



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

**Day 37**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, October 16, 2014**

Pages 4743 – 4770

**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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*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister responsible for Seniors*

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, October 16, 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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back, colleagues, as we reconvene the Fifth Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Another beautiful autumn is upon the Northwest Territories. I hope you've had the opportunity to get out and enjoy it. As we return from a summer spent reconnecting with our communities, our constituents, our families and our land, we prepare for the busy session that lies ahead of us.

Members, on September 19<sup>th</sup> the Legislative Assembly concluded our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations with the burial of a time capsule in front of the beautiful building that we call home. The capsule is scheduled to be opened in 30 years, during the building's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Please join me in welcoming our Pages for this sitting. We will have students from Hay River, Inuvik, Yellowknife, and the Sahtu, Thebacha and Deh Cho regions joining us in the House. It is always a pleasure to have them here.

Members, October 15<sup>th</sup> is recognized as a Day of Remembrance and Awareness of Pregnancy and Infant Loss. Although the House did not sit yesterday, I ask all Members to join me in honouring those taken from us far too soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal condolences, and the collective condolences of the House, to all families who have suffered the death of a small child, infant or preterm baby.

Members, today I would like to extend condolences to families and communities who have lost loved ones in recent weeks. When we lose a loved one in our small communities, it is felt by all. I am sending thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of Troy Taylor, Joe Roy Kimiksana Jr., Sue Keevik, Martha Kudlak, John Gruben Jr. and Eddie Bourke.

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

"Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of

- Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2015-2016
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2014-2015, and
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2014-2015

during the Fifth Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Yours truly, George L. Tuccaro, Commissioner."

Thank you, colleagues. I know we are all eager to tackle the work at hand, so let us begin.

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

**Ministers' Statements****MINISTER'S STATEMENT 88-17(5):  
SESSIONAL STATEMENT**

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all Members back for the resumption of the Fifth Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Last month the Government of the Northwest Territories announced that it would cover the expected \$20 million in increased operating costs that the Northwest Territories Power Corporation faces due to extremely low water levels in the Snare Hydro system.

Our government took this extraordinary step because we are serious about addressing the high cost of living people in the Northwest Territories face. Without this decision, the added cost of using diesel to supplement hydro generation on the Snare system would have been paid by electricity users in every community of the Northwest Territories.

As an Assembly, we share a vision of a strong, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories that provides opportunities for all its residents. Making the Northwest Territories an attractive place to live, work and do business is an essential part of achieving that vision. We

cannot achieve that unless we address the high cost of living and doing business in our communities. Energy is one of the biggest components of that cost and we have to do what we can to make it more affordable.

But we have to be clear that subsidizing consumers by taking on the additional costs of generating and distributing energy is not an effective, or affordable, long-term solution. If we really want to address the high costs of energy in the Northwest Territories, we need to make fundamental changes to how we approach energy specifically and how we think, more generally, as a government.

Identifying and harnessing new ideas is why the Government of the Northwest Territories will be hosting a second Energy Charrette early next month. The first Energy Charrette brought a broad range of energy experts and stakeholders together, including representatives from communities and Aboriginal governments. Together they discussed a long-term energy future for the Northwest Territories that resulted in an Energy Action Plan and a Power System Plan released late last year.

While those documents set out a long-term energy vision for the Northwest Territories, it is clear from recent circumstances that we also need to identify some more immediate and less expensive actions for addressing the high costs of generating and distributing energy right now. Our communities and businesses need the relief, and it will be critical to growing a strong, diversified economy.

A second Energy Charrette will give us the opportunity to identify those solutions, while accessing the input of stakeholders and good advice of energy experts. To help focus the discussion on finding practical solutions, we will be putting three questions forward:

- Is there more that the Government of the Northwest Territories can do in the short term to help Northwest Territories residents and businesses cope with rising costs?
- Are there new projects, programs or technological solutions that could be effective in the immediate term?
- What should be the approach to transforming our energy systems to ensure they are affordable and sustainable in the long term?

This charrette will look at generation options, rather than the large-scale transmission projects that emerged from the last one. We need to find ways to meet our energy needs closer to home, making better use of alternative energies like wind, biomass and solar. With ongoing advances in alternative energy technology, small-scale generation projects in communities, and even homes, are an affordable and feasible way we can help meet some of the demand, particularly in the North Slave where our current systems are at full capacity.

We need to do things differently, and the charrette will give us an opportunity to make a start in an area that is of great concern to all Northerners.

Mr. Speaker, energy is not the only area where the Government of the Northwest Territories needs to be doing things differently. We continue to face challenges that limit the choices we can make as an Assembly and hamper our ability to create the prosperous future we want for our residents. Even with devolution, the unpredictability of resource revenues will always affect our fiscal plans. Climate change will continue to affect our infrastructure and create challenges like longer fire seasons and low water levels at hydro facilities, placing more demands on our budgets and our people. Personal challenges like irregular school attendance leading to low educational attainment levels and mental health and addictions will continue to hold our people back.

We will only be able to realize our vision of a strong, sustainable and prosperous territory if we make some fundamental changes that free us from these external limits. We need to grow GDP and government revenues by transforming the territorial economy, creating something more diversified and less dependent on volatile resource revenues. We need to address the high costs of factors like energy that continue to be a drag on our economy and affect the standard of living of our residents. We need to effect social change that creates an environment our people can thrive and prosper in.

More money is not the answer. Increased flexibility in the form of a higher borrowing limit or more revenues would help address these challenges, but we cannot simply depend on finding more money that just may not be there. Increasingly, we need to realize that we will have to make managed and strategic investments calculated to make the fundamental changes we need for a successful future. At the same time, we need to maintain fiscal discipline, ensuring that we are not mortgaging our future at the same time as we are trying to transform it.

The growth and health of our economy depends on many factors. It depends on a skilled and educated workforce. It depends on competitive tax and royalty rates. It depends on affordable housing, energy and other costs that make it attractive for businesses to locate and stay here. It depends on vibrant, sustainable communities offering the kind of infrastructure and services residents and businesses need.

With so many factors in play, it is clear that we need to think creatively and broadly if we want to promote the kind of change in our economy that will create long-term, sustainable prosperity for our residents.

That is the kind of thinking that underlies our decisions to develop and implement an Economic

Opportunities Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy. It informs our decision to make strategic investments in infrastructure like the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway and Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Line that will help support economic growth and development. It is what is behind our decentralization initiative and our objective to grow the Northwest Territories population to help sustain economic growth in all communities and regions.

At the same time, we continue to actively seek partnerships, recognizing that economic development is broader than just the Government of the Northwest Territories alone. We are particularly interested in seeking the opportunities that might come from engaging with forums that link governments and businesses with a shared interest in sustainable economic development and prosperity in our region.

Examples include the Arctic Economic Council, recently established by Minister Leona Aglukkaq in her capacity as chair of the Arctic Council, and PNWER, or the Pacific Northwest Economic Region. The Northwest Territories recently took over the presidency of PNWER, giving us a unique platform for promoting the economic potential of our region to a broad range of business and political leaders from several US states and Canadian provinces and territories in the Pacific Northwest and to gain the benefit of their experience.

New thinking and new ways of doing things are not just being applied to the economy. Our government is also taking new approaches designed to promote the same kind of fundamental, positive changes for the territory and its residents in the areas of education and health and wellness.

If we want the people of this territory to live healthy, educated lives free from poverty, we cannot simply address symptoms, we have to address causes. We have to create change at a fundamental level that positions our residents for success and we have to do it early on.

That is why our government has introduced the Early Childhood Development Initiative, Mr. Speaker. We know that the right kind of support provided to children in the years before they are five will pay off exponentially with long-term success in later years and reduce demands for more intensive and expensive interventions later.

The need to do things differently is also driving education renewal across the territory. We need to ensure our youth are prepared for the challenges of the future and ready to take advantage of the opportunities that a thriving economy will provide for them. Education renewal is working with our citizens to re-imagine the structure of the education system so it better reflects northern realities and leads to improved student achievement.

Our government has also been talking about the need to make fundamental change to the Northwest Territories health and social services system. We need to make sure that we are providing the best care possible to the residents of the Northwest Territories and that we are doing everything we can to encourage them to make healthy choices. We also need to make sure that we are using our resources wisely and that our system is as effective and efficient as it can be. We have been talking to people around the territory, outlining our vision for an improved and integrated system that will help ensure best health, best care, for a better future.

Our government has also been pleased to support the establishment of a Wellness Court by the Territorial Court of the Northwest Territories. This alternative to conventional court has been created to help offenders deal with the underlying mental health, addictions and cognitive issues they struggle with. By addressing causes and contributing factors, we hope to create lasting change that will allow offenders lead healthier lives.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some examples of how the Government of the Northwest Territories are doing things differently to help create long-term social and economic prosperity for all the people of this territory. It is going to take sustained and focused effort to do things a different way, but it is what we have to do if we want to achieve this Assembly's vision of a prosperous and sustainable territory with healthy, educated people and a healthy environment. As we prepare for the remaining months of our term, I invite all Members of the Legislative Assembly to join with us in creating a better future for the people we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 89-17(5):  
BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES:  
AN ACTION PLAN TO TRANSFORM  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, later today I will table "Building Stronger Families: An Action Plan to Transform Child and Family Services" as well as the formal response to Committee Report 6-17(5). This government is committed to a fundamental shift in how we deliver child and family services in the Northwest Territories. The action plan will guide necessary and transformational changes to improve the overall quality of these services and achieve better outcomes for children and their families when they require services under the Child and Family Services Act.

In the past four years, over 100 recommendations have been made with respect to legislation, policies

and practice in child and family services. The Standing Committee on Social Programs of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly undertook a comprehensive review of the Child and Family Services Act, and in March 2014 the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This was followed by the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, which was tabled in the last session.

"Building Stronger Families: An Action Plan to Transform Child and Family Services" forms the government's comprehensive response to the Auditor General of Canada's report on Child and Family Services and the report from the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

The action plan outlines three overarching goals of increasing accountability between health authorities and the department, improving service delivery, and better assisting children and families in our communities. The plan identifies three significant areas of reform. The first will be to make changes to service delivery and child protection practices. The second will focus on risk management and quality assurance, and the third will be to improve program administration and management.

We need to find ways to reduce the number of children taken into care, and at the same time we need to protect children and put their interests first. To accomplish this, child protection workers will receive additional training to assess risk, determine the strengths and needs of each family and develop responses that are appropriate to each individual situation. This fundamental change to child protection practice will ensure that children and families are provided with appropriate support.

To improve risk management and quality assurance, the department has already completed and implemented a number of items outlined in the action plan. The 2013-2014 Report of the Director of Child and Family Services will be tabled later this session. The format for new quarterly performance reports from authorities to the department has been designed, and reporting activity begins this month. The quarterly report covering October through December 2014 is due in January 2015. We have developed audit teams and a common audit tool for use by both the department and authorities when auditing child protection and foster care files. Annual auditing of each authority starts in January 2015.

Information is key to case management and service delivery planning. This year \$3.5 million in capital funding was approved to replace the Child and Family Services Information System. This project spans three years, and the department is currently engaging professional services to oversee the development and implementation of a new electronic case management, information and data system.

Changes to program administration and management include the development of an improved accountability framework and the appointment of all health and social services authority chief executive officers as assistant directors under the act, creating clearer accountability in the system. The CEOs were trained and appointed in July 2014. We have also undertaken legislative amendments to the Child and Family Services Act that will support more community and Aboriginal involvement in child protection matters, including prevention and the development of a plan when we need to step in and assist families under the act.

In addition, the department has contracted the Child Welfare League of Canada to undertake a review of child protection caseloads and workloads in order to ensure we have the resources needed to provide adequate and essential programming across the NWT.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, "Building Stronger Families" acknowledges the role Aboriginal governments play in the delivery of programs and services and recognizes their future interests in this program area. We are committed to working together and to understanding the unique interests and challenges of each region and community as we improve our delivery of child and family services.

I look forward to working with Members as we transform child and family services in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy, Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 90-17(5):  
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable David Ramsay will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety meeting in Banff, Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Members' Statements**

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
MUNICIPAL SERVICE COSTS  
IN FORT MCPHERSON

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The extremely high cost of municipal services in Fort McPherson is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few years, the Hamlet of Fort McPherson incurred a deficit of over \$2 million. The hamlet council took this expense upon itself to better the community services, only to be pulled deeper into



debt. The cost of municipal services dramatically increased. The average cost of water, septic and garbage services in March 2014 was \$150 per household. Come April of 2014, the cost went through the roof and now Fort McPherson homeowners are paying, on average, \$425 every month and upwards of \$1,400 per month.

Constituents call me, asking why they now have to be the ones to pay back the amount the council overspent. The local housing authority is not getting an extra subsidy for the increase in water. Elders on a fixed income are not compensated for extra costs, and homeowners barely making it now have to pay almost three times what they were paying normally.

As it stands, we have a hard enough time keeping food on our tables for our children, let alone trying to keep up with paying sky high water prices.

I want to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, where is the control? At what point does the department step up and say there's something wrong here? Where are the auditors? Who authorizes funding to councils under such a deficit? The department needs to realize that the responsibility is shared.

My question to the Minister is: At what point would you step in again and revisit the situation? Clearly, something is not working.

The community members call me on a regular basis on the same issues over and over again.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BLAKE:** Is there a way the department can work with the community to lower the municipal services bills so that the residents can gradually adjust to the increase? The department and the hamlet should consider a five- to 10-year payback to the deficit, not try to recover it in one day and on the backs of community members.

There has to be a common goal of both the department and for my constituents. They are not happy paying such high prices to the hamlet. They are going into arrears and are given warnings that services may be discontinued, and some people have been refused water delivery.

Aside from the department coming into my community and telling people what will happen, can we sit down and come to an agreement to bring municipal service rates to a level where my constituents can hope to keep up with their bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERNERS WORKING TOGETHER

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be back in the House with you and colleagues.

As we heard from our Premier today on all our accomplishments, it's imperative that we take stock as we embark on the tail end of our journey of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. However, in the midst of human tragedy, such as the hangover effect of residential schools and the more recent call for murdered and missing Aboriginal women, we need to take stock of another kind.

Now, more than ever, we need to commit ourselves to our communities – all communities, big and small – because in the end, all politics are local. We need to meet our responsibility toward our fellow citizens with equal measures of restraint and passion for all needs. As a territory of new-found powers, we need to control who we are and who we can be. We know we need to overcome the shameful behaviours of our past, yet we need to stop the patronizing as a nation with the wooden spoon of ignorance and we must embrace the modern reality we live with today.

It's imperative, more than ever, to create an environment of true belonging, a territory of achievement and a North capable of harmony. If we are to move forward in such fashion, as one territory, as brother and sister, with true forgiveness at heart, I ask my colleagues here today, let's show it with the remaining time in this Chamber.

With that, I'm calling on all leadership, all community governments and all organizations in the Northwest Territories, to put differences aside and work together so we can achieve this greatness.

In closing, I reach out for the wisdom of a great leader of our generation, Nelson Mandela, who said, "It always seems impossible until it's done." Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I challenge you today, for the time remaining in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, let's get these initiatives done for the residents we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2014 FOREST FIRE SEASON

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome everybody back to the Assembly. It's been a busy summer throughout the North, and with the record fire season this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of ENR, the firefighters on the front, all the workers put together that helped protect this territory.

We had over 385 fires and three million hectares of forest destroyed. These people have been working hard for the public of the Northwest Territories, and I know the public appreciates them, especially in areas such as Kakisa and Reid Lake where the fires were right close to the facilities.

Other departments throughout the government need to be thanked as well: the Department of MACA for some of the services that they provide, as well as the Department of Transportation. I know some of the motor vehicle guys were on the lines for long hours controlling traffic, closing the roads. They were not popular at times, but I would like to thank them for their hard work.

As well, I'd also like to thank the departments. I think the departments all had to learn how to deal with certain situations, communications, getting out to the public.

While we're speaking of fires, I'd like to congratulate Vince McKay of the Hay River Fire Department for receiving a Volunteer Firefighter's Award this past week. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC INPUT ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The voice of the NWT, the people of the NWT have expressed serious concern about fracturing the earth for oil. They've signed petitions by the hundreds, they've passed resolutions calling for comprehensive reviews or fracking bans in their areas via resolutions at the Sahtu and Gwich'in assemblies. By the hundreds they've written letters to authorities and asked their MLAs to call for a review, and indeed some MLAs have.

The Yukon First Nations banned fracking. Old Crow banned fracking. Our people with a new voice, supposedly devolved from Ottawa, have called for a comprehensive review. And this government's response? No. We believe we can frack without significant impacts; we are the government, trust us. Your input? We'll let you know.

The Minister of Finance's frequent calls in the past for the government to respond to moral if not political responsibilities, the requirement for environmental review if there "might be public concern" according to the MVRMA or any newly enhanced responsibility to respond to the public are simply not on.

Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Quebec, PEI, Ireland, all those other states and countries with moratoriums or bans, the Council of Canadians Academy's report? Unlike our Cabinet, the presumption is that these people are off track and

this government can regulate it better to avoid their concerns.

The Yukon process of a select MLA committee, public meetings and transcripts of proceedings with diverse experts in all relevant areas? Completely unnecessary. In fact, we just want to talk about how to frack and let's not bother with pesky little questions like are the risks of fracking acceptable in the first place. Is this what we are hearing from a traditionally paternalistic, colonial federal government? Nope. Incredibly, this is our own government talking, our government with its brand new authority devolved from the federal government so Northerners' voices can be heard more clearly and more effectively. Yet to so many, and myself included, this response is clearly colonial and paternalistic.

So now we know devolution gives greater power to the Premier and to the biggest promoter of fossil fuel development, Minister Ramsay. Taxpayers pay the Minister's and Premier's travels around the world to entice fossil fuel developers, declaring the NWT open for business.

I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BROMLEY:** Taxpayers pay the Minister's and Premier's travels around the world to entice fossil fuel developers, declaring the NWT open for business. Then the Minister returns home, dons his regulator hat and regulates these same corporations. I ask you, are there questions to be raised here? All this for fossil fuels whose combustion is known to be frying the earth and whose pursuit leaves the land and many people devastated in its wake. The people know what is needed, but they are being effectively silenced.

Citizens of the NWT, rest easy, your government is on the job. Meet the new boss, same as the old boss. Still a question arises: Why? Why will this government refuse to take a transparent and objective look at this controversial practice? Addiction has been defined as knowingly indulging in something repeatedly when it gives short-term gratification yet devastating long-term harm. Could that be it, Mr. Speaker? I simply don't know, but I know our record on dealing with addictions. I will have questions. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2014 FOREST FIRE SEASON

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The summer of 2014 was a record-breaking forest fire season. By the numbers, almost 3 million hectares of boreal forests burned and 384 fires. Suppression involved the efforts of more than 600 firefighters, 10 air

tanker groups, nine incident management teams and dozens of helicopters at a cost of around \$55 million.

The greatest number of fires was in the South Slave and had a major impact on the Deh Cho riding. By late June the smoke along Highway No. 3 was so thick that the road had to be closed between Fort Providence and Behchoko, the first of many highway closures this summer. We heard reports of vehicles lined up three to four kilometres, waiting for the chance to drive through. The raging fires by Birch Creek almost had a tornado effect as fires swirled across the road, stretches of pavement and road signs melting, and warnings about air quality.

By mid-July the fires had consumed over 8,400 square kilometres of forest. That's the size of Calgary and Edmonton combined. Kakisa was evacuated and Fort Providence was surrounded by three big fires, the Birch Creek to the north, the Kakisa fire complex to the south and the bison sanctuary fire to the east, familiar names to people across the North who were listening to their radios this summer.

There was a big fire camp at Kakisa and the Big River gas station in Fort Providence was extremely busy. People were stranded at Fort Providence and residents began to open their homes and businesses to travelers. The Department of Transportation organized convoys to escort drivers through areas of dense smoke and continually posted updates on road conditions on its website and Twitter feed.

By mid to late August, the fires began to subside and things got back to normal. Fires are part of a forest's natural cycle, but global warming is making our climate hotter and dryer than ever before. This resulted in more extreme forest fire conditions.

I encourage the government to take lessons learned from the NWT's most dramatic forest fire seasons yet and be prepared for the future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STAND-ALONE SCHOOL IN TROUT LAKE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. The Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake simply has to be a stand-alone school. I've been speaking about this with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, with my colleagues and in committee meetings. I would like to see it in our capital budget.

During my last visit to Trout Lake this fall, the chief and leadership were not happy to hear that a renovation was planned rather than the GNWT building a new school. The community's wishes have been well known to the Minister and to this

government for many years. Trout Lake has grown in recent years. In fact, Stats Canada has shown this is a growing community, especially in the zero to 10 years age category, meaning that school enrollments have increased and will continue to increase. That's good news, but we also need even better news: a new school.

The biggest concern is that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is doing renovations to the building that do not take the community's needs and wishes into account. The residents do not want to lose their valuable community hall and activity space, which they use six days a week.

Also, I am concerned that renovating the existing facility will delay and even defer the decision to build a proper school for the community of Trout Lake. The community has been waiting too long.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education at the appropriate time. Mahsi cho.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FACILITY

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to welcome all Members back into the House here.

The Premier, in his sessional statement, mentioned that personal challenges such as mental health and addictions will continue to hold our people back. Earlier in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, all Members of this government got together and we developed priorities that were going to lead us along this path for four years. One of these priorities was enhancing addiction treatment programs using existing infrastructure so we didn't have to put more dollars into creating new buildings. We were also told at the onset of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, one of the biggest cost-drivers to this government and previous governments was mental health and addictions. Today that continues to be the case.

We are three years into our mandate and, yes, we have done some work in this area. We have started creating things that are going to help those who are battling these addictions. We've developed a Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, which some of those actions were already taking place during this past fiscal year. We've had the Minister's Forum on Addictions, where we heard from residents of the Northwest Territories and took the recommendations seriously. We're also looking at creating a new Mental Health Act so that those who are falling through the cracks get the help that they need.

I just want to point out that we do have a lot of facilities in the Northwest Territories where they are

government stock or facilities that are owned and operated by our Aboriginal partners, so we can still look at addressing one of these priorities that we as a government agreed to at the onset of this Assembly.

We have taken a few steps moving forward, but there is still a long way to go. There are still a lot of obstacles, challenges that we need to overcome, such as follow-up and support for people who go through treatment. Detox centres are another one that we really need to address.

I'm going to make a suggestion that moving forward – I know we are at a fiscal responsibility time within our government – this government take a look at taking a pan-territorial approach with our northern partners, Nunavut and Yukon, and create a northern treatment facility that meets the unique needs of Northerners in the North, for Yukon, for Nunavut, for the Northwest Territories, also working with the Aboriginal governments that can meet the unique needs of Northerners that desperately need this type of help and this type of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PEOPLE IN NEED

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today also is on mental health and addictions. In the Premier's statement, he talked about reducing the people being held back by addictions and mental health issues. Like my colleague Mr. Moses, I do not agree. I don't think this government is doing enough.

We were preparing for an Ebola epidemic, we were taking measures, but we have an epidemic in the Northwest Territories right now. All you have to do is read the newspaper every week and you will hear about one more person that's been found dead as a result of falling through the cracks, the gaps.

Mr. Bouchard and I had a constituency meeting before returning to this House. We heard the Catholic priest from Hay River talking about the lack of emergency response to people in need. I know in Yellowknife...and kudos to the people in Yellowknife, the NGOs that have worked so hard and so many volunteer hours to get infrastructure in place for the residents of Yellowknife. But in our regional centres and in our communities there is a huge gap for emergency responses. If you need income support, you can go to an income support worker, but these are not quick and they're more for long-term kind of planning. You can go to Housing and talk about social housing. You can go to family counseling and talking about needs. But we need

some emergency crisis type infrastructure on the ground in Hay River.

The gentleman who shared this need with us said that people look to the churches, even, in Hay River to try and meet this need. They have enough trouble keeping their lights on themselves. They don't have infrastructure to take in people. People see the church as a haven of help and benevolence, but in fact they struggle themselves and that's not the answer.

The priest also shared a story of a person who came knocking on his door. When this gentleman went to the hospital, they said sorry, you're not sick enough. They went to the RCMP and they said sorry, you're not drunk enough. But that person that night had no place to go and was in crisis and was obviously affected by things such as addictions and mental health issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, I also reminded the constituents at that meeting about our government's effort a number of years ago to put a homeless shelter for men in Hay River, which met with great opposition from the neighbours who were going to be surrounding it.

Later today I'm going to have questions again to see if we could revisit that concept to help out with the people that are falling between the cracks.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON APPRECIATION FOR NORTHERN FIREFIGHTERS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague Mr. Bouchard, today is an opportunity for me to say thank you to all the firefighters who kept us safe this summer, those who kept us safe during one of the worst fire seasons in over 30 years. I join many, many other NWT residents in thanking firefighters, firefighters from the NWT, from across Canada, and from our northern neighbours, Yukon and Alaska, who battled the hundreds of fires that burned in our territory this past summer, especially in the North and South Slave.

Firefighters are on call for us 24/7, ready and willing to do dangerous work if needed, and these men and women are trained and prepared for action, prepared for action at a moment's notice. They have specialized skills and knowledge that enables them to do an outstanding job often in difficult weather and in treacherous locations. I know this summer it was extremely warm. They put life and limb at risk to keep us safe and to keep our communities, our homes and our businesses safe.

But not only were firefighters hard at work this summer fighting fires, but many other GNWT personnel were working hard, as well, dealing with the impacts of the fires. ENR, DOT, MACA, all three

departments were especially involved in fighting the fires, keeping the public safe, monitoring road conditions and assisting communities when fires threatened.

This past fire season was a situation that could not be predicted and one that is, all being well, not the norm. Now that it's over, like my colleague Mr. Nadli, I can only hope that a long, hard introspection takes place and evaluation of every action and non-action taken during the 2014 fire season. There were lessons to be learned by one and all, and we need to examine the circumstances and learn the lessons. If a comprehensive analysis is done, policies and processes adjusted, we will be better prepared should another disastrous fire season hit us again.

Today I recognize and honour all NWT emergency personnel as they go about their jobs. To each and every one I say thank you for protecting us, thank you for taking risks for us, thank you for the job you do every day. To my colleagues, as you return to your communities over the next few days and weeks, take the time to search out and visit your local firefighters, and if you haven't done so already, please thank them personally.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POPULATION GROWTH INITIATIVES

**MR. HAWKINS:** [English translation not provided.]

I've been practicing. Mr. Speaker, on February 5<sup>th</sup> of this year the Finance Minister proclaimed an aggressive yet ambitious target to attract 2,000 new residents to the NWT. Our most current publication from the Bureau of Stats says the NWT's population fell by 218 persons. Now, that is a negative 10 percent shortfall on that particular number.

In the Finance Minister's words on February 6<sup>th</sup>, again, it said our fiscal future is closely linked to economic prospects and healthy population growth. The Minister continues to go on by saying we are also aware the risk of low economic growth and declining population poses on the territorial financing grant. Furthermore, he continues by saying the most effective way we can grow our revenues is to grow our economy and our population.

I can continue to quote the Finance Minister at length, but the fact is we're not growing our population. If this government was serious and committed to growing our population, it's time to be bold yet responsible. I'd like the government to consider ideas like this.

If this government committed today by putting two teachers in every school across the NWT, what would that do? Well, that would do wonders for

education. It would do wonders for population growth. It would do amazing things for community vitality, every single community.

Now, a fiscally responsible person would easily and quickly say, where's the money going to come from? Well, that would be a very good question. I estimate that if we put about approximately 70 new teachers on the ground, that would cost us approximately \$7 million. If each teacher brought a spouse, two children, as a matter of fact, the net federal transfer would cover that cost.

In comparison to the fires this summer at a million dollars a day, that \$7 million cost to cover those teachers would equal seven days of firefighting. Let's put money out there that really means something and does something, so if you have a school in Paulatuk, you have a school in Fort Good Hope, give them two new teachers, put money in that small community. It's a real resource to help our kids, help our families, help our communities. Those people spend real money. That real money will help revitalize that community and it will continue and continue. This is called genuine investment. So, if we want to support our communities, it's time to support the base, we support the foundation as we build a future for everyone.

I'll have questions later for the Minister of Finance, who made those bold statements, to find out where we are on this prospect of attracting 2,000 new people, because I can tell you today we're already behind on that target. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO MARY MCKAY

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to pay tribute to the late Mary McKay of Fort Resolution. Mary was born August 9, 1938, and passed away on July 6, 2014, at age 75. Mary passed away from natural causes.

Mary was born and raised in Fort Resolution and lived in Pine Point for a number of years with her late husband, Louis McKay, who worked at the mines. After Pine Point shut down, Mary and her family relocated to Fort Resolution.

Mary was always a stay-at-home mother and enjoyed being there for her family. She liked to cook, bake, visit with family and friends and pass the time as she played bingo and cards. Mary had many friends all over the NWT and enjoyed keeping in contact with them. Her sudden passing shocked her family and friends.

Mary was predeceased by her husband Louis, children Vern and Louis, parents Johnny and Alice Beaulieu, siblings Therese, Doris, Gilbert, James, Rodney and Percy. Mary is survived by her

daughter Margaret, Margaret's husband Charles Larocque, Delores and her spouse Daren, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sisters Violet Bailey, Martha Beaulieu, Margaret Miersch, Velma Delorme, Elizabeth Beaulieu, brothers Tommy, Leonard, Howard, Robert and Wilfred, and numerous nieces and nephews. My sincere condolences go out to the late Mary McKay's daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nephews and nieces. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Abernethy.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent of the Great Slave riding and the president of the UNW, Mr. Todd Parsons.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent of Yellowknife South, Gayla Thunstrom, the first vice-president of the Union of Northern Workers; and also Jack Bourassa, regional executive vice-president north with the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize one of the members of the union contingent, as well, Ms. Lauraine Armstrong, a family friend and a berry picking and swimming companion of my wife. Thank you.

---Laughter

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a delegation in the gallery. First I'd like to recognize NWTTA president Gayla Meredith here with us today, and also executive director Dave Roebuck that's here with us, as well, from the NWTTA. Also, we have two distinguished guests from the communities of Gameti and Whati and they're a part of the MACA School of Community Government law course they're taking. I'd just like to recognize Judal Dominicata, SAO of Gameti and also Lisa Nitsiza, SAO trainee in Whati. Welcome to the gallery. Mahsi.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome constituent Val Robertson to the gallery, as well as Mr. Sonny Greenland to the gallery, and Mr. Lafferty pointed them out before, but there were a number of people here from the Community Management and Finance Training Program. I believe they've all left, but I'll read their names off so they're on the record: Judal Dominicata from Gameti, Dennis Buboire from MACA in Fort Simpson, Chris Chai from the Hamlet of Tulita, Lisa Nitsiza from the Government of Whati, Judi Wall from the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok, Alison Brown, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs in Fort Simpson, Patricia Modeste from Deline, Mary Rose Yukon from Deline, John Yukon from Deline, Jodie Doctor from the Community of Deline and Valene Kenny from the community of Deline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to welcome Mr. Ken Stewart of Fort Simpson to the gallery. It's great to see you in the gallery, and hopefully you enjoyed the Members' statements and Ministers' statements. Thank you very much. Mahsi.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome all the residents of Weledeh that are in the House today, I know there are many. I'd like to mention in particular Ms. Jennifer Young, co-founder of Face2Face, a local organization that helped the House recognize Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day, as mentioned earlier, which was yesterday. As a result, all the Members are wearing pins that recognize that day. Ms. Young I know has requested that all MLAs wear the pins for the rest of October. In fact, they are planning an event tonight at the Yellowknife River at seven o'clock and all Members are invited to join that.

I'd also like to welcome to the House Frank Walsh, the second vice-president of the Union of Northern Workers executive, as well as regional vice-president for North Slave, Chris Potyok, if I got his name pronunciation correct there.

The Union of Northern Workers executive are here in Yellowknife to attend the UNW's 16<sup>th</sup> triennial convention that starts tomorrow and goes through Sunday. Welcome to Yellowknife; welcome to the House. Mahsi.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent from back home, Mr. Sonny Greenland. Welcome to the House.

I'd also like to recognize Ms. Val Robertson, who is also from Inuvik and does a lot of work over at the school and for the UNW.

I'd also like to recognize all the UNW members and all members from the Northern Territory Federation of Labour. Welcome to the House, and I hope you enjoy the proceedings this afternoon. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome the executive of the Union of Northern Workers who are here for their convention, and I wish them well in their convention in the next couple of days.

I specifically want to recognize two constituents of Frame Lake, Mr. Ivan Landry, who is the regional vice-president Kimberlite; and Ms. Miriam Gordon, who is equity vice-president for the UNW. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to take the opportunity to recognize constituent Julie Green. She's been a wonderful woman, she does a lot of great things in the city and I think she spends a lot of time with the YWCA. At this time I've forgotten her position so I won't try to name it, but I will say that she has an enormous impact in the North for women and their rights.

I'd like to recognize two missionaries in the back of the gallery I can see there. They are both from the United States doing good work here in the Northwest Territories. They are Elder Ames and Elder Anderson, and although I am not Mormon per se, but I can say that getting to know them very well, that they have done wonderful things for people here.

The final thing I'd like to mention, too, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the collective group here today who's recognizing their concern, their democratic rights and certainly bringing to bear the pressure of their focus on Bill 12, and that they're doing it in such a respectful manner I want to give them recognition for that and I'll, finally, say that I share their concern. Thank you.

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

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize constituent Mr. Roy Courtoreille, member of the UNW and a long time Hay River resident and a member of the large Courtoreille family that are distinguished in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you a number of people here in the gallery here. First and foremost the UNW executive, thank you for joining us here today. It is always nice to have people in the gallery.

Of course, up there from Range Lake I have the regional vice-president of the Somba K'e area, Ms. Marie Buchanan. Thank you very much, Marie, for joining us.

We have Mr. Chris Johnston, who is also from the riding. Thank you, Mr. Johnston, for joining us.

As Mr. Hawkins alluded to, we have two young Mormon boys here who are spending their spiritual journey, the last tail of it here in Yellowknife. Great young men and thank you for joining us today.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize Bruce Noksana, one of my friends I believe who now lives in Tuk. Welcome to the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. I too would like to welcome Mr. Bruce Noksana, one of my good friends I grew up with back home in Tuk. I'm glad to have him move back to Tuk from Inuvik. It's all good.

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

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Mr. Moses.

## Oral Questions

### QUESTION 374-17(5): NORTHERN ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FACILITY

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow up to my Member's statement and ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, in regard to our priorities that we set in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, has the department gone out in the Northwest Territories and identified any existing infrastructure that we can potentially turn into a treatment facility for residents that are battling addictions?

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, we have contracts with four facilities in southern Canada. We also have \$1.2 million in the Northwest Territories budget that we're going to be using for on-the-land programming, and we have gone to the Aboriginal

governments to distribute those dollars and we're looking for plans.

With respect to facilities in the Northwest Territories, what we're hoping to do is have a mobile treatment option program where we have a program in the Northwest Territories that can go to different regions at different times in different facilities that happen to be located throughout the Northwest Territories. There are a number of buildings or facilities that would be appropriate for mobile options, but before we actually finalize any of those locations, we need to finalize the work we're doing on the mobile treatment program. We have made some progress on that. It has been slow. I will admit, we haven't got as far as we would like and we're not ready to roll out a program, but that will be where we're able to use local facilities throughout the Northwest Territories and provide yet another option for our residents who are seeking treatment.

**MR. MOSES:** The mobile treatment unit sounds like a great idea; however, if the mobile treatment is going to the community of Inuvik but we have somebody, say, in Norman Wells or Hay River that needs that treatment program, we need that one facility, functional facility that's stabilized that will provide the services that will bring people from across the North to a place that's safe, a functional facility.

If the mobile unit is going to Hay River, you know, why do people in my community have to wait for that mobile unit to get to Inuvik to get the treatment that it needs? Can I ask the Minister, is he looking at creating one facility here in the Northwest Territories?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We've actually done that a number of times and it's failed every time. Right now we have contracts with four southern facilities that have massive economies of scale and can provide programming that has never been able to be delivered here in the Northwest Territories just by the sheer size.

I do disagree with the Member. If we have a mobile treatment option that's going to different communities at different times, anybody can go to that program at any point in time regardless of what community they're in. But what we've heard is people do want to have options in their communities, so we could run a mobile treatment program in the Sahtu for a 48 day period, then we could run it in the South Slave, Hay River as an example, for 48 days, then we could run it in Inuvik for 48 days, but because it's run in a different region does not mean that we are excluding people from other regions from participating while it's being run. There are options for people. When we finalize the program, the mobile treatment program, we will be utilizing northern facilities.

**MR. MOSES:** What I heard in those answers is that the department is not looking at creating a treatment facility in the Northwest Territories due to the costs, but as I mentioned in my Member's statement, mental health and addiction is the biggest cost-driver for this government. We have four contracts going down south.

Can I ask the Minister, has the department looked at streamlining our residents who are applying for treatment? Is that process streamlined? I know in the past we've had residents who have had to wait 30 days or been sober for 30 days before they can even look at treatment. We don't have those facilities, and our counsellors are already overworked to get that opportunity. Is he looking at streamlining the process, so we get people who are battling addictions who really need it into the treatment that they need right away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we've already done that. We've streamlined the application process for individuals who are seeking treatment. We normally require residents to go through four counselling sessions, but we acknowledge that clearly sometimes now is the right time. So, we have put in a modified process, an expedited process. An individual would go to their counsellor or other professional that happens to be available to them, and a referral can go to the department and we can have literally 24 hours turnaround time on approval of the application. Through that we've been able to direct people into one of our four treatment facilities in as short of a turnaround time as 48 hours.

Now, I will acknowledge that I have had an opportunity to travel throughout the Northwest Territories this summer. I have talked to people throughout the Northwest Territories about the modified process and I have had some health professionals come to us and say we weren't aware that there was this expedited process, so clearly we needed to do a better job of helping our professionals understand. I have directed the department to put a little bit more of a communication strategy together, so that our staff know and they can respond to those individuals in a timely manner. We still do suggest that people do try to attend four sessions, but as I said, we know that sometimes now is the right time. We've had residents in treatment programs in facilities as early as 48 hours after they've come to a professional. Sometimes it takes a little bit longer, but we can get quick turnaround. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. In my Member's statement I talked about doing a unique approach, a pan-territorial approach with our northern territorial partners, Nunavut and Yukon,



and look at using one of our existing facilities and getting funding to look at creating that facility where Northerners from Nunavut, Yukon and the Northwest Territories can get the treatment and services that they need.

Will the Minister be willing to look at that option for all Northerners, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** This was actually an idea presented to me by committee. I believe it was the Member, during business planning. Since then I have had an opportunity to attend the federal/provincial/territorial of Social Services Ministers throughout Canada. I did have an opportunity to briefly mention the concept to my counterparts in Nunavut and Yukon. No decision has been made, but we've asked our officials to start having conversations about the possibilities.

I do recognize that each of those jurisdictions has plans in place for their own treatment as far as sending people south or having on-the-land or other programs available. We have actually begun having some of that dialogue. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 375-17(5):  
NORTHERN ADDICTIONS  
TREATMENT FACILITY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Department of Health and Social Services shut down Nats'ejee K'eh and first came up with this idea of referring people to southern placements, I bought into it and I'm still not saying that it's not good and doesn't have a place, but for a territory that has a problem with mental illness and addictions to the proportion that this territory has a problem, we need something here. We need a flagship. We need a centre of excellence. We need some place that we as a government can say we are committed to working with our residents to solving these problems.

Not everyone wants to go south. Some do, some go with success, and some go many times and don't come back. It's a huge transition. I agree with my colleague from Inuvik. We put so much money into infrastructure for so many different things, and yet, as the Premier said today in his statement, we're being held back. Our people are being held back by this.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services again, could there be a facility for the Northwest Territories on the horizon of this government, given the size of the problem? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister's Forum on Mental Health and Addictions had their conversations, they heard clearly that programming and services was what people wanted and what people needed. We are looking at putting in a mobile treatment option, which allows us to use different facilities in the Northwest Territories. The important part of any program or of any mental health and addictions facility is the programming that exists within, so we want to make sure we have solid programming for a mobile treatment option that we can go to different communities in different regions and offer our residents yet another option for addictions treatment. So, we are looking at using facilities, multiple facilities with a solid core program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** As I mentioned in my Member's statement, people are dying. Oftentimes we need a very critical intervention on an emergency basis. Right now there is nothing, nothing in those communities.

When is the mobile treatment program coming to Hay River, because we need it there. Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I disagree with the Member that there's nothing in the communities. Throughout the Northwest Territories we have counsellors and many NGOs that do incredible work to support residents. We've got communities developing community wellness plans and trying to put in options. We are supporting on-the-land programming that is designed by the people for the people. We do have access in a timely way to southern facilities, and yes, we are looking at mobile treatment.

As I said to the Member from Inuvik, we are a little behind on making progress on the mobile treatment program. We haven't finalized any programming around that. We're still negotiating with a potential provider. Once we have a program, a solid program in place, we will start to roll that out in the Northwest Territories.

There are multiple facilities in the Northwest Territories where a mobile treatment program could work. There are facilities in Yellowknife, facilities in Hay River, facilities in Inuvik. We will move it around. It will be a multiple-day program. We believe probably around 48 days before it moves.

So I can't tell the Member when a mobile treatment program will be utilized in a facility at or near Hay River, but it will come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** To the Minister's point that there's nothing, let me retract that and say yes. If you want to get into long-term planning for housing or treatment or income support or all kinds

of support, yes, there are people in offices that you can go to. But in the situation of an emergency or a crisis, the person... Mental health and addictions is very much related to homelessness, and so to the guy that's standing on the front door of the parish priest's residence because he has nowhere to go and he's got serious, serious mental health and addictions issues, where does that person go on any given night in Hay River? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I think we are now talking about something slightly different than a treatment program; we're talking about immediate response to individuals who happen to be homeless or in a different type of crisis. I heard the Member when she was giving her statement, talking about the possibility of some sort of housing or an overnight shelter for individuals in Hay River. I don't believe that exists at this point in time, but I would be willing to talk to the two Members from Hay River about a possibility and what we can or can't do at this time. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, which department would be looking at putting something on the ground in a community like Hay River for people who need some kind of immediate crisis type of intervention help? Which departments would be working together on that? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As the Department of Health and Social Services, we are happy to work with the community on any proposals they'd like to put forward. Recently I've had the opportunity to travel to many communities, and many communities and their leadership actually approached us and said we want to participate, we want to do something in our community, and we've had ideas like respite houses or places where individuals can go when they are returning from care, some work that can be done up front. So we're open to any idea. We're happy to talk to the leadership in your community. We're happy to work with the Housing Corporation, who may be able to assist us identify facilities. We're happy to work with anybody who can get us to where we need to go. I'm happy to work with both Members from Hay River. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 376-17(5):

##### MISDIRECTED NWT HEALTH CARE CARDS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in July of this year, the Department of Health and Social Services apparently mailed 195 personal NWT health care cards to the wrong addresses. According to the department's own words, "This was due to a spreadsheet sorting error."

Interestingly, the department immediately claimed that there were no privacy concerns with this mistake. Today my questions will be for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

This is the first time the Minister has been able to comment on this privacy breach since July. Could the Minister clearly inform the House what exactly transpired with these 195 personal NWT health care cards? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One hundred and ninety-six health care cards were actually delivered to the wrong address and what happened is exactly what the Member identified, is addresses were messed up on a spreadsheet. One hundred and ten of those 196 cards were returned to us having never been opened, which means that there were about 86 that were not received back.

We, as a government, as a department, are monitoring the use of those cards and trying to make sure that they are not being used inappropriately by the wrong person. Everybody that was affected, all 196 were notified so they knew that had happened. So we will continue to monitor those 86 outstanding cards and the problem has been fixed, it was a human error and we've changed the process so it won't occur again. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I appreciate the Minister's reply, but to the question of privacy, why is it that we're not considering this a breach of privacy, and again I'll ask the Minister, why does he not address that question of privacy breach? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The wrong addresses on the card would not give the individuals who received the card the ability to access any of the actual individual's health care information. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you. I tend to disagree with the Minister here. The reason why is one only has to do simple Internet searches to see that stolen health care cards are linked to serious fraud-related and false health care claims from every part of Canada, costing taxpayers millions.

So again, to the Minister, what steps were taken to ensure, now we're hearing 195 or 196 cards, not 195 cards, were collected, were redistributed to the proper owner or destroyed? Again, we heard that there are still 86 outstanding. Where are those cards? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** One hundred and ninety-six cards were mailed in error, 110 of them came back, 86 of them are outstanding. We have made efforts to get those cards back. We have notified all of the affected individuals and we will

continue to monitor those cards to make sure that there is no unusual activity on those cards. Thank you.

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

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we're getting nowhere fast here. We know that the Information and Privacy Commissioner is conducting some sort of audit on these misdirected health care cards.

While we're waiting for the results of the investigation, what assurances can the Minister provide this House that this mistake won't happen again? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you. As I indicated, this was a human error. We have reviewed the processes that were being utilized in that particular office, and we have put in safeguards to make sure that there's now a process of double-checking the cards and double-checking the data to make sure that anything that is printed on the cards is accurate. So we have actually made the changes to the steps and the protocols on those cards. It should not happen again. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 377-17(5):  
2014 FOREST FIRE SEASON

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement about the forest fire season, I have questions for the Minister of ENR.

Now that all the smoke has cleared, does the department know exactly what the costs of this season's firefighting was to the government?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That final calculation is still being compiled and we'll have that in the coming weeks. Thank you.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Does the Minister know how these extraordinary costs can be covered through the GNWT finances?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. The extra funds are covered through borrowing the money. Thank you.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you. I'm just wondering if the Minister believes or has evaluated whether we have actually a large enough base in our fire suppression budget so that we don't have to always come back to this House. I know typically this is an exceptional year, but have we evaluated the base budget for fire suppression?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, we are aware of the committee's concern and of course, from a business perspective, we know that that number is too small. We have looked at sort of a 10-year rolling average and it would be about \$10 million. So we're going to look, based on our work and committee's recommendations, we're going to be looking at how we can have a base budget that's more reflective of the reality. Thank you.

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

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is on maybe an evaluation of the existing or the operations this year.

Have we seen anywhere we can do some cost savings, economies of scale when we have larger fire seasons, and going forward, how do we evaluate that?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. We are at work in terms of a review, cleaning up after fire season, doing the final accounting and then doing the critical debrief is underway. Then early in the new year, we'll have that work done and we expect to be able to go forward with those findings to committee to have a thorough discussion in anticipation of the upcoming fire season. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 378-17(5):  
POPULATION GROWTH INITIATIVES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I spent a bit of time highlighting some of the words the Finance Minister had provided this House on February 6<sup>th</sup>. It was really talking about embarking on a new adventure of trying to create this initiative that would draw 2,000 new people to the Northwest Territories over the next five years, but as our NWT Bureau of Stats has clearly said, outlined – and I put great faith in their hard work – we've had a drop of 218 people in this last year, which puts us about 10 percent below that greater mark.

So, what I want to hear from the Minister today is what is he doing as an initiative to draw new people to the Northwest Territories, because we've lost 218 thus far. This has a serious impact in Yellowknife, but it has a crippling impact on every small community. When they lose those jobs, it is devastating, that financial economy is taxed, it hurts the community and we have to put every single effort into building resources in those areas. So, what is the Minister doing? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not, in effect, losing jobs. What we're trying to do is find people to fill the jobs that we have that are in many cases going begging. We have met as a government now numerous times.

We have a working committee that's looking at a whole host of things, very simple things like the issue that has bedeviled many of us in many of the departments from following up with our students has been this issue that ECE had with confidentiality and an inability to share the information on students in school, where they are, what they're studying, so that we can in fact make sure that we stay in touch with them and make the job offers and recruit them the same way that the private sector is doing. That issue has been resolved and it's going to open significant opportunities for us.

We are doing very common sense things like working with industry to jointly go south to job fairs and we combine our efforts to recruit into the North, collectively.

We are looking at, once again through Education, a nominee program, integration program. There's a new express program coming out from the federal government. We're looking at that as a way that we can get folks on the ground here, where you can now reach out for specific occupations and get guaranteed from the federal government that within six months you'll be able to get these folks landed on the ground and in the communities where the jobs are.

We've had now two meetings with industry to talk about the further work that they're doing, the challenges that we collectively have with housing, and there's more work underway as well. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I was proudly educated in the Northwest Territories, growing up in Fort Simpson and in Yellowknife. My education taught me that negative 218 persons is a lot. So when the Minister says to me – and remember, this is the gentleman in charge of our books and our finances – we're not losing ground, perhaps the Minister of Finance can explain how a loss of 218 people isn't a loss to the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories isn't losing ground. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. The Member is a fine example of the success of our education system. We're not excluding the fact that it's a loss. What we have done is started a program, an initiative that we've given ourselves a five-year time horizon, because we recognize that these things take time to sort things out, to turn things around, to do the work that's necessary, to make the changes that are necessary, to do the things with HR, for example, where we want to be able to go south and enable the folks that go south to take interviews and do job offers on the spot so that we

can be way more timely in how we fill our positions. We don't argue at all that it's a loss and it's setting us even further behind, but our goal still remains the same. We want to look at increasing the population by 2,000, in five years, or greater if at all possible.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Yellowknife's population has relatively remained the same and we've been fortunate only on the principle that we've had growth from the communities. That's terrible, because where the real impact is happening is in the communities. Getting the jobs out to the communities will have a positive effect on the whole territory, every single program we need.

In my Member's statement today, I said let's put two teachers in every single school. That would bring new families to every community; that would bring new job growth, new vitality and new cash on the ground where people spend money. There's an initiative.

Would the Minister speak to that idea, because that would deliver immediate change to those communities and a seriously enormous, positive effect on everything that happens there.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There are a couple of initiatives that are intertwined here. We are looking at increasing the population of the Northwest Territories. That is one thing we're trying to do. We are working, as a government, on decentralization to move positions outside of the centre, out to the communities. That work is underway. Phase three is now underway. We are also working to fill the very many vacancies we have, and we have approximately a split between Yellowknife and communities of vacancies anywhere between five to 800 positions that we're trying to fill in both inside Yellowknife and outside of Yellowknife. If we can address those issues, I think we would be in fine shape.

The issue of adding potentially two teachers in every community, so 66 new positions to the government at a time of fiscal restraint when we also have all these other vacancies, would be a little premature.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said in my Member's statement that the net effect would actually be awash because our growth and our federal grant transfer would actually cover the cost of those teachers. May I also briefly remind the Minister that he had pointed out in his February 6<sup>th</sup> statement that in 2013 we continued to lose population? What's happening here is, year over year over year we continue to lose population.

My last question is simply this: Where have there been any results of population growth in the

Northwest Territories under the tenure of this McLeod government?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** What we have laid out is a good, solid plan on a go-forward basis that we believe is going to show results. We are making a lot of the structural, organizational and procedural changes to do that. We have initiated a much closer working relationship with the private sector to make this a combined and joint effort so it's not just strictly government.

But I can tell you, from a simple math point of view, if we filled the vacancies that we have, then we would address the issue that the Member is talking about many times over, and if we would recruit all the students that we're giving SFA to, to come back home to take jobs that are there, if we do a better job at that, that would be part of the solution of making those staff changes.

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

QUESTION 379-17(5):  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON  
DEVOLUTION LEGISLATION

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Premier. I would like to ask the Premier a few questions following up on the acceptance of all the devolution legislation that we passed, I guess that we had to accept in the spring. I'd like to, first of all, ask the Premier, in the previous session, and certainly when we were discussing devolution, there was commitment from the Premier that there would be consultation on the devolution legislation that we inherited from the federal government and the three bills that we put forward on our own.

I'd like to ask the Minister, firstly, what has been done since there was something posted quietly on the GNWT website asking for feedback from residents. There's been little to no publicity around that; that I'm aware of. I'd like to ask the Premier, apart from that, I'd like to get an update on what the government is doing in regards to public consultation on devolution legislation.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, we have committed to doing a review of the 27 pieces of legislation that were mirrored by this government. We have posted on our website and there have been approximately 500 hits on the website. A number of people have been accessing various pieces of legislation, but as of this date there have been no substantive questions or expressions of any concern of any of the legislation on the website.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Premier for that information. Five hundred hits could simply indicate

that somebody's wondering what's behind that. I'm a little dismayed that there hasn't been much response, but then responding to complex legislation on a website is not something that's easily done.

At one point, several times, I think, in our discussions there was a commitment from the government and from the Premier that Regular Members would be involved in consultations with residents around this devolution legislation. I'd like to ask the Premier, what are the future plans for consultation with residents on devolution legislation?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** What was outlined and discussed with committee was that we would put this legislation on the website and at the appropriate time we would gather all of the feedback and issues and concerns that were raised and that we would report back to committee with the intention that where there were areas of concern, we would deal with the specific legislation.

Just to be more specific, there have been 1,709 legislation review website views, 537 of those were on the pages that list the new legislation. Specific sites that were visited were the Oil and Gas Operations Act and the Petroleum Resources Act. They were the most popular, and visitors spent an average of 2.25 minutes reviewing the material. There were also 184 visits to the question and answer and comment page, and I said there were zero questions submitted for response, zero comments submitted for posting, zero requests for additional briefings, zero new written submissions where we're asking the public to identify what areas of legislation they were concerned with and what changes they would like to see implemented and improved.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Premier for that informative information, but I have to say, it's pretty hard to comment on complex legislation in two and a half minutes. Goodness knows, the Premier mentioned 27 pieces of legislation, and I am aware that we're dealing with 10.

To the Premier, I'd like to know, it sounds as though the only plans that were there was that we were going to take comments from the public. It was then going to come back to Regular Members.

I need to specifically ask the Premier, as he, I thought, committed to Regular Members to do this consultation in concert with us, are there plans to go out to the public in person and to publicize it far more than we have already and to do consultation with our residents?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As I have said before, the objective of the review was to encourage the general public to better understand the legislative process associated with devolution, including mirroring and delegation. Also, to have an

opportunity to review the devolution legislation and to ask questions of clarification. We also wanted to communicate that the devolve and then evolve process, and we wanted to gather initial public responses, questions and suggestions about current and future devolution legislation and we wanted to provide the general public with an understanding of the legislative processes for amendment of existing bills and development of new legislation. I think we've accomplished all of those, and what we want to do, I guess, is we will take all of the information that we've received.

Perhaps in view of the lack of response, we could extend the process and start another communications process to appoint people to the legislation. But I guess in my mind, with the fact that there is little or no response, it means that everybody, the public, is happy with the mirrored legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't agree with the Premier that no response means that everybody's happy. I think there's been a huge lack of publicity about this. I think there also has been an ignoring of the fact that Regular Members and Cabinet wanted to work together on this and that hasn't happened.

So again I would like to ask the Premier – he's saying that maybe something will happen – if he will commit to working with the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning to develop a consultation plan so that residents will have a reasonable and concrete input into devolution legislation problems and changes. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The website update and advertising campaign began on May 20, 2014. It was highlighted in the sessional statement of May 28<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by a news release on May 29<sup>th</sup> and a very extensive advertising campaign in northern papers. We are planning to start another round of advertising and it's scheduled to start in early November. As usual and as always, we work very closely with committee on all of these things.

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

QUESTION 380-17(5):  
PUBLIC INPUT ON  
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier in follow-up to my Member's statement today. The Premier is aware of all the ways the residents of the NWT have expressed their grave concerns about fracking, the impacts of fracking and the need for thorough and inclusive review as so many jurisdictions are doing.

This government has devolved authorities to give Northerners more voice, according to the Premier, yet they are clearly being stifled by our own government who refuses to hear them.

Given the failure to penetrate this government's comprehension to date, what will the Premier do to show that we are not as colonial as the evidence would suggest, that Northerners do indeed have a voice and that their call for review will be heard? Mahsi.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sustainable economic development is a priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories. With devolution, as the Member points out, our Government of the Northwest Territories is taking on a greater role in creating our future and guiding the Northwest Territories economy. We strive for balanced development where we have development while protecting the environment.

In the North the regulatory system flows from land claim agreements with land and water boards, with representatives of the federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments tasked with making decisions on behalf of Northwest Territories residents.

As we've said many times, we will be coming out with draft regulations that will deal with oil and gas that will be available for public input and it will be circulated widely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That certainly confirms that Northerners' voices are not being heard. According to an EKOS poll last week, 70 percent of Canadians, regardless of political affiliation, support a fracking moratorium "until it is scientifically proven to be safe." Significant numbers of Northerners want the same thing, or at least a comprehensive review. GNWT departments have authority because the MVRMA calls for an environmental review if there "might be public concern."

What expression from the public is required for the Premier to finally listen to the people and ensure a thorough, transparent and public environmental review of fracking which includes the fundamental question "should we accept the risks of fracking," not just how are we going to frack? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** In the Northwest Territories we are working on fracking regulations which will reflect best practices of the industry. We've also inherited guidelines from the National Energy Board which deals with hydraulic fracking. In the Northwest Territories' regulatory system, the appropriate land and water board conducts preliminary screening and our government respects the decisions of the land and water boards. Also, we continue to assess how we best use our new authorities in the Northwest Territories.

I'm very confident that when the draft regulations come out, it will be discussed widely and we will get substantial input. As far as I know, the Government of the Northwest Territories has not violated Section 125 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** There are provisions made, not as a matter of respect, by these organizations, such as land and water boards, for the Government of the Northwest Territories departments to call for environmental review. It's not a matter of respect; in fact that provision is there. We can use it anytime we want.

Mark Carney, ex-governor of the Bank of Canada and current governor of the Bank of England, recently stated at a seminar at the World Bank that fossil fuel companies cannot burn their existing reserves of oil and gas if the oil is to avoid catastrophic climate change. We know what this means for our families – it's happening now – and our children and what this means around the globe to people who do not have all the privileges that we have.

Exploitation of ever more fossil fuels endangers the people, land and water of the Northwest Territories. The recent pullout of industry from the Sahtu for a year or more provides time for thoughtful review. On what basis does this government presume they can do what nobody else has done? Studies come in every day proving impacts; frack without significant and unpredicted indeed would never happen impacts. How can we do this and thus refuse a public review? What an assumption. What a presumption, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I didn't hear a question there, but I will respond in kind. In our opinion, the Sahtu Land and Water Board dealt with the application. There is no drilling going on anywhere in the Northwest Territories right now. We as a government are developing draft oil and gas regulations that will be put to the public early in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the public will not hear what our presumption is, the basis for our presumption that we can do everything right. The Premier mentioned best practices that we subscribe to. Let's just look at what best practices have gotten other jurisdictions. California's pristine aquifers have recently been done in by produced water that supposedly could never enter their portable aquifers that they relied on. Studies now prove that supposedly cleaner fuels produced by fracking like gas and liquid natural gas, which the Premier is pushing for all our communities, have greenhouse gas emissions as bad as or worse than coal. New information is amassing daily.

For my last question, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask this on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. Why? Why is this government afraid to conduct the required review? The Premier, in his statement today, said it's not the money. So why are we saying no to our people when so many jurisdictions are realizing the necessity for a reasonable look at the controversial practice of fracking? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** When you talk to the industry where bids were accepted for work in the Sahtu that have decided to work elsewhere, when we talked to the industry, they indicated they were collecting baseline information. So if they ever decide to come back north, they will have necessary baseline information that will reflect the best practices of drilling and that before they actually do the drilling, in this case we're looking at trying to determine the size of the oil and gas reserves that are there, that they will have all the necessary information when and if they do decide to come back. Right now there is no drilling going on anywhere in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 381-17(5):

#### STAND-ALONE SCHOOL IN TROUT LAKE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in the House I was speaking about the need for the community of Trout Lake and the growing student population about working towards getting a new stand-alone school. The plan now is to renovate the existing community hall.

I would like to ask the Minister exactly what renovations are being planned to the facility in Trout Lake. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Trout Lake school, there's been a review undertaken, part of the review of the small community schools. The Charles Tetso School has resulted in a recommendation for renovation and also additional construction, research and support space for the students and also the staff population. That is the proposed plan right now for construction within the community of Trout Lake.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** It certainly addresses the short-term need for the schooling situation in Trout Lake. However, the chief, council and residents are afraid of losing their community hall space. They use that same facility six days a week to do their mental health and wellness training when in the community.

I would like to know the long-term plan. Will the Minister move towards a stand-alone school for the community of Trout Lake? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** In June of 2013, I, along with Minister Beaulieu, Mr. Menicoche and Deh Cho Divisional Education Council and my departmental staff visited the community and the school to have a visual of the reality of what Members have referred to in this House over the years. Due to that fact, there is a planning study that is on the way in 2014-2015 to deal with the part of the long-term plan that the Member is alluding to. We've identified a short-term plan to initiate a renovation within the school for additional space that is required, but there is a plan in place where we had a site visit in 2014 and I am working very closely with Public Works and Services, Mr. Beaulieu, on developing project brief that would be used to acquire a schematic design for completion in October 2014. That is the overall goal. Mahsi.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Something was missed and they weren't aware of the type and extent of the renovations and I think there's even an addition. The chief and council weren't informed. I'm not too sure why, but when I informed them that renovations were being done, they were saying we saw some people over there making assessments and that kind of stuff.

The Minister also spoke about a planning study. Is this part and parcel? Was there a team in there to look at the renovations and a separate team actually doing the planning study? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Part of the long-term needs of the school and also the community is to develop a planning study. That is part of the process of capital projects that will be identified by each department. So, we need to have a planning study in place and this is a part of May 2014 when my staff visited the community. That's part of the preliminary discussions that they need to have with the community based on their needs and analysis. So yes, that is part of the community visits that they initiated and there will be opportunities for community members to provide their input as well. Mahsi.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to hear about moving forward and towards getting a new stand-alone school into the capital projects.

I'd just like to know about the planning study, one that came up, back in Trout Lake and to involve the community and even the whole community, because the community is a close-knit community and they all like to make decisions together. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. We do appreciate the leadership's input into the design of the planning studies. So, those are discussions that we are currently having.

As I stated, my understanding is that October 2014, this month, it will be completed as part of our work with Public Works and Services and my Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the project brief that's been discussed with both departments, along with the leadership's input. So we'll take those into consideration as well. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 382-17(5):  
YEAR-ROUND WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Because of the policy in terms of values at risk where forest fires were started in remote locations and that don't pose any danger to human lives or infrastructure or buildings of that nature, they're left to burn. This summer, well, the beginning of September, I had the opportunity to travel down the Dempster to Trout River and we came across a fire that was just smoldering across Morrisey Creek, and at the same time towards Bouvier Creek there was another fire that was just smoldering and wasn't being actioned.

So my question for the Minister is: Many people are concerned that the fires will continue to smolder under the muskeg this winter and reignite in the spring. Can the Minister comment on how likely that is to happen? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister of ENR, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't quantify how widely it happens, but I do agree with the Member and I've seen it myself where there's smoke coming through the snowbanks even on a drive from Fort Smith to Hay River where there's been fires. So we know it happens and we've mapped the burned areas, but I can't quantify it to the extent the Member is asking.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you. What we also experienced this summer is we had of course, obviously, frequent highway closures. Of course, we have the main artery between Fort Providence and Yellowknife that of course inconvenienced travellers. If such an occurrence was to happen again, and I hope it does not happen, what would the government do differently? Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. That type of deliberation and review is part of the critical debriefing that's underway and that I've just committed to sharing with committee when it's done early in the New Year as we look at coming for the winter session. Thank you.



**MR. NADLI:** This summer was the driest and the hottest. I think there are some initiatives out there that communities could tap into. One example is the FireSmart initiatives. Usually a good time to do those kinds of initiatives, carrying them out, is during the wintertime.

How can we better prepare our communities for forest fires? Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. All the communities could take a page from the work that Kakisa did to take matters into their own hands as the fire smarted their community, and as they were encroached on all sides by fire they recognized the value of that exercise. So I think communities can look at doing public spaces and then the encouragement for all individuals to get out there with their own saws and chainsaws, as I did my property, where you thin out the trees, you clear out the underbrush, you limb your trees as high as you can, move your woodpile away from your house and those type of things. All will give you a very precious advantage. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Nadli. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 383-17(5):  
MUNICIPAL SERVICE COSTS  
IN FORT MCPHERSON

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in follow-up to my Member's statement. How long has the Minister been aware of the situation in Fort McPherson? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were made aware of it when it was reported that there was some irregular activity going on with some community finances. We were made aware of it, we took the necessary steps that we had to, we appointed a municipal supervisor, and in July of this year we dissolved council and appointed a municipal administrator for the community. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you. Is there a limit to the deficit a municipality can incur before the department steps in? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. There is no limit. The situation they faced up in that particular community, the high turnover of SAOs, I think the average lifespan of an SAO up there was, like, six months and no oversight. So that led to some of the problems that they had up there.

With the new accountability framework that MACA has introduced and implemented, we're believing

that's going to alleviate a lot of that and we'll be able to identify a lot of potential problems early and take the necessary steps to deal with them. That helps MACA and it helps the community so they're not so far into a deficit situation. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** Is the Minister willing to direct his department to work with the hamlet to reduce municipal service rates to levels that can work for everyone? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We've had a number of meetings up in Fort McPherson. I was up there in July. I met with a lot of community residents. The big concern we heard up there was the rates the elders were paying. We took the necessary steps to reduce the rates for the elders and that was retroactive to April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. So we heard what they've had to say.

A lot of the issue was the water and sewer, the delivery of water, the water rates were quite low to begin with and they weren't reviewing them annually and increasing them as their cost of providing the service was increasing. So it went from that to the increase that they had in this past year. So that was a very high increase for a lot of folks up there, but we've heard what they had to say and we dealt with the elders' issue, which we believe from the meeting results that the elders were the most important. Thank you.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I've been focusing on the water rates, but it's also affecting the sport and recreation. So I'd like to ask the Minister, will the Minister direct his department to implement a five- to 10-year payback plan on the deficit and not a two- to three-year? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. That would be awfully difficult to do because the sooner that they're able to pay off the deficit, and they've already taken some necessary steps in cutting some of the costs to the community, so we're seeing an effect of that already. So we believe within two or three years they should have the deficit almost off the books. If we were to stretch it out too long, then that may affect their ability to provide a lot of services in the community and you're going to have to pay it back at the end of the day. So we thought with the two- or three-year payback, with the number of changes that have been made and they've been received, but with the number of changes that have been made, we're starting to already see an improvement in the deficit and the cost of providing the services to the communities such as the water contract. Instead of doing the water contract in house, we went out for tender and there was significant savings there. It's issues like that, I think, that are going to help the community deal with the deficit and pay down the

deficit sooner. The longer we drag it out, the longer they'll have the deficit hanging over their head.

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

QUESTION 384-17(5):  
STATUS OF ARCTIC TERN FACILITY

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to talk to an issue here about one of our facilities. I mentioned it earlier in my Member's statement about using existing infrastructure for treatment programs. One in particular is a building in Inuvik. It's the Arctic Tern building. There have been a lot of issues with that, but I know this government has been working on stabilizing the foundation.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services just for a quick update on that foundation and whether it was stabilized or not, and is the building going to be able to be used for other departments?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The building has been completed. We had form-jacked the foundation. It was completed as of January. We have inspected the building and it's ready for reuse by another department if need be.

**MR. MOSES:** I'm glad to hear that the building is ready for reuse. I know that there was a lot of cost in getting that building up and running.

I'd like to ask the Minister, in regard to that building, how many beds are currently in that building. I know it was used before for a young offenders facility, so I wonder how many beds are in that building that could be used as well.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I don't have that information with me here. I don't know how many bed facility that was back when it was used as a young offenders facility, but I can get that information for the Member.

**MR. MOSES:** The reason I'm asking is we do have a homelessness issue here in the Northwest Territories, a transitional house issue. We also have an addictions problem, as you heard here today.

I just want to ask the Minister, have any departments looked at grabbing that facility for use, and can he let us know which departments have looked at using that facility that's going back into the government stock?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources new management has looked at that facility for a possible relocation of the Shell Lake operations into the Arctic Tern facility.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we have had questions on this at the beginning of this Legislative Assembly. Did the Minister have any dialogue with the Minister of Health and Social Services to look at Arctic Tern as a possible addictions treatment centre and detox facility?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I was going to but the Minister changed... No.

---Laughter

No, I have not had consultation with the Minister of Health on using that facility for a treatment centre at this time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The time for question period has expired. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Mr. Mercer.

### Return to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 18-17(5):  
RESOURCES SPENT ON  
WILDLIFE ACT CONSULTATIONS

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 18-17(5), asked by Mr. Bromley on June 4, 2014, to the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding resources spent on Wildlife Act consultations.

It is difficult to separate the amount of money spent on development of regulations from funds spent on the development of the act itself as both processes occurred during the same fiscal year and costs and accounting for each organization are covered under a single contribution agreement. With that in mind, I offer the following estimates of expenses since the act was passed in November 2013.

- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) provided approximately \$55,000 to Aboriginal governments for participation in two face-to-face meetings and two teleconferences with the Wildlife Act Working Group (WAWG). This group is made of up approximately 35 people from across the Northwest Territories. Most of the funding went to cover travel, accommodation and honoraria costs and a legal review of regulations to ensure consistency with Aboriginal and treaty rights and land claims rights and processes. The next WAWG meeting will be in July 2014.
- ENR provided about \$8,000 to wildlife co-management boards for their WAWG participation. The majority of these funds went to cover travel, accommodation and honoraria expenses.
- ENR provided approximately \$20,000 to members of Stakeholders Wildlife Act Advisory Group (SWAAG) to cover costs to review

materials and participate in two face-to-face meetings. Most of this funding went to cover honoraria and some limited travel as most members reside in Yellowknife. SWAAG members agreed that they have had adequate input into the regulations that required consultation and public engagement over the summer, and their next face-to-face meeting should be in October after public engagement and consultation is complete.

- ENR spent approximately \$15,000 on related items including room rentals, catering, material printing, et cetera.

The amount of staff time spent working and consulting with various groups to develop the regulations cannot be broken down by group as the majority of staff time is spent researching and developing concept papers, preparing and reviewing drafting instructions, and drafting regulations that are shared equally with all groups. The same staff also participates in each of the meetings identified above. With that in mind, ENR has approximately 3.5 full-time person years dedicated to this project with additional ongoing input from renewable resource officers and regional superintendents through the NWT, communications specialists, legal counsel from the Department of Justice, and staff from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. In addition, the Department of Justice has provided a dedicated drafter for the development of the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 19-17(5):  
LIABILITY FOR OPERATING SITES IN  
FINAL DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mr. Bromley on June 5, 2014, regarding liability for operating sites in the Final Devolution Agreement.

1. Could the Premier please provide the following information for each of the 13 sites listed:
  - amount of financial security currently held by the federal or territorial government;
  - the form of that security, e.g., irrevocable letter of credit;
  - the authority under which each security amount is held;
  - the expiry date of each security instrument;
  - the amount of security as set out in relevant water licences, land use permits, surface leases or other instruments for the specific site;
  - whether there has been an independent review of the liability; and

- if there has been an independent review of the liability, what was that amount?

This question is in respect of Section 6.5 of the Devolution Final Agreement. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a summary of the financial security held by the GNWT for each of the 13 sites listed.

2. If there is a gap between the amount of security held and that which is authorized in relevant water licences, land use permits, surface leases or other instruments, does the GNWT still intend to take over the liability or will it exercise its right to not accept the site under Part 6.5(d) to not accept that operating site?

In response to question 2, Canada and the GNWT negotiated the transfer of existing operating sites to the GNWT as part of the Devolution Final Agreement. The GNWT is reviewing and assessing these sites according to the respective context under the Devolution Final Agreement.

The GNWT is reviewing and assessing the Canadian Zinc site in conjunction with existing regulatory process currently underway.

The Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation and the GNWT are in the process of completing the form of the security to be posted under the water licence.

For the Deh Cho Bridge, the GNWT is the project proponent and no security is required by the terms of the authorizations for this project.

The GNWT is also the project proponent for the Mackenzie Valley Highway and this project is still in regulatory review. No authorizations for this project have yet been issued that would require security.

For the Patterson Sawmill, no security is required by the terms of the authorizations for this project.

No security is required by the terms of the authorizations for the Kunnek Resources project.

The Devolution Final Agreement provides various mechanisms by which Canada and the GNWT can address the ongoing management of financial assurances and potential liabilities. For example, in some cases the GNWT takes over responsibility for operating sites where it will assess security within the regulatory framework and processes to determine appropriate security during the life of the project.

Each operating site presents distinct circumstances that the GNWT is assessing to ensure that financial assistance and potential liabilities are managed in a proactive manner and in the public interest. GNWT departments are also assessing financial security on an ongoing basis, which includes providing expert advice and security cost estimates to the land and water boards to support informed decision-making.

3. How does GNWT plan to manage these liabilities and what are the plans to prevent any further public liabilities?

In response to question 3, the regulatory framework in the Northwest Territories provides for an independent assessment of environment risk of proposed resource development projects, including the ongoing management and assessment of securities. As part of the regulatory framework, securities can be, and are, adjusted by land and water boards pursuant to the terms and conditions of an authorization.

This can happen on the initiative of the land and water boards or at the request of project proponents or interested parties, including the GNWT. GNWT departments continue to assess security and provide expert advice to the land and water boards, including security cost estimates, to support informed regulatory decision-making.

While legislative responsibilities related to financial securities now reside in several departments, GNWT departments are coordinating their reviews to ensure that the assessment of securities addresses the broad range of GNWT concerns. To this end, the GNWT is taking a strategic and coordinated approach to the management of financial assurances and potential liabilities on public lands following devolution. The GNWT has approved the creation of a liabilities and financial assurances division in the new Department of Lands. The division is now being established to oversee security management and policy development for the GNWT.

The division has three main functions. One is to implement a strategic and coordinated approach to the management of financial assurances that manages, reduces or avoids exposure of financial risk to the GNWT and addresses the shortcomings of federal financial assurances approaches. The second function is to provide effective integration of regulatory securities within the broader regulatory framework, including engagement and coordination with regulators including federal boards and stakeholders. The third function of the division is to lead and coordinate policy for the management of financial assurances and recommend procedures, protocols and policies.

The division is already initiating baseline policy reviews to inform short- and long-term policy development. It is also in the process of developing systems and frameworks for handling and processing security that are intended to support sufficiency analyses and risk assessment which will inform broader policy development once implemented.

4. When does the GNWT intend to make public a list of financial securities held for the sites that it will manage into the future?

In response to question 4, security deposits that are required pursuant to land use permits and water licences for projects on public lands in the Northwest Territories are available through existing land and water board public registries. These registries also contain detailed assessments of security submitted by stakeholders, including project proponents and the GNWT, as well as board decision-making and reasons to substantiate a final security determination.

Environmental agreements for the Ekati, Diavik and Snap Lake mines also include provisions related to security. These agreements and their specific security requirements are publicly available through the respective monitoring boards.

As part of the GNWT's policy development, the GNWT is considering how best to provide additional information related to securities to the public.

5. As of June 1, 2014, have any of the 61 sites listed in Schedule 7, Part E – Operating Sites (Oil and Gas, Industrial and Mining Dispositions) been transferred to the GNWT and what is the status of the financial security being held for these sites?

In response to question 5, all of the 61 sites listed in Schedule 7, Part E were transferred to the GNWT on April 1, 2014. These sites reflect a broad range of project types and their transfer was part of the negotiated issues between all parties to the Devolution Final Agreement. With the transfer of these sites to the GNWT, Canada was required to provide the GNWT with associated financial security posted in accordance with these sites.

These sites were subject to the applicable environmental screenings and regulatory process and have current owners who are responsible for their cleanup and remediation as well as for the associated environmental liabilities. If the owner abandons the site and insolvency occurs within five years of the transfer date of April 1, 2014, the Devolution Final Agreement sets out steps by which Canada's responsibilities for historic liabilities at the site can be determined.

The GNWT recognizes that it must take a proactive approach to regularly assessing and managing these projects. The new liabilities and financial assurances division is well placed to consider how the GNWT will ensure a proactive and coordinated approach to the management of financial assurances and liability issues for these operating sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Nadli.

### Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 30:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, and wishes to report to the Assembly that Bill 30 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

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

BILL 25:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
EDUCATION ACT

BILL 29:  
HUMAN TISSUE DONATION ACT

BILL 32:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PHARMACY ACT

BILL 27:  
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2014

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed the following bills: Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act; and Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act. I wish to report to the Assembly that Bills 25, 29 and 32 are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs has also reviewed Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014, and wishes to report that Bill 27 as amended and reprinted is also ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

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

BILL 12:  
NORTHERN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SERVICES  
PENSION PLAN ACT

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Government Operations wishes to report that we are reviewing Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act, and would like to report that additional time is required to complete the review of Bill 12.

MOTION TO EXTEND REVIEW PERIOD  
FOR BILL 12:  
NORTHERN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SERVICES  
PENSION PLAN ACT,  
CARRIED

Therefore, in accordance with Rule 70(1)(1.3) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that the review period for Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act, be extended to Friday, October 31, 2014.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

The 120-day review period for Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act, has been extended to October 31, 2014.

Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 115-17(5):  
NWT CAPITAL ESTIMATES 2015-2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 116-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
MOTION 14-17(5), EXPANSION OF POLICING  
AND NURSING SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 117-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
MOTION 17-17(5), INTERIM MEASURES FOR  
THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST  
OF WILD MUSHROOMS

TABLED DOCUMENT 118-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
CR 9-17(5), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE  
2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE INFORMATION AND  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents, entitled "Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016;" Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 14-7(5), Expansion of Policing and Nursing Services;" and "Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 17-17(5),

Interim Measures for the Commercial Harvest of Wild Mushrooms.”

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, I wish to table the following document, entitled “Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 9-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.”

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 119-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
CR 6-17(5), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE  
2014 REPORT OF THE  
AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA ON  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 120-17(5):  
BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES:  
AN ACTION PLAN TO TRANSFORM  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled “Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 6-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the NWT Child and Family Services;” and “Building Stronger Families: An Action Plan to Transform Child and Family Services.”

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 121-17(5):  
DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN NATURAL AND  
ANTHROPOGENIC SOURCES OF ARSENIC IN  
SOILS FROM THE GIANT MINE, NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES, AND THE NORTH BROOKFIELD  
MINE, NOVA SCOTIA

TABLED DOCUMENT 122-17(5):  
GIANT MINE WORKING GROUP  
10-11 APRIL 2014 MEETING SUMMARY

TABLED DOCUMENT 123-17(5):  
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DEBT 2014:  
A GUIDE TO THE INDEBTEDNESS OF  
CANADA AND THE PROVINCES

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table here before the House. Document one, “Distinguishing Between Natural and Anthropogenic Sources of Arsenic in Soils from Giant Mine, Northwest Territories, and the North Brookfield Mine, Nova Scotia,” by Laurie Ann

Wright. It’s a Queen’s University study, September 2008. The second document is “Giant Mine Remediation Project, Giant Mine Working Group, April 2014, Meeting Summary,” written on April 16, 2014. Finally, I have a Fraser Institute Report, April 2014, on Canadian Government Debt, 2014.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 124-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
MOTION 13-17(5), TRAINING FOR  
EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

TABLED DOCUMENT 125-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
MOTION 22-17(5), FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT  
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled “Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 13-17(5), Training for Early Childhood Workers;” and “Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 22-17(5), Funding to Implement Junior Kindergarten.” Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 126-17(5):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO  
MOTION 15-17(5), PUBLIC ACCESS TO  
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

TABLED DOCUMENT 127-17(5):  
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL SECURITIES  
HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled “Government of the Northwest Response to Motion 15-17(5), Public Access to Automated External Defibrillators.” Further to my Return to Written Question 19-17(5), I wish to table the following document, entitled “Summary of Financial Security Held by the Government of the Northwest Territories.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies;

and Tabled Document 115-17(5), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I will call Committee of the Whole to order. There are a number of matters before committee today. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I will now rise and report progress.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mrs. Groenewegen?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Do I have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Blake.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Today I just want to welcome back the Clerk, who was on a one-year leave from the Assembly. Welcome back Mr. Tim Mercer.

---Applause

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Friday, October 17, 2014, at 10:00 a.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 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies
  - Tabled Document 115-17(5), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

