departure to arrival back to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of conversation about medical travel in the House over the last couple of months. We do support some individuals having escorts with them who can help them with all those types of things that the Member is bringing up.

If a resident of the Northwest Territories travels to Edmonton, we also have some professionals located in Edmonton, nurses who could provide some guidance and support to individuals and help them understand how to navigate. Those individuals are available to our residents if they need them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MOSES:** On that note, we also have some northern residents who live in Edmonton who provide help and assistance for northern people who go down there. I just want to thank them and take a moment for that.

Should a client, specifically seniors who might be frail, who might need assistance and in some cases don't have a medical escort, goes down to these boarding homes and should they have a slip or fall in the bathroom, does the Minister's office get updated on any kind of serious issues or incidents that happen to clients in these boarding homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We do have a contract with the facilities in locations like Edmonton who are providing housing and support to our residents who are down in Edmonton for medical appointments and/or treatment. These individuals

help get people to and from appointments and whatnot.

If there's an incident within the facility, they are bound under the contract to update the department. I don't have a direct link and conversation with those organizations, but I can be updated by the department as necessary. For the most part, the department will deal with it directly as an administrative or contractual issue.

**MR. MOSES:** The reason I asked the last question is I had a couple of constituents who did make a trip to one of our boarding homes that we offer services to and they both ended up falling and getting hurt in the same room. They ended up having to stay longer than they had to. In one case, the individual couldn't even go to his initial appointments and had to get care and treatment for a more serious issue that occurred in the boarding home. Then subsequently, I had another individual, same facility and had the same issue brought forth where they ended up having to stay and medical travel had only paid so much for them to stay in a hotel when they didn't have room at the boarding home. Then family members had to pay their own way down to help and assist. That's why I'm asking the Minister if he does get updates. I feel that in certain cases like this, when an individual goes down to a certain appointment and winds up getting hurt in a boarding home, that there be immediate contact to the Minister's office.

Can the Minister develop some protocol or policy to ensure that should something like that happen where there's a serious incident, that his office gets contacted immediately? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I am aware of the situations as the MLA has brought them to my attention. I have directed the department to work with the boarding home to put in mechanisms, so that we, as a system, can be aware of these issues that our residents are having.

The safety of our residents is paramount. We want to make sure that they are safe and that they have access to the services and are not missing the services due to injuries that may have happened in the boarding home. I have already asked the department to work with the boarding home to put in mechanisms so that we can be informed and recommend changes to ensure the safety of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know how long it takes to get policies changed in this government or even other governments. Maybe the best answer is to go to the clients themselves and develop some type of survey or follow-up questionnaire for anyone that goes on any type of medical appointment travel where they have to stay

in a boarding home. Then we can get clear, concise information from the client that can tell us how their stay was and their visit was.

Would the Minister be willing and commit to developing some type of follow-up questionnaire for clients who go to these boarding homes outside the Northwest Territories and ones that we provide here in the Northwest Territories as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Having the data would obviously help us make better decisions with respect to the safety and well-being of our residents when they are in southern facilities. I don't know the cost of a survey like this, but it's certainly a good idea and I will talk to the department to check the feasibility of doing something like that, recognizing that we are a little tight on finances right now but I like the idea of having the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 339-17(5):  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATORS AND CURRICULUM

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment following up on my Member's statement. The Aboriginal Head Start program has been providing effective early childhood education in the Northwest Territories for the past 17 years. This program has been evaluated both locally and by the federal government and has been found outstanding.

Will the Minister agree that the northern experts in early childhood development education at the Aboriginal Head Start program have much to offer in the sphere of early childhood education in the Northwest Territories moving forward? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We need to be on top of all the experts in the field of early childhood development. We've done our research. We've done our engagement with the general public and working with the early childhood educators as well. Through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum, we've reached out to all regions, the educators, grandparents, parents. So with their input, we talk about early childhood programming in the communities. Based on that, introducing Junior Kindergarten and others was their feedback and we are moving forward on wage subsidy, as well, for early childhood educators. Those are some of the areas we are moving forward with. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I take from that that the Minister does not agree that the northern experts in early

childhood education at the Aboriginal Head Start program have much to offer in the sphere of early childhood education, which I think is a travesty and a mistreatment of our public.

Many professional educators in the Northwest Territories feel that the hybrid curriculum for Junior Kindergarten proposed by ECE is inappropriate for four-year-old children. Aboriginal Head Start experts agree and are opposed to the curriculum as it now stands. This is based on the 17 years of on-the-ground experience.

Why isn't the Minister listening to northern educators, such as the experienced early childhood education experts at Aboriginal Head Start, concerning their reservations regarding its proposed curriculum?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I didn't say I didn't support those individuals who are in the field of early childhood such as the Head Start program. We do appreciate their feedback, the feedback they've given us over the years. We, as a department, although it is a federally funded program, we at the GNWT, ECE, work closely with them as well. So providing feedback from them, it was based on that that we developed curriculum. When there's a survey in the communities and also research concluded that the curriculum created is appropriate for four and five-year-olds in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, this particular curriculum took a lot of research to develop. Of course, we worked with the daycare providers, as well, so that is a continuous work in progress. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** The Minister is not listening to the Aboriginal Head Start educators. They have been trying to have their concerns related to the proposed pre-kindergarten curriculum heard by the Minister, who refuses to meet with them and his staff ignore them, but they have been unable to get a meeting with him to express those concerns.

Will the Minister, not his staff, agree to sit down with representatives from the Aboriginal Head Start program – people have been working in this area for 17 years on the ground, developing their expertise and evaluating it just as this government should be doing, but usually fails – to at least hear and discuss their concerns with what they see is a deeply flawed and potentially harmful curriculum?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, for the record, on May 14<sup>th</sup> there was an e-mail from my office to Reanna@YKDene.com. There was a request for a meeting, as Mr. Bromley alluded to, and I did commit that my department would meet. Unfortunately, at that time I wasn't available.

I did commit that my department would meet with the organization, of which they did. They provided all kinds of information to us, and we are working with that information that has been provided to us.

Next week I am travelling to the Deh Cho region. My commitment is to meet with Joyce McLeod, who is affiliated with the organization, and we're going to share the issues that are there. Based on the feedback, obviously it will be part of the process on the Junior Kindergarten. Mahsi.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, their input has been ignored. They've put in requests to meet with the Minister – this has been going on for years now, this JK idea – and somehow the Minister has not found time to meet with this group. What does that say?

ECE seems to require bachelor's degrees in NWT schools and they are now adding Junior Kindergarten where a teaching degree is not the standard. In fact, we're looking for early childhood education expertise.

Will the Minister's rule of bachelor degrees only block participation of professionals with a three-year diploma in early childhood education, which is the expertise we're looking for, in favour of those with a bachelor's degree who have little early childhood education training? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to dismiss those individuals who are in the education system at this point. There are some individuals who have 20 or 30 years of experience working with early childhood programs for all these years. I certainly do not want to shut the door on them. They should have the opportunity. That's the reason why we're providing all this training over this summer and also in the fall, so they can be prepared to roll out the Junior Kindergarten in 22 of the 29 communities that we're establishing this fall. In fact, one additional community wanted to deliver that on top of the 22, so we are moving forward. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 340-17(5):  
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS LEGACY

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I see the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a springboard for further action. There are forms of injustice still being experienced by Aboriginal people.

Does the Minister of Health and Social Services recognize the direct link between the residential school legacy and the need to offer better mental health and addictions services for our residents in the North?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had an opportunity to travel around the Northwest Territories and talk to many, many residents. I also attended the TRC hearings in Inuvik, where we had an opportunity to hear many people talk about their experiences in residential school and the trauma that has resulted.

We do have a significant number of people in the Northwest Territories who are suffering from mental health and addictions issues. To that end, we have moved forward with a Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan to help address these issues, to help residents of the Northwest Territories who have been affected by residential school and other issues throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, during my statement I mentioned the Edmonton mayor's plan to educate city workers about the history and impact of residential schools. The purpose is to deliver service in a more culturally sensitive manner to the city's Aboriginal population. I think it's a great idea.

Here at home we have incredible resources available to us: the residential curriculum produced by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. My idea is to use the curriculum in all child and family services training. Child protection workers and the supervisors should know about this history.

Can the Minister commit to examining the feasibility of this idea? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, all employees of the GNWT currently have access to our Cultural Awareness Training program offered through HR, which does include history, treaties, and a significant amount of information to help all employees understand all people of the Northwest Territories.

But I hear the Member; it's certainly an interesting point and I will explore it. I don't know if it's possible, but it is an interesting idea and I would like to follow up on it and I will follow up with the Member.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I look forward to the discussions with the Minister and Members from this side on the idea.

The mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission includes a missing child project. I'd like to know what attempts, if any, have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services to identify missing children who have died while attending residential schools in the Northwest Territories.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that it is the mandate of Health and Social Services to address that particular question. I know



that question has been asked of by the Department of Justice in the past and I don't know the status of the response, so I'm not the right person to answer that question, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister inform the House... I would like to ask him if he would talk to the Minister of Justice on this issue here, because it does have some mental and health issues associated with families in our small communities who have children who have not returned back to the communities. It has caused mental anguish, some suffering to the parents and the families. That's part of the legacy of residential school issues that we're faced with.

Can the Minister meet with the Department of Justice and see how this issue is being dealt with by the Government of the Northwest Territories?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly happy to sit down with the Minister and have that conversation, but I'd like to encourage the Member to maybe join us. It is an issue that the Member has brought forward and I think it might be better for the Member to hear it from the Minister himself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 341-17(5):

##### LAFFERTY FERRY

##### EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, in my Member's statement, I spoke about the Lafferty ferry extension of the hours beginning around 7 a.m. until midnight. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation how much work has been done in accessing this possibility. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had the regional superintendent from Transportation meet with the chief and council. They wish to meet and discuss the hours of operation of the Lafferty ferry. Also, we've looked at what hours are possible for the operation that we have and the employees we have on the ferry. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** That's great. Like I said in my Member's statement, I know we're getting support from the leadership in Fort Simpson. There are three councils: the Metis, the LKFN and the Village of Fort Simpson. But residents are also saying they like the idea of a 7 a.m. start; they really want to keep the 12 p.m. closure at midnight.

If the department really wanted to cost-save by adding an extra hour, how much of a barrier would the Minister see of extending it one more hour so that all the needs of Fort Simpson businesses and constituents can be addressed? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, with the amount of employees that we have and the hours of operation and start-up time and shutdown time, the barrier is the Canadian Labour Code. They only allow an individual doing that type of work to work a maximum of 60 hours. With the shifts, I think we're very close to that. Adding an extra hour means that individuals will be over that time allotment. That is the barrier right now, so I don't know what the alternative would be.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Just on that, I know that it's going from a 16 hour day to a 17 hour day, and the department had initial concerns about, and I think the Minister said it as well, about approaching their weekly work limits. As I brought this to constituents, as well, they're saying, well, wait a minute, in Fort Providence they were running from 6 a.m. until 12 p.m. and they didn't have those same concerns, so maybe the Minister can elaborate exactly what the concern is from going to 16 to 17 hours, recognizing that they had done 18 hours running the Merv Hardie.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I'm not familiar with how many employees that were on the Merv Hardie at Fort Providence is at this time and how they worked the hours to get all of the individuals that are working at this time into those hours and still stay within the allowable codes for the Canadian Labour Code. I would have to investigate what had occurred at that point back in the Merv Hardie so that we were able to run that. I understand that some of the difference could be the fact that the ferry had to run longer, so we made compensation by adding employees due to the volume of traffic in Fort Providence.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In just evaluating the extension of the hours, I would suggest a test run, as well, to see if it's doable from 7 a.m. until midnight. I would suggest a test run. I'm not saying that we do a full implementation of a ferry change, but if we can do a test run, we can test all these parameters and see if there is additional cost. It might be for the remainder of the summer there. Like I said, it will be a small change for a big benefit for the residents of Fort Simpson and the Nahendeh region.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I will have the department look at that possibly. I do believe that we have a certain amount of staff, like I indicated, and then we were getting close to that maximum, so if we were to do something different, I think we would have to add staff. I will have the department go back and

look at that. At this time, as I indicated, the labour code seems to be the issue, and that we had talked to the members of the Liidlii Kue First Nation and their feeling was that if we had a 16-hour window that we could slide, that they would prefer to stay with the current hours and not open at 7:00 a.m.

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

QUESTION 342-17(5):  
FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR JUNIOR  
KINDERGARTEN IMPLEMENTATION

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education in follow-up to my Member's statement.

Over the last year there have been a number of cuts to our funding for the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority due to the pupil-teacher ratio, which is changed from 8 to 1 to now 16 to 1. Now the DEA is actually basically being forced to implement the junior kindergarten.

I'd like to ask the Minister, why is he setting up junior kindergarten to fail?

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We introduced junior kindergarten through the work of the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and a lot of research has been done. This is an area that has been earmarked as a success, focusing on early childhood at age four. Based on the feedback that we received, even just as late as a week ago, out of the 29 communities we have 22 that registered to enter into the establishment of junior kindergarten in the Northwest Territories. In fact, one just came in just the other day from Aklavik. Aklavik wants to join as member 23 out of 29. It's over 70 percent that are interested and they want to move forward on this. We see a huge success in this particular area from what we've seen in other jurisdictions as well. This is junior kindergarten that we have been sharing from the elders and from the community leaders, so we will continue to move forward on that.

**MR. BLAKE:** The communities are well aware of the program and they see what promise this program has, but with 18 new students both in Aklavik and Fort McPherson, there is a big increase in the demand that that takes on.

Will the Minister make sure that he provides the funding that he gave the pilot projects this year to the schools for next fall?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We will be continuing to contribute to the school boards to establish this type of programming in the communities. As I stated in this House, I did commit

that if it's beyond 16 to 1 ratio on the teacher ratio basis, then obviously there will be a difference of a new funding formula towards those organizations and towards the school boards. These are the commitments that I have made in the House and I will continue to live up to it. It's 16 to 1, and anything beyond that we will provide additional funding to the school boards.

**MR. BLAKE:** Maybe the Minister didn't hear me. The funding that's being provided with the 16 to 1 ratio is not adequate.

Will the Minister ensure that that ratio be changed to at least 10 to 1?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When we talk about a 10 to 1, it could be upwards of \$10 million to \$20 million that we could be faced with our fiscal constraints at this point. The fiscal reality is that I don't have access to \$20 million available to me, so we have to be creative and innovative with our existing programming and our existing funding. That's what we've done. We've reached out and this is an area that we feel that we can move forward on. We're still under the PTR 16 to 1 ratio, and if it's anything beyond that, I committed in the House that there will be funding provided to those individual school board authorities.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's almost like trying to tell the Minister, oh, take over Transportation and you do it within your funding. That's basically what he's telling the school boards.

Will the Minister ensure he works with the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority and other authorities throughout the NWT to ensure they have adequate resources?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** In fact, we've been doing that since we started talking about the JK and other early childhood development areas. There has been some funding issues because of enrollment. It's not just JK. We need to focus on how we can improve the enrollment issues and challenges that we're facing within the communities. My department is committed, through the education renewal, that we need to talk about formula funding for the student enrollment in our education as part of a contribution, so this is an area that we will continue to push forward.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Hawkins.

## Reports of Standing and Special Committees

### COMMITTEE REPORT 7-16(5): REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure is pleased to provide its report on the development of the Economic Opportunities and the Mineral Development strategies and commends it to the House.

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure sees the development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development strategies as major initiatives of the 17th Legislative Assembly. The policy direction of these strategies and their implementation action plans will have significant bearing on the work of government departments and the economic success of the Northwest Territories over the next 10 to 20 years. The committee has gone to considerable length to provide meaningful input on these strategies from the beginning of the Assembly's involvement in their development process.

From the outset, the committee has expressed considerable interest as well as concern with the development of both strategies, particularly with the lack of public interest in the approach to the Mineral Development Strategy. In the spirit of upholding the principles of consensus government and promoting the constructive, collaborative public processes in the post-devolution Northwest Territories, the committee would like to highlight these concerns and make a number of recommendations.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment appointed two separate panels made up of highly qualified individuals to undertake consultation on the development of these strategies. In the case of the Economic Opportunities Strategy, the panelists were drawn from a range of backgrounds, public service experience and private business interests. Their work involved extensive public engagement and meetings that invited full public participation. Recommendations stemming from this consultation reflect the diversity of interests, resources, challenges and opportunities throughout all regions of the Northwest Territories.

The Mineral Development Stakeholder Engagement Panel was made up of individuals with extensive expertise in the mining industry and high level stakeholder engagement, but limited to informal involvement in other sectors. In Members' views, the panel lacked the public interest and policy expertise represented in the panel appointed for the development of the Economic Opportunities

Strategy. While the department solicited written feedback from the public, the panel met privately with an extensive yet select list of stakeholders.

The Minister argues that this consultation was broadly inclusive, but recommendations resulting from the panel's work appear to reflect a strong industry bias.

The committee was provided a very limited time frame in which to comment on this stage of the Mineral Development Strategy. It made an effort to counterbalance this industry-centred approach by engaging the Pembina Institute to undertake an analysis of the Mineral Development Strategy and provide comments and recommendations to the committee to enhance the public interest responsibility we have as a government. The Pembina Institute's report, "Responsible Extraction: An Analysis of the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy Panel Report" was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 31, 2013.

The committee twice asked the Minister to respond to the Pembina Institute's recommendations. The Minister refused to comment each time, stating that the recommendations were essentially addressed by the Mineral Development Strategy Stakeholder Engagement Panel, which had since been disbanded. The Minister did not make any effort to facilitate an opportunity for the former panelists to respond, nor make any evident effort to incorporate perspectives presented in the Pembina Institute report into the strategy's implementation plan that did not already align with those of the Stakeholder Engagement Panel.

The implementation plans for both strategies are based on the recommendations of their respective public engagement panels. The committee observes that each action in the Mineral Development Strategy Implementation Plan is set out in direct response to the Stakeholder Engagement Panel's recommendations, regardless of the fact that the Minister denied ownership of the recommendations when asked to respond to differing views presented by the committee.

In contrast, the implementation plan for the Economic Opportunities Strategy has embedded most of the recommended actions in the activities of Industry, Tourism and Investment and other government departments and agencies. The original public engagement panel is retained for ongoing oversight and implementation support. The committee expressed some concern with certain actions contemplated within the implementation plan, but believes that overall, the plan reflects diverse points of view, a range of priorities and strives to create an economic environment where all sectors are supported.

In spite of numerous commitments, the Minister failed to meet with the committee to discuss the implementation of both strategies. The

implementation plans were sent to the committee the day after the conclusion of the February/March 2014 session of the Legislative Assembly, when it was no longer practical to hold a fulsome discussion. The committee provided written responses to both implementation plans as soon as reasonably possible. Members acknowledge the department's timely response to the committee's comments, but are disappointed that it refused to discuss or revisit actions.

The committee believes that the very short time frame for the development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development strategies and their implementation plans placed unreasonable time constraints on Members, compromised quality work on the part of public servants, limited broad public involvement and reflects poorly on the work of government. The committee believes the public could be better served.

The Minister has committed to a review of the Mineral Development Strategy two years after implementation. The committee looks forward to this review as an opportunity to evaluate the success of certain actions and potentially broaden the scope of risks and opportunities for Northwest Territories residents in the mineral development sector.

To enhance representative and transparent processes in the work of government and this Legislature, the committee recommends that in the future, departments undertake public consultation in a thorough, transparent, meaningful public engagement process, free of perceived biases, with ample opportunity for public response and a reasonable time frame for dialogue between government departments and all Members of this House. Expertise in public interest policy should be part of the exercise.

The committee further recommends that when departments adopt third-party recommendations as the basis for public expenditure and policy direction, their responsible Ministers should be prepared to respond to feedback referred to them by committees.

The committee is still fully prepared to meet with the Minister and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment for a cooperative, productive discussion on both the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development strategies. As we enter a new chapter in the governance of the Northwest Territories, Members are keenly aware that the Legislative Assembly is at a pivotal, precedent-setting time in its history. We can choose now to forge a strong, cooperative, collaborative approach on issues that threaten to divide us, or remain forever at odds over challenges that may have united us as Northerners and assisted us in serving the public to the best of our ability.

**MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT  
7-17(5) AND MOVE INTO  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,  
CARRIED**

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the presentation of our report. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Committee Report 7-17(5), Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question is being called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 7-17(5) is received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister Abernethy.

**Tabling of Documents**

TABLED DOCUMENT 90-17(5):  
OUR ELDERS: OUR COMMUNITIES

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Our Elders: Our Communities." Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Ramsay.

TABLED DOCUMENT 91-17(5):  
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS MARKETING  
COUNCIL 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Agriculture Products Marketing Council 2013-2014 Annual Report." Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Robert C. McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 92-17(5):  
LETTERS TO MR. ROBERT HAWKINS, MLA,  
YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE, DATED  
FEBRUARY 24, 2014, AND MAY 2, 2014,  
REGARDING THE  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following letters, plus attachments, from Mr. Robert Hawkins, MLA, Yellowknife Centre, dated February 24, 2014, and

May 2, 2014, regarding the consumer affairs division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 15, notices of motion. Ms. Bisaro.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 20-17(5):  
SUPPORT OF FEDERAL BILL C-583:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on June 4, 2014, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Members of this Legislative Assembly strongly urge our federal and territorial counterparts to support Bill C-583 and urge the Parliament of Canada to schedule full committee hearings with testimony of expert witnesses, including at least one hearing in the Northwest Territories; and further, that Members of this Legislative Assembly urge the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic to support Bill C-583.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Bromley.

MOTION 21-17(5):  
PUBLIC REVIEW OF  
HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that in recognition of the clear public concern about fracking, the Government of the Northwest Territories immediately refrain from supporting any hydraulic fracturing proposals until a full and public assessment has been completed that demonstrates that the impacts of fracking and related development on the North are better understood and demonstrates that it can manage this technology in a way that ensures the integrity of our environment and communities; and further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories report back with the results of this public assessment within 12 months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 29:  
HUMAN TISSUE DONATION ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, I will

move that Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 30:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, I will move that Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 17, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

### Motions

MOTION 19-17(5):  
FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR MEDICAL  
AND NON-MEDICAL TRAVEL ESCORTS,  
DEFEATED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** WHEREAS medical and non-medical travel escorts provide a crucial service to the NWT health care system by taking care of patients who require assistance when they travel for treatment;

AND WHEREAS medical and non-medical travel escorts are predominantly volunteers from communities who must leave behind their families and employment during their absence, often for extended periods of time;

AND WHEREAS extended absences by medical and non-medical travel escorts often tax personal and family resources and create hardships;

AND WHEREAS it is now difficult to find proper travel escorts in some communities for extended stays, to the detriment of patient safety;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services' review of the Medical Travel Policy has been in progress for some time and has not yet produced results in this area;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services devise a system of compensating medical and non-medical travel escorts for their time, with the goal of implementing the system in fiscal year 2015-2016;

AND FURTHER, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Blake, for seconding the motion. I want to leave this motion to my colleagues to give their

views on. This motion deals with the compensation of people who travel as escorts financially, emotionally, socially. Travel into our small communities is quite stressful and hectic. Travelling out of our communities is also stressful, especially on medical travel.

So, I wanted to give support to people who take patients to the hospitals in this type of situation when they travel for medical treatment. From the time I've known these escorts who volunteer, family members, cousins, aunties, uncles, sometimes friends of the community, and they are volunteering their services. It's a little bit different than when you have someone who is paid and who has some leave and they can take the patient out. I'm looking at people who go to the hospital for a week, two weeks, a month, two months, an extended time. They stay at the hospital, and the people who are working, their time from employment benefits is being used up. More importantly, when we have these volunteers coming that have no jobs, they are at the whim of the government and certainly they appreciate it.

I want to leave it at that and have other Members speak on this motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to thank Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion forward.

Many of our residents who do travel down as an escort from our communities, many of these communities are faced with 35 percent unemployment rates. So, many residents don't have any part-time or full-time positions. There are many challenges, especially for long periods of time, two, three or four weeks at a time. More and more people are faced with many medical issues and they have to stay in Edmonton or other cities down south for long periods of time. As time goes on, they need toiletries and sometimes they get tired of the food in the hospital or other places. They need to have a different type of meal.

I see the challenges and I've also seen escorts and there are many challenges. Luckily, some communities can fundraise for people who are down there. This government needs to have something in place so people can access a little extra funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting in favour of this motion. It does bode a lot of questions and brings up a lot of issues we have with medical travel. Obviously, there are a lot of financial pressures with medical travel. The budgets are growing on a steady basis and this would include some more pressure to that. One of the

things I indicated on why I would support this is if it was done on a hardship basis. People would have to prove that there's a need. There has to be a hardship. I wouldn't want to see us doing this with every medical travel situation, but if families or people or escorts who require some sort of financial help, we do it on a case-by-case basis and we look at the hardship, this is something we may want to implement.

I look forward to hearing the government's reply to this motion. Yes, I will support it. The concern I have is we are dealing with hardship cases and not every medical escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you to the mover and the seconder, Mr. Yakeleya and Mr. Blake, for bringing this forward. They bring up a very important topic. This is a topic that has been brought forward not only by us but the Auditor General of Canada has said, time and time again, get your ducks in order and figure this out. So I'm glad we are talking about it today.

This is a very complex animal, Mr. Speaker. It's a pretty expensive part of our budget. As the motion we have before you, the spirit and intent is very noble and I do admire where we're going with this, but I want to talk about some of the precedent setting this could create here for our government. I think we are on a little bit of a slippery slope should we continue in this vein. Let me explain for a second.

As it is right now, we know there are reasonable expenses, out-of-pocket expenses that are covered already within the plan. Could they be more robust? Absolutely. I think we can look at enhancing some of the current out-of-pocket expenses and make them a little bit more valid and value-added. As we heard from Mr. Bouchard, hardship, as it's mentioned in one of the whereases, needs to be addressed and I think that is important. But I think we need to look at more patient-assisted travel scenarios, so that would come under that term of reference. If that's the case, I would suggest that this would have to be almost income tested to make sure that that hardship is quantifiable here.

We have to look at some other areas, too, in order to address some of the issues within this motion. We would have to talk about those areas where it says in some communities where they have a hard time finding escorts, we have to actually make our programs themselves a bit more robust, especially in places at destination points such as in Edmonton. You know, by having better bonded medical placements there that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As it is right now, we do have some dedicated nurses that are on government payroll to assist patients when they

arrive; however, as I found out through unfortunate circumstances, some of these paid employees only work Monday to Friday. We know very well that when people land, it's not only a Monday to Friday landing. You can be landing at night; you can be landing on the weekend. The Minister knows that. I know we're trying to make great strides to make that work better, but I think it's important that we address that.

The other thing, too, a lot of jurisdictions look at, is they look at these one-on-one they call it patient sky nurse. These are nurses that could be in the communities that can actually be escorted down with the patient; they stay with the patient until they're through security, and then they return back to the community. This would also address those communities that are looking for nurses. Here's an opportunity – and I hope the Minister is listening – where we could have these nurses, these sky nurses that are actually on call in communities, living and providing a duality of services.

So, really what this motion is asking is to compensate escorts for their time, which I translate, let's compensate them for their wages. I believe this is hitting a precedent that I'm very, very... I'm a bit nervous. I'll be totally honest; I'm a bit nervous with this motion.

Again, I agree with the spirit and intent. It identifies a need; it identifies something that we have to do. But given the way it's formulated, the way we're basically giving a direction to this government to take more away from a department, which we know clearly well does not have the funds and resources to do this at a large scale, we can barely keep the doors open. To ask this government to now top up wages and provide wages, I don't know, Mr. Speaker. It's precedent setting, to which I would have a hard time probably agreeing to this motion. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to echo some comments which have already been stated by my colleagues. I, as well, appreciate the intent of the motion and the rationale for bringing it forward.

I can support the recommendation that we look at this issue. I am, as well, concerned by the fact that the motion is asking that we compensate medical and non-medical travel escorts for their time. If we were to compensate any escort for the wages that they are losing, we could be in, I think, very serious financial difficulty.

One of my colleagues has mentioned that perhaps we ought to be looking at evaluating on a hardship basis or evaluating income to a certain extent, and I think that's something that has to be seriously

considered when the department looks at this issue.

I think it's not totally clear in here – it's not in the operative clause anyway – but I think this should really only apply to extended absences or extended periods of time that a patient has to be out and a patient requires an escort for that extended period of time.

We have a system right now where many patients, if they go to Edmonton, for instance, do have a place to stay where there is some support for them. Both patients and escorts are pretty well compensated in terms of their day-to-day necessities. They have accommodation; they are compensated for meals or else their meals are provided; transportation is provided. So, you know, we're really only talking about compensating people for their time, and I'm having a very difficult time believing that our programs should be doing that, that I should be compensated for my wage when I'm there as an escort.

I think one of the things that I am feeling quite good about is that the Minister has said in the last couple of days that we are definitely looking at the Medical Travel Policy, albeit it's been a long time we've been looking at it. I hope we get some definitive recommendations soon. But I am somewhat heartened by the fact that the Minister has said that he will be looking particularly at the escort policy in the very near future, and that was the issue of the RFP that I queried him on the other day.

The only other sort of issue that isn't covered here – and I guess this would be the non-medical escorts – but very often the patients require a translator when they go out. If we have someone who is unilingual and who has to be in Edmonton or Calgary or some other place outside of the NWT for a month at a time, they are going to need a translator. Perhaps we ought to have a system in place to cover translators.

Like some of my colleagues, I am considerably conflicted. There are a lot of ramifications for the theory of this recommendation. Again, I support the concept. I think perhaps I may have to abstain, but I will not vote against it. Thank you.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion was one of really good discussion and debate in terms of whether or not we want to compensate non-medical escorts.

As you already know, we go through the budget session and we see the costs that are associated with medical travel, and they are very high and that's one of the areas that we're already exhausting a lot of our financial resources on medical travel and trying to find ways that we can

mitigate that and still provide the services to residents of the Northwest Territories.

Aside from that, if you look at all the work that this government and committees have been working with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Anti-Poverty Strategy and acts that we've implemented, we're putting a lot of work on the Department of Health and Social Services and this is another one that's just going to add to the workload. In some cases, who knows if we have the adequate resources, human and financial, in the Department of Health to put another work caseload on to our already exhausted staff which do a lot of good work.

Other areas I thought why I would not support this motion are things such as how it's going to affect income assistance. We had one Member who talked about the unemployment rates in the communities, so that means we might have people on income assistance. So if they get compensated, they're going to have to record that. It's going to affect the amount of income that they get on income assistance and it might also affect what they have to pay in housing rates, their monthly housing rates that they have to claim on their monthly reports.

We do have boarding homes here in Yellowknife and in Edmonton that do provide adequate services. They provide meals and transportation for these escorts to get in there.

As Ms. Bisaro mentioned, one concern was extended periods of time. If we have medical escorts that are going to be away for, say, a week or two weeks, then maybe we should look at something in that area.

However, I looked at things that might have convinced me not to support the motion, but in recent case files, recent concerns came to my constituency office from not only Inuvik but residents of the Northwest Territories. There are some big concerns on the Medical Travel Policy. I know that we're reviewing that right now, and I think this motion is timely in that, if we are able to find something that might be adequate enough to give some type of compensation for our low-income families, maybe some of them aren't on income support and some of them are living with elders, with their families at home. They don't have the adequate finances to go down and buy the simple things, that I guess some of us might take for granted, while they are away from their home life. Some individuals might be a single sibling in the family and they'd have to take time off to escort a loved one down and, as a result, might have to take leave without pay and there's no compensation there.

The big one that has recently come into my situation was an emergency trip in terms of a family member going down. The family felt that they

needed to be there with the family member. They went down at their own costs. They even got a letter of recommendation that the client needed an escort under the medication and the surgical process that they went under, and yet even with the letter of recommendation for an escort the family still didn't get compensation and didn't get reimbursed for all the costs associated with them coming down, and even when the individual got released from the hospital, they had to pay for their own hotel and accommodations because they weren't ready to fly. Under certain circumstances like that where it does become an emergency and families in Inuvik, for example, we just decreased the northern living allowance, we have high fuel costs, and when certain things like this happen and family members who are worried for the family member's life have to go down to Edmonton because sometimes we don't have the services up here to provide those surgical procedures. Even though some of these families do get physicians to write that letter of recommendation for an escort, sometimes that just doesn't get reimbursed and they're stuck paying thousands of dollars in bills.

With that said, I'd like to see some type of program in place to address this. I will be supporting the motion even though I do understand all the hardships and all the work that the department is going through. Plus, I understand that we are going through a review, and if we can get something done before we get that review in place then I think it will be perfect timing and something that we can incorporate into this policy review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do thank all the Members that are supporting this and talking to the motion here.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today and I will be supporting the motion. I think the intent of the motion is, look, we've got an issue here. We'd like to address some of it, and for me, it's about long-term stays. It's about emergencies, and often some of the emergencies that I see are that the escorts coming here with the medical client, they're expected to be two days, but they find more health issues and they actually end up in Edmonton for weeks at a time and the escort is travelling with them ill prepared. It's often the family member, a cousin, that the only reason he's going is because he's in between work and he's got no income, and then he's in Yellowknife and/or Edmonton for weeks at a time with little or no income at all.

I certainly do see a need. I don't know if it's paying them. I don't believe it's income, but I think we have, when you're an employee for the government, you do have a little bit of incidentals that they use for travelling. I think it's something like that that's important for them, because when



they're down, they want to buy toothpaste, hair brushes, if there's enough there. It's just other personal items that they may need. For me, it's not about paying them. For me, it's about there's an issue here. We've got people that travel long ways and they're not ready for it. They don't have enough income.

As well as I think it is a timely motion because we are reviewing medical travel and perhaps there can be a new category developed and I think that's all the motion asked for, is let's devise another system. There's a gap here that's being raised by Mr. Yakeleya and Mr. Blake with their motion and I see that gap too. I see it in my work as an MLA. A lot of our medical travel, as well, is from our employees and escorts, but that's a totally different thing that I see from our elders and our people that are not a government employee that are travelling. Most often it's cousins because they're speaking the language and they're travelling with them to explain what exactly is happening and they're often stuck for weeks at a time. I see a gap there. With that, once again, I will be supporting the motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this whole issue really boils down to something very simple as saying this: We don't want to cause any further strain to this family's economic situation, and furthermore, we don't want to provide any extensive financial hardships to the person who has volunteered or, in some cases, doesn't really have a choice. They have to go as the medical escort. If you weigh and balance the great strain being a medical escort can cause – and I'm talking about the pocketbook or the financial hardship that can be created by this situation – it causes one to say, well, we don't want to find ways to discourage them for being there in a time that they need to be there. In a short version, what type of ripple effects have we caused or difficult challenges have we created for these people who have made the choice to step in? When people need to be there for their family or loved ones or their friends in a time of circumstances, we don't want to be thinking about the tough choices they need to make, which is do they have to quit their job, can they afford to go, will going for one day, two days, one week, one month, who knows what type of impact this will have on those families. If you happen to be the person who draws the short straw and has to go, do you have pay and benefits programming that will help and support you? If you're in between jobs, what kind of circumstance does that put you in?

I think where I can support this is, I'm going to, well, before I say that, where I can support this, really, ultimately it has to balance out what is reasonable, what our government can afford and what makes sense. When MLA Dolynny talks about financial

compensation, how far and where does it go, it does make sense to consider that, but by the same token, when I hear Member Yakeleya or Member Menicoche talk about this in the sense of the hardship that this creates, it causes me to be really concerned about the impact on the individual who is trying to do the right thing.

I will support a review of this. I will support an assessment of some recommendations brought forward to a committee and I want us to cost them out to understand what we are agreeing or not necessarily agreeing to. Before we make any step forward, I think the first important thing is to understand what problem are we grappling with, and I think that's a reasonable expectation. The department has all the numbers of people who have gone out on medical travel. They know how long they've gone out, and we can do a simple assessment through that. Now, I don't think that that's 10 minutes worth of work. I know that. Actually, I probably think it's an extensive amount of work to sit down and calculate this, but I think it's time we have this conversation, because this is a conversation we've been having behind closed doors since I was elected in 2003. People have stepped up and they find it really hurts them. They say, geez, I shouldn't have gone with my relative. I shouldn't have been there because I can't afford it. That's the type of conversation I think we need to have. We need to have the right information and it's timely.

I think this is a good step forward on the discussion, the conversation, and I certainly welcome the evaluation of what this really means. As such, I think it stands to say there's no problem in supporting the motion the way it's crafted, and once we have that review and evaluation and those recommendations, then we can take our next steps forward as they make sense for our financial ability, because we just can't afford everything, but let's at least know what we're talking about with that detail.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate the Members bringing this forward. I believe that, actually, for a relatively small number of people there should be some consideration for compensation here. Unfortunately, the ask as stated refers to all those who escort, and I think quite a number of Members and certainly I had reservations about it being that broad. Nevertheless, there is undoubtedly an issue here for those family members and especially the breadwinners that must take time off, as we've heard from others, for extended leave to escort and accompany family members or unilingual patients that need this particular support and, again, for a long period of time. I would mention that there are also sometimes benefits that escorts enjoy. An

opportunity to visit family members at a distant place and opportunity for shopping and so on, so there is the opportunity for some benefits, but for those that are on extended leave, those benefits start to fade.

I recognize and emphasize that the dollars for actual medical care are probably the priority, and I support all those who have concerns that we don't want significant dollars removed from providing medical care to be directed towards this, so that needs to be a consideration. I'm sure it will. We're always talking about balance here. I do not support the removal of significant health care dollars, as I mentioned, to pay for medical escorts generally, but then there are, of course, exceptions. To the extent that this motion recognizes and accommodates these concerns, I support the intent here, but as it is written, "compensating medical and non-medical escorts for their time," it is much too broad and the concerns I've noted are not captured. So, on that basis I will be abstaining. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion, Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising to support the motion in terms of the intent and spirit. I realize that there are some details that need to be worked out, but I can imagine in terms of the intent and purpose of this motion is that the primary concern is our elders. If our elders are sick then they have to be brought to Yellowknife or Edmonton. Just the thought of them being alone, being unilingual, not able to communicate in another language. They have very specific dietary needs and preferences. Of course culture is always a big impediment in terms of understanding elders, especially First Nation elders.

The other spectrum is having children that have to be brought to either Yellowknife or Edmonton for their special needs. Again, circumstances, I think that's when you have to have escorts accompanying the patients that have to go to Yellowknife or Edmonton.

The other point that I wanted to make, usually in these kind of circumstances, if someone falls ill within a family it's usually direct family members or parents that deal with matters like this. But if it's a special case and the patient has to be brought down to Edmonton, say, for cancer-related treatment, it takes a heavy toll on the family, especially if families don't have the opportunity to be on a wage economy, have a full-time job and sometimes it becomes stressful for the family, it becomes divisive in terms of who is going to accompany their grandpa or their granddaughter to Edmonton. Sometimes those decisions can't be made because people don't have the monies and they don't have the proper resources to go down there and be with their family.

Sometimes, because our relatives can't help us, there are instances where families turn to communities. In particular in Fort Providence I understand there's a compassionate fund that is there that people try to assist families, but in some instances that becomes a burden to the community organizations as well.

I think the intent of this motion is to try to support families that require it, at the same time trying to be considerate in terms of culturally appropriate care. I don't think we want a system that's very indifferent and very impersonal, a very tunnel vision system. I think we have to have a system of government that's very understanding towards systems of people that are human and have real needs. I think this motion speaks to that, so I will be supporting this motion. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the spirit and intent of the motion. It is interesting. Like Mr. Dolynny, I have some issues with the final now therefore. It talks about paying medical escorts, both medical and non-medical escorts, and it talks about paying people for their time and it sounds like paying for their time when they're perhaps going to be away accompanying someone for a long period of time.

Right now I believe what we have for people who are medical escorts is we have travel, we have per diems for food, we have per diems for accommodation, we do have a lot of financial support out there for medical escorts. This is talking about medical escorts, but what I've heard Members talking about here today is something quite different. We're talking about families, full families that want to go and support a loved one that's ill or something and that's quite different than a medical escort. So this whole discussion here, if you actually analyze it, is a little convoluted. It sounds like everybody is talking about something different. I'm being honest and the other thing we're doing is we are, even by discussing this motion and bringing it forward – with all due respect to Mr. Yakeleya – we are raising an expectation in the public that we can actually afford to do this. We're putting an expectation out there. We're saying, oh well, let's just look at it, let's just study it. We probably, you know, in the end will determine we can't afford to do it, but let's do the right thing and let's get the department to look at it. You know what, in all responsibility as legislators and all the demands that there are, we can ask the Department of Health to go and look at this, but I hope we aren't creating the expectation out there in the public that this is actually doable on the level that's been referred to here today.

Like I said, we do have monetary supports out there for medical escorts now, travel to get them there, a

place to stay, we've got boarding homes, escorts can stay with the patient in the boarding home. I'm just listing off some of the supports we already have out there.

I just want to draw one other analogy here, which kind of puts this in perspective. I know people, Northerners, long-time Northerners who have been diagnosed with cancer who work for the Government of the Northwest Territories and can't even get enough time off work. Like, their leave doesn't even...and we're talking about the escorts' monetary compensation, what about the person that's sick? What about the person in the hospital who doesn't have insurance or some kind of insurance coverage? What about their wages and what about the fact that they no longer have an income when they become ill and they're in a hospital for a short term or a long time and become incapacitated in some way? I mean the actual patient. Do you folks hear what I'm saying? The actual patient. I mean, some of the best paying jobs in the North don't have enough coverage, insurance coverage to allow those people enough time off work to even get the treatment that they need for cancer, but we're talking about compensating the person who's going as a medical escort.

These are all demands. They all need to be put into perspective and if it makes people happy for us to look at this, then let's look at that, but let's surely inventory and articulate all the supports that are there because I don't want this motion to create the illusion that we aren't doing anything for people who do require an escort, medical or otherwise. So I'll go along with this. To not go along with it would be seemingly now to be the Grinch, but I guess in time I think we all know sitting on this side of the House that are bringing forward this motion that this comes back with a big price tag on it. You're going to look at forfeiting something else in order to do this. I mean, let's be honest.

So I'll support looking at it. I hope the department can come up with something, but like I said, they need to clearly articulate what we already do for people. If we need to accompany someone and this whole other issue of compassionate travel and whole families and all that kind of stuff and let's also just look at the irony in fact that the person that's sick, that they're getting compensated for their wages. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate the concerns that are raised with respect to the Medical Travel Policy and there's no question that the Medical Travel Policy needs to be reviewed. In fact, we are currently doing that. One of the areas that we are looking at is the per diem rates that we provide to residents of the Northwest Territories who happen to be on

medical travel. But there are many different situations when an individual may be eligible for per diem and may not be eligible for per diem. For instance, if an individual goes south for an extended stay, we try to get them into one of our government-approved boarding homes where the meals and the accommodation and transportation to and from the health facilities and all those types of things are fully paid for and compensated. But if there is no space available, we do provide our residents with a per diem rate. That per diem rate hasn't changed in an extended period of time and that is one of the things that we clearly need to update and will be reviewed as part of the review of the Medical Travel Policy.

At the end of the day, I agree with what many Members have said, but at the same time we do have to be fiscally responsible. Money is an issue and when we look at the motion that's provided to us today, it talks about devising a system of compensating medical and non-medical travel escorts for their time, which is basically compensating them for lost salaries and already we spend tens of millions of dollars on medical travel and I hear every day, find a way to control the cost of medical travel, find a way to control the costs of medical travel.

I have had an opportunity to travel to many communities to talk to residents both in the larger communities like Yellowknife and the smaller communities and hear their concern around medical travel and the administration of medical travel.

We will work with Members, we will work with residents of the Northwest Territories and we will work with stakeholders to make sure that we have the best Medical Travel Policy, but given the wording that is presented here in front of us today with respect to paying people for their time, we don't have the financial resources to do that to support this motion. It would actually drive us deep, deep into a financial hole.

So we will not be able to support this motion at this time, but I will commit to doing the review of the per diem rates and I will commit to bringing the Medical Travel Policy back to committee and back to the residents of the Northwest Territories to continue the important dialogue around escorts, appeal processes and other important issues that have been raised, but we can't support the motion as written. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like speak quickly to the motion and to our responsibility as legislators and our commitment and obligation to the broad, overall fiscal plan for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The motion is clear, even though I've heard everyone who is supporting it has a different interpretation. It doesn't mean paying people, it doesn't mean giving money for toothbrushes, it will only be restricted to people who don't have work and have to get compensated for their wages, but it doesn't mean cousins, families and those people who aren't working. There is a whole range of interpretation to this motion, but the motion is clear. The motion says compensate people for their time. I would suggest to you that this is indeed a slippery slope. If you are going to compensate person X and person Y is not working but they're going to go, then it's going to be what is it about me that is not worthy of getting the same compensation for my time? My time is worth something. It will be a door that once you open it, it will be open for everybody. It's going to cost us a lot of money.

I think there is a review underway that we should look at and it makes good political discussion, but there is a real concern. People listening out there are going to think we are going to come up with a whole bunch of money we don't have.

At the same time, we pass the budgets in here and we know that we are going to be trying to remove \$30 million to try to balance our books as we move forward and pay for a whole agenda that we have already laid out before us. There was debate in this House, let's drop the PTR back to 10 to 1, 20 million bucks. Let's give the school board \$50,000, two or three million dollars. At the same time, we know we're going through forced growth exercises to maintain the budget, to maintain our fiscal standing, to keep ourselves in good fiscal condition.

So you can't just look at this in isolation. You can't look at this and forget about what we've asked for just in the previous questions about junior kindergarten or forget about some of the other demands that have been made upon the government, upon us, this Legislature, in previous sittings.

While it may be well intentioned, we always worry about program creep. In my mind, this would be more like program leap. It would be fiscally unsustainable. Further to the comments by my colleague from the ministry of Health, this has significant implications and we should just give the study its chance to do its work. There have been commitments made, but I don't fully support this. So we won't be voting in favour, as my colleague said.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. I will allow the mover of the motion to have final say. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Certainly a good choice of words in the motion and interpretation of the motion.

I certainly appreciate it. It's a crucial issue in our smaller communities and communities in the

Northwest Territories. We are bringing motions to the floor, not for the sake of having a good debate and getting some air time. You bring motions because, as legislators, this is what we bring back from our communities, people we talk to. They say this is an issue in our community, how come you guys aren't dealing with it? This is an issue when I go to Edmonton or Yellowknife. I am staying weeks at a time, months. I have family obligations at home. This is an issue that people felt we could do something about.

I agree with the comments. This motion talks about devising a system, looking at an expanded period of time. That's why we wanted to give some highlight to this issue. It's a sleeping issue on medical travel. Let's face it, it's happening.

In government, we pass infrastructure budgets, millions of dollars and we are looking at a new proposal that is looking at hundreds of millions of dollars. You know? So we do have the money. It's just where we put our priorities and focus. It is there. We vote on it as legislators.

Mr. Speaker, you know, we change the direction of government. As legislators, that's what they want us to do. This doesn't say this is for emergency situations. Hopefully we can have this issue highlighted, raise it up as intended. There were some good questions around the House here. Let's look at it. Emergency situations, number one. Maybe that's where we can help.

I just found out that even with government employees, they use up their time. I am dealing with a situation right now, no more sick leave, no more special leave, no other leave. The person is here. What do they do? It's leave without work. If you stay long enough, you are suspended. You know? There are circumstances like this. Not all the time, but you have people staying here from small communities. They phone me or maybe other MLAs. They are phoning for money to get things. They do appreciate some of the special circumstances.

Government employees, by the way, can't stay at government Larga House. You know? So you have some special circumstances here. For us to have this discussion and raise it while people are here and hope we are looking at it seriously. There are a lot of good questions. I know we deal with a lot of emergencies here in the government here.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the government to look at the hardship times, the intent of this motion. We had some good discussion on the income testing. The time is right that we have a review of the medical travel and have a discussion and bring it back to the floor.

I ask my colleagues to consider it. Hopefully within the months we have left with this government, we can look at some things. I don't really know what

the discussion will be once this whole issue is talked about and brought back to the table, but I'm hoping we would give a shred of light and hope to the people in Colville Lake and smaller communities. We don't have a huge hospital or wellness centre. This could even go to the health centre. We don't have that. We have to fly right from the communities, your families, your foods, your responsibilities as father and mother. We don't have that luxury. We have to leave our communities for an extended period of time, so I'm asking to have that discussion.

I will also ask my colleagues to give it some thought. Hopefully the Minister will take this motion and work with it and say we have an issue.

I thank my colleagues for a really good discussion. I'm so glad it's all coming out. We are in the business of setting precedents. We set precedents of being the first government to recognize residential reconciliation day in NWT and Canada. We have precedents set in student financial services and our health care. This is another area that we need to carefully look at, so I'm going to ask for a recorded vote on this one here.

I want to thank my colleagues and the Ministers for speaking. Let's have a good run at this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I am going to close debate. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour?

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois):** Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Moses.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed?

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois):** Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those abstaining?

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois):** Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The results are: in favour, eight; opposed, eight; abstentions, two. It is a tie vote. I must break the tie. In accordance with the convention, I will vote against the motion. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 28:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 3, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Bouchard.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 26:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
ELECTIONS AND PLEBISCITES ACT

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, the Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 26 amends the Elections and Plebiscites Act to:

- require the Minister of Justice to provide the Chief Electoral Officer with names and addresses of inmates who are eligible to vote;
- authorize a returning officer to strike the name of a person no longer resident in a polling division from a preliminary list of electors, require the posting of names that may be struck and provide for review and appeal processes;
- provide more time for a person to apply for an absentee ballot and specify when an absentee ballot may be provided to an applicant;
- provide for voting at mobile polls;
- revise criteria so that a person living in the same electoral district as an elector who lacks sufficient identification may vouch for the elector;
- add candidate nomination papers to the list of public records that may be inspected;
- create an offence of threatening a candidate or potential candidate and an offence of impersonating an election officer;

- make amendments of a minor procedural nature and that improve clarity; and
- make a consequential amendment to the Health Information Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 26 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69 (2) and have Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, moved into Committee of the Whole.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 27:  
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2014

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill deals with another matter of a minor, non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the statutes and repeals provisions that have ceased to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 27 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 28:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURES EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,  
2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of

the Northwest Territories for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Thank you.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 28 has had second reading.

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Good afternoon, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have three items on the agenda today: Bill 8, Bill 9 and Committee Report 6-17(5). What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to consider Committee Report 6-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Northwest Territories Child and Family Services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. We'll commence after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Committee, I'd like to call everyone back to order here. Before we went on the break it was decided that we would do Committee Report 6-17, Report on the Review of the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Northwest Territories Child and Family Services Act. With that, I'm going to go to the chair of the committee who brought us the report for opening comments. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Government Operations has presented its report on the review of the 2014 Report or the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. The committee's report, which was read into the record, includes 30 recommendations. For the benefit of the public, members would like to explain how and why the committee conducted the review as well as what's in the report.

The Auditor General of Canada is an important source of independent, professional advice for this Legislative Assembly. The Auditor General usually conducts one performance audit each year on

specific programs and services of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Assembly can make suggestions, but the choice of which programs to audit is up to the Auditor General of Canada. Each year's audit report is provided to the Legislative Assembly and tabled in the House. Under the rules of the Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Government Operations has the mandate to review the Auditor General's reports. The committee holds preparatory meetings with the Auditor General's staff. The committee then holds a public review and questions witnesses from the department or agency responsible. The committee issues its own report based on what was learned during the public review. In this case, the committee added 19 recommendations to the 11 made by the Auditor General.

It is the Legislative Assembly's job to scrutinize government spending and performance, to ask questions and to hold the government publicly accountable for its actions. That's why the Standing Committee on Government Operations conducts a public review, reads its report into the public record and moves the report's recommendations for adoption for the Assembly in Committee of the Whole. The government is obliged to account to the House by responding to the recommendations on the record within a specific time frame. The committee, the Assembly and the public expects answers.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations thanks the Auditor General of Canada and his staff for the work on the 2014 audit of child and family services delivered by the Department of Health and Social Services and the regional health authorities.

Each year child and family services costs the government approximately \$21 million. More than 1,000 children receive services annually.

Looking to the Child and Family Services Act, and the Child and Family Services Standards and Procedures Manual, the Auditor General tested the department against its own rules. Four main questions were asked:

- First, is there an adequate accountability framework in place?
- Second, are there adequate mechanisms in place to support service delivery?
- Third, are the department and regional authorities compliant with key requirements under the act?
- Fourth, are appropriate prevention and youth programs in place?

The Standing Committee on Government Operations was deeply troubled to learn from the Auditor General's report that there are serious systemic problems with the delivery of child and

family services. The department and regional authorities are not adequately meeting their key responsibilities. Deficiencies were identified in almost every area examined. The committee was also dismayed to learn about the department's lacklustre responses to previous reviews of child and family services.

In its report, the Standing Committee considered general issues as well as specific findings of the audit. The committee concurs with the Auditor General's recommendation with respect to improving accountability, support for delivery of services and front-line service delivery. The committee makes additional recommendations on such issues as strengthening prevention efforts and incorporating a performance component in contribution agreements with regional authorities to ensure that funding is contingent on compliance with the act.

The committee is encouraged that the Minister has accepted the Auditor General's recommendations and that the department plans to implement them. Members are nevertheless convinced that child and family services will improve only if the department's senior management devotes swift and sustained attention to carrying out the promised reforms. This Assembly, too, must devote sustained attention to ensure the reforms take place.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli, for those opening comments. As we normally do, we are going to open up the floor to general comments. Seeing that there is none, we will return to Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Within the process of reviewing the report of the Auditor General, we had an opportunity to come up with several recommendations. I had this opportunity myself, and committee members will be reading into the records, so I have motions one to six that I would like to read.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Go ahead with your first motion.

COMMITTEE MOTION 44-17(5):  
COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN,  
CARRIED

**MR. NADLI:** I move that the Department of Health and Social Services produce a comprehensive action plan by June 30, 2014, and table it in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Committee, the motion has been distributed. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to speak to this motion because it goes to the heart of the issues that we found with this report and with the inaction and the deficiencies that exist in the department.

We have had action plans before and little has been accomplished, so I guess I wish to impress upon the Minister and the department that committee feels very strongly that (a) we get an action plan, (b) that it be made public, and (c) that they actually act on the action plans. Committee is referring the follow-up of this report to the Standing Committee on Social Programs and I know that Social Programs will be looking for progress on the action plan from the Minister and from the department. With that, I'm done.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. I have Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On the motion here, it's asking the department to come up with a comprehensive action plan by June 30, 2014. Hopefully, we learned from experience, and first from the experiences are several efforts that were made to try and reform the children and family services in terms of its deliverance and the program and services itself, so this basically says that things should be done in a timely manner and that the department needs to move forward, and we look forward to at least a semblance of an action plan that will address the very fundamental concerns that the Auditor General has raised.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. We will go to Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're actually on track to finalize an action plan, and the action plan will include outstanding items from the department's response to the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Social Programs report commitments made in response to the March 2014 Auditor General's report and longer term actions designed to bring about fundamental change in how we support families. We had committed to finalizing an action plan in June, and we are reviewing the recommendations in this Standing Committee on Government Operations' report and we want to ensure that all recommendations are addressed in that action plan. If this does cause us to require more time, we will be coming to committee to seek that time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion. I have Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the update. I think we did try and address this in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly and I think we did it late, but we didn't really pursue it to the point of actually getting something done in the 16<sup>th</sup>. I think, although time may be short, that is apparently what has to happen. We need to take this on and actually demonstrate some real progress in this Assembly. Albeit, time is short and I appreciate the Minister's steps and I'll be certainly working with my colleagues to make sure that this comes to some

real realization for people and families on the ground.

So, I will be supporting this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 45-17(5):  
STRATEGIES AND TARGETS FOR  
REDUCING CHILD APPREHENSIONS,  
CARRIED

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Department of Health and Social Services focus on prevention, early intervention and family preservation strategies with the goal of reducing the need for child apprehensions; and further, that measurable targets be specified for the upcoming five- and 10-year periods. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it's fair to say that most of us have experienced in some way the experiences of the residential schools and the trauma in terms of separating children from parents. Again, unfortunately there are instances where that separation continues. We have examples of where grandparents want to step in to help their grandchildren, but sometimes the system is not favourable for them to step in to be there as guardians, as the caretakers of their grandchildren. Unfortunately, sometimes they say the system does not help them at all.

This motion is encouraging the department to look at prevention and early intervention and family preservation strategies. Essentially look at, at least consider the role of elders or grandparents as one example in terms of trying to remedy the situation of child apprehensions. Hopefully, this will be articulated in the action plan that we expect will come about by the end of this summer. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just quickly, and this is a little bit of what I was referring to. While I support the need for five- and 10-year measurable targets, in fact we need one-year targets and I'm hoping I'll be seeing those as we go through the motions here and that the Minister will, in fact, recognize the need for that during the life of this Assembly, what are we going to get done approach. Thank you.



**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to comment on Mr. Bromley's comments on time frame and look at some of the good work that happened in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly on child and family services community public hearings on this specific issue. The hope that went around the communities with the public hearings of raising the expectations and knowing that this 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly was going to make some changes and now we're into the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly. People's expectations were raised and now they fall down again. We want to hold people at the helm of the steering wheel accountable. Comments like Mr. Bromley's make it measurable, not just after five, 10 years, but at least we know that the people who are going to do this work, they're held accountable and it's a measurable form. Five or 10 years is a long time. We need to show that there is trust there again for the people who are seeing their children apprehended. Having some of the good discussions and take some concrete actions.

So I'd like to see some measurable movements, results, as a result of this motion coming to the floor. Like I said, we need to get to work on this. So those are my comments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion, Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As a government, as a Legislature we've already made prevention and early intervention a priority with a number of actions in both the Early Childhood Development Action Plan and the Addictions and Mental Health Action Plan. As a part of our new action plan for building stronger families that I'd mentioned in the previous motion, we'll look at more actions focused on family preservation. We will introduce public reporting on key system-wide performance measures over the next couple of months and these will also include several measures related directly to the child and family services.

Obviously, we'll also consider the committee's recommendations on other specific measures throughout the recommendation. As part of the plan, we will be setting short, medium and long-term targets. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 46-17(5):  
FAMILY PRESERVATION WORKERS,  
CARRIED

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Department of Health and Social Services investigate the feasibility of territory-wide expansion of family preservation workers to provide in-home, individualized intervention services in order to promote the well-being of children and families. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to speak briefly to this. The job of family preservation worker was one that came to my attention through the Auditor General's report and we have one staff person with that title within the health and social services system. It would seem to me that this is an area that we will be well advised to expand on.

The family preservation workers, as the motion says, provide in-home, individualized intervention services and that's the sort of thing that is required with the end goal of keeping children with their families and in their home and in their community. This recommendation asks the department to consider that and to expand the number of family preservation workers that we have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to also comment on the type of work that the family preservations are providing and that this is something that's been asked maybe in a different language, different forms, different concepts, but this is what I know I've been hearing from around the Sahtu, specifically when I met one of the community members in one of my communities that talked about having people in the community itself do its work and not be caught up in the bureaucracy of degrees or credits to education. It requires somebody to do a job.

This is the type of work that is basic, it's simple and it would be good to have it expanded in all our communities where they have people like this working closely in the community, not sitting in the office. These have to be outside, walking around in the communities and working with the families. This is an old type of family system in the small communities. They were designated. So I think this is the type of thinking that needs to happen in our communities and I strongly urge the government to implement these types of family preservation workers in all our communities, then I believe you'll see a reduction of family issues. If this project here hits the ground, I think it will be far more beneficial. We need to have more of this type of thinking in the department and get away from the other type of

thinking as to how to take care of the situation here. So, I really like this motion here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I look forward to the department providing a comprehensive framework and action plan, and I look forward to how this matter will be addressed. But one thing for certain that I think government needs to do is more likely an interdepartmental cooperation.

This motion seems to suggest that the family preservation workers initiative should be elevated to a territory-wide level, but at the same time, right in the communities we have home care program workers. I think we have to get beyond this idea of working in silos. There has to be some interconnections and also, at the same time, a level of coordination. We would like to ensure that we do at least discuss broadly in terms of the framework of how it is that we're supposed to address the concerns that were raised by the Auditor General. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The action plan will focus on building stronger families. In this role of the family preservation worker with the intervention support programs and other things that they do, those types of things will be of key importance.

Obviously, we need to do more work to determine to the extent to which we can change either the focus of existing positions, or in the future whether or not we may require new positions. This work will actually be coordinated as part of our caseload analysis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 47-17(5):  
IDENTIFYING AND ACCESSING  
PREVENTION PROGRAMS,  
CARRIED

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that health and social services authorities, in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, assist child protection workers in identifying and accessing prevention programs available to children and families; and further, that the Department of Health and Social Services should also ensure that prevention programs, such

as the Healthy Family Program, are offered to families in need. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Again, it's really asking the department to address the very fundamental concerns raised by the Auditor General. Perhaps there are strengths that the department has, and I think it needs to build on its strengths. There are some programs and initiatives that work well and we need to build upon the positives, and perhaps this motion is in that spirit. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, I'm not too sure if this type of discussion has been taken up by our Aboriginal Affairs Minister and the Aboriginal governments on all the jurisdictional or intergovernmental relationship issues with our government and their government in bringing a stronger linkage between the two governments on this type of issue here with child and family services.

Child and family services are key to our communities. With health and social services, again I go back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly where a great concept of the communities were going to take some type of role or leadership role when you looked at the family situations in the community, but that didn't come about. I remember that in the 16<sup>th</sup> because I went with the then Minister into the Sahtu communities, and they were asking different communities in the Sahtu, are you interested in this, do you want to do this. We got our hopes up in Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope, same as the other communities, but nothing happened, diddly-squat. Now you want to have this. It has been raised by the Auditor General and it had to do with the financial issues.

I want to look at this issue of regaining the trust again of the Aboriginal governments. You know, we have to show – and that's what I agree with Mr. Bromley's comments on earlier – just give a short period of time to show some measureable results showing that the linkage is going to be strong with our Aboriginal governments. Right now, you know, they've been stung once, so they're going to be looking at this issue again and saying, do you really mean this business, do you really mean it? Show us something. Right now we have not seen much action in this area here, and the Auditor General has noted it clearly.

We're playing with people's lives here, families and communities, and that's serious business. This isn't something that's like a road or a bridge. These people have feelings. They have hopes and aspirations.

I'm hoping that the Minister can put some strong plans together to show us yes, we are making a difference in our small communities, especially with the Aboriginal governments on this issue here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to recommendation number four, we agree. In the Aboriginal health and community wellness division, new regional positions focusing in on wellness and community development will play a key role in helping communities implement their wellness plans, and also in helping support interagency or wellness committees and in helping our child protection workers stay informed on the different available programs within their region and in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 48-17(5):  
LINKAGES WITH  
ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENTS,  
CARRIED

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Department of Health and Social Services build stronger linkages with Aboriginal governments pertaining to child and family services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's very clear in the Auditor General's report, about 90 percent of the children that are involved with child and family services are First Nations children, so it is imperative on this government to at least build a working relationship with the First Nations governments. Whether it be at the local or else the tribal level or else at the territorial level, that's something that needs to be done. This relationship is going to be critical in terms of the success of how the government responds to the Auditor General's report, so it's essential that the working relationship is established. Perhaps the seeds of the relationship on other matters have been built already, so this is just continuing the bridge of ensuring the lines of communication are open and, at the same time, sharing of ideas. I think that's critical to at least address the many concerns that are raised in the Auditor General's report.

The other thing, too, is we need to ensure there's at least some fluidness in terms of ensuring there's a very smooth system we have at least with headquarters and regional authorities and First Nations Aboriginal governments that are interested in being involved with this process, and I think now is the opportunity to build up on those relationships.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to building the stronger linkages with Aboriginal government, we agree, and to that end we will be looking to add child and family services to our agendas for government-to-government meetings with the Aboriginal governments and we will ensure that there is appropriate follow-up at the staff level.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 49-17(5):  
QUARTERLY UPDATES,  
CARRIED

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Department of Health and Social Services provide quarterly updates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs on improvements to child and family services; and further, that these updates replicate indicators associated with Exhibits 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Auditor General's report pertaining to the following areas respectively:

- conducting investigations;
- addressing confirmed child protection needs;
- attending to children in care of the director; and
- screening and reviewing foster care homes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Nadli, there was a small typo, and we're just going to circulate the proper motion here to committee.

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Reporting is a key function of any organization, so having peer audits and, in this case, quarterly updates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs is essential in terms of monitoring the progress of how it is that the department will address a lot of the concerns that the Auditor General has articulated, including the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Government Operations. So it's essential that we all understand that from here on

we need to at least communicate and the system reporting has to work very effectively to ensure that at all levels of the organizations people are aware in terms of the discussion, perhaps in the analysis and, hopefully, as we go forward in addressing the concerns, that this will become an integral part of the relationship with the standing committees.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to speak briefly to these four indicators that are identified in this motion. Members and the public will see that these four indicators are referenced in quite a number of recommendations as we go through. These four areas of conducting investigations, addressing needs, attending to children in care and screening of foster homes, they're four basic indicators which the department can use over time to show improvements or lack of, and committee feels very strongly that these have been very well identified in the Auditor General's report and that they are a very good tool for us, as Members, to keep track of the progress or lack of that is being made on behalf of the department in this area. These four exhibits are referenced quite often because we feel that they are a very good tool for us to gauge progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I notice foster care homes are on there, the screening and reviewing. One of the biggest opportunities we have are grandparents. They are such an incredible mechanism out there for looking after families and keeping families together and so on, and yet we continually fail to support them to the degree that they may be part of these exhibits. Mrs. Groenewegen I heard in the House just the other day speaking to this. I think all of us have spoken at one time or another. I have current issues with constituents where, because the children are not formally adopted, we're not supporting them and they're trying to raise these kids, often numerous kids, on a pensioner's income. We could be saving an incredible amount of pain and issues down the line for children if we were to just do this simple mechanism of supporting grandparents.

Again, I don't see a specific recommendation on this, but hopefully it's part of this and the Minister is listening. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Just a comment there. Again, it goes back to the measurements of the reporting and how these are crucial in the small communities with the appropriate organizations. The Auditor General has made a scathing report on this section here, also, in terms of his findings. It's so needed

when you have children involved in the small communities. Of the thousands of children that are apprehended in the Northwest Territories, 95 percent are Aboriginal. I look, I guess, to see how these four indicators are going to improve the system in the communities with the people who are doing the work and see how we could eliminate a lot of heartaches that don't need to be there. Those are my comments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to recommendation number six, I agree that all these indicators obviously require more improvement and improved monitoring. I would be happy to sit down with the Standing Committee on Social Programs to identify some appropriate formats and timing that would work for them and the department so that we can continue to provide these updates.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a series of motions as well.

COMMITTEE MOTION 50-17(5):  
TIMING OF CORRECTION OF DEFICIENCIES,  
CARRIED

I move that the Department of Health and Social Services begin immediately and in earnest to correct deficiencies in child and family services; and further, improvements must not be delayed until governance reforms have taken place as reforms may take until the end of the 17th Assembly or longer to complete. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly, the committee's desire here is to make sure, knowing that the Health and Social Services department is looking at changes in governance within our health and social services authorities, knowing that, the committee is very concerned that we don't wait to make the required changes in the child and family services division and in the services we provide.

Certainly the two major reports that have been done previously, in 2000 and in 2010, had quite a few recommendations and not much happened. So we don't want that to happen again. This is a

serious situation where we have children at risk and committee is quite concerned that we not see a delay in any changes in implementation to activities to fill in the problems and the gaps that we have seen through this report. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, I look forward to the department correcting these deficiencies as noted by the Auditor General. I know the department also made some responses to the deficiencies, and I'm hoping that "immediately" means right now, today, not next week or the week after.

There are deficiencies, as noted by the Auditor General, in the child and family services within this department here. There are some deficiencies that need to be corrected right now; others, as Ms. Bisaro has noted, we don't want to wait for the whole bag of deficiencies to be looked at and corrected until we have an excuse for the governance reform. I don't know what that reform, the interpretation of the reform that's taking place. That just seems to be a stalling tactic, or wait until the end of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Then it will be two Assemblies who don't do anything.

These are the promises of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, which we didn't do very much, if anything. Now, I'm hoping that these improvements, as Ms. Bisaro noted, will not be delayed, otherwise we're just talking in the wind here and not making any sense.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> we met with people in the communities. That cost a lot of money and we don't really have much to show for it, yet we're still talking about this stuff. It's crazy.

I guess that's why I'm looking for some movement and I'm hoping that...(inaudible)...says we have to make some significant improvements here. I'm just hoping that this isn't taken as a delay tactic, waiting for something else to happen before we can make any type of significant changes in the reform system. In the meantime, families in our communities in the North have to deal with the deficiencies. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to immediately taking some actions, I agree with recommendation number seven. To that end, I've already committed to developing a new accountability framework for child and family service programs, which will be done in July.

In addition to that, steps have already been taken to appoint CEOs as assistant directors under the act, and new, more rigorous quarterly reporting requirements will take effect in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 51-17(5):  
COMMUNICATION PLAN,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Department of Health and Social Services develop a communication plan pertaining specifically to child and family services so that stakeholders and the public are informed about completed actions, upcoming changes and anticipated timelines. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just briefly, this is pretty much self-explanatory, but it is important that the public know what's going on. It is important that anybody involved in the child and family services system be aware of actions that have been taken and what changes the department is contemplating and also that they be given an opportunity to comment on those.

One of the things that we determined in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly when we did our report was that people really didn't feel they knew what was going on within the child and family services system, so this communication plan is very important. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The action plan will be public and it will include details on actions as well as providing some time frames. Performance reporting will also be public for anybody who wants to look at it. I can commit to updating the action plan with progress reports on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** From the action plan and the communication plan, I'm hoping that the Minister would look at all forms of communication and methods out there, CKLB or radio, not just a website. When you look at some of the stats in the Sahtu region, not all households in the communities are hooked up to the Internet. So, we don't have everybody going to the website and English is not always their first language. There's a high percentage of our people. So I guess in that sense, the target area, it's the older people, then it has to

be done in Dene Kede and do it in English there. So the communication plan needs to be constructed so that the grandparents know what's happening if their children are in the care of a social worker or whatever. They know their rights, they know what they're entitled to and that the communication plan is evaluated to say are we effective. So I wanted to mention that to the Minister.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 52-17(5):  
REVIEW OF ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Department of Health and Social Services conduct a thorough review of its accountability framework for child and family services to identify existing deficiencies and implement mechanisms to enhance accountability. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Motion is in order. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly again, one of the things that we discovered through the report, the Auditor General pointed out that there really is no accountability framework right now that the Department of Health and Social Services is using within the child and family services division. It is extremely important if we are to stop putting children at risk, if we're going to stop the gaps that have been created in services and if we're going to make sure that deficiencies don't continue to exist. We need an accountability framework and we need to have far better accountability within that division than we do right now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I also want to say, Mr. Chair, that the Sahtu believes that the department in terms of its, I would say not a strong accountability framework, and nobody was held accountable on those. It was quite shocking when the Auditor General looked at this. So I look certainly to this Minister to strengthen the accountability, because everybody is doing it and nobody is holding them to account. It's almost like you're doing this and you're doing this, but nobody is holding them to account and they may have good intentions, but that's not it. No wonder we have some issues that we're dealing with, with the children in our small communities that are in the North here.

So, again, if there's something that the Minister duly noted, that he'll look at the accountability framework, that would really help, I think, all of us and I certainly look forward to seeing what type of mechanisms he's going to put in place for the accountability.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion, Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What was really apparent in the Auditor General's report was the disconnect between the central headquarters, or Health and Social Services, and the regional authorities. It came to the point there was a bunch of affected communities; call it zigzags in terms of reporting. In some respects, structures were working in isolation of themselves. So it's an immediate thing that the department has to check in terms of accountability. Who is accountable at the end of the day in terms of the children and families that have to go through the system? So it's essential that we expect at least that matters that will at least encourage us to believe that accountability measures will be put in place. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When the absence of required annual reports are not noted and profiled, then I think there's obviously the need for this motion. I'll be supporting it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion, Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've already responded to this and identified or, rather, made a commitment under recommendation 7 this work is already in progress. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 53-17(5):  
PERFORMANCE COMPONENT IN  
CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS WITH HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that contribution agreements with the health and social services authorities be immediately amended to include a performance component clearly indicating that funding is contingent on compliance with the Child and Family Services Act. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Again, one of the things we found through the Auditor General's report is there's great difficulty in keeping the health and social services authorities to account. They have contribution agreements, but they don't have performance agreements as a separate agreement or within the contribution agreement. Committee felt that in order to get the accountability from the authorities that is required by the department, there needed to be a performance component in the contribution agreement and that's what this motion speaks to. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Also along with Ms. Bisaro's comments, I guess you're looking at a situation where the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing. Even though they're doing the same service, even in the accountability framework, who do you report to? Who are you accountable to? We didn't know this until the Auditor General did the audit. They brought up all these issues. So some of the issues we've raised with the Minister, the government. People are telling us stuff in the communities who have to deal with child apprehension or dealing with Social Services. They are telling us real stuff, things they have to deal with. I've dealt with it myself also in our small communities. Our health boards are being told one thing and the department another thing. So I guess it's realigning the package together. Mr. Abernethy did talk about something they are already doing, which hopefully will help with this situation. This is a long-term solution we are talking about which would make a big difference in our communities.

We've got to put the hands together and this is what this motion is saying. Right now they are like this. I hope that they're slowly coming together. I like this motion and the key component here is the performance aspect of this motion. I hope that the Minister is working on this within the life of this government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Contribution agreements already require the health and social services authorities to comply with applicable laws and policies and that every payment is conditional of the fulfillment of the authority's obligations under their agreements.

This clause, I feel, is specific enough to cover what the committee is asking for in the committee's proposal, but obviously more is needed. What is needed is better enforcement and better monitoring. I'm concerned, or rather, realistically,

withholding funding from an authority is not necessarily the answer. My focus and the department's focus is on the patient and the resident and the client. It needs to be that.

I think withholding funding from the authority would just create a reduction in delivery of essential programs to clients, so I'm not sure withholding funds is going to get us to where we need to be. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee, we are only 10 motions of the 30 that are presented by the committee report. It's clear that we're not going to be able to conclude in today's proceedings. With that, noting the clock, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Dolynny, can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Committee Report 6-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Northwest Territories Child and Family Services, and I would like to report progress with 10 motions adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do I have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Moses.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Lafferty.

### Third Reading of Bills

#### BILL 24: AN ACT TO AMEND THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, has had third reading.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 28:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,  
2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, has had third reading.

Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I would like to introduce and recognize my nephew, Mr. Dawson Kovacs, who recently achieved a gold medal at the NWT Skills Competition in the area of safety and he's actually en route right now to the nationals to compete in Mississauga.

At this time, I would like to wish all delegates of the Northwest Territories a great time and best of luck at the nationals where they are heading off tomorrow. Welcome, Dawson.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Committee Report 6-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Northwest Territories Child and Family Services
  - Bill 8, Write-off of Debts Act, 2013-2014
  - Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2013-2014
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:07 p.m.