



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, November 3, 2014**

Pages 5143 – 5178

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

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(Nunakput)

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*Minister responsible for Seniors*

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(Inuvik Boot Lake)

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

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**Hon. David Ramsay**

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*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, November 3, 2014****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:29 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery this afternoon of Mr. Andre Marin, ombudsman for the province of Ontario. He's accompanied by his assistant manager of communications, Ms. Ashley Bursey.

I understand this is your first visit to the North. Please let me extend a warm welcome to the Northwest Territories on behalf of our Assembly.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 115-17(5):  
PAN-TERRITORIAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE  
BUILDING A NORTHERN EVIDENCE-BASED  
APPROACH TO CRIME PREVENTION

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, today I wish to tell you about Building a Northern Evidence-Based Approach to Crime Prevention, a new pan-territorial research initiative that the Northwest Territories Department of Justice is participating in with Yukon and Nunavut.

With the support of our federal partner, Public Safety Canada, the three territories have launched a four-year project to develop a made-in-the-North approach to crime prevention. Through the National Crime Prevention Centre, a total of just over \$1.2 million has been committed over the life of the initiative. While the NWT has the lead, the intent is to deliver the project through a true partnership involving the residents and communities of each territory.

Each of the three territories has crime reduction initiatives in place, and we have all been working with community partners to decrease crime in our communities. However, we acknowledge that the crime rate in the three territories is consistently higher than the rest of Canada. This is especially

true when it comes to the level of violent crime, which is significantly higher.

In developing approaches to crime prevention, it is critical that we understand crime and the impact it has on our residents and communities. This includes a deeper understanding of the root causes of crime across the territories and why our crime rates are consistently higher than other areas of Canada.

Currently, data is collected by various government agencies and partners, but it is important to ensure that the information gathered is shared in an organized and responsible way. It is also important that we make sure that the quality and the consistency of data being collected is relevant to our needs, so that we can work together to make informed decisions.

To date, there has not been a comprehensive study across the North that pulls together this kind of information and focuses specifically on crime prevention. This new four-year project will address this need.

The first phase of the project is well underway, Mr. Speaker, and will set the stage for a successful initiative. The end result will be a northern crime prevention framework that recognizes the uniqueness of each territory as well as our common goal to work in close partnership with our respective communities to deter and prevent crime.

Building a strong and sustainable future for our territory by strengthening relationships with Aboriginal and other northern governments is one of the priorities of this Assembly. Through initiatives like Building a Northern Evidence-Based Approach to Crime Prevention we are helping to create sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. We are proud to be part of this valuable work. By working together with Nunavut and Yukon, we can build on the partnerships that each territory has developed with their community members. This coordination of our strengths will lead us to crime prevention solutions that are truly reflective of all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Colleagues, before we go on today, I'd like to welcome back former Member of the Legislative Assembly, former Premier, Member for Inuvik Boot

Lake who sat in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assemblies, Mr. Floyd Roland.

---Applause

Good to see you back in the House, Floyd. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 116-17(5):

DEVELOPING OUR NORTHERN WORKFORCE

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is committed to supporting the development of an educated, skilled and trained northern workforce. As stated in the Economic Outlook 2014-15 report, we have an incredible future with a potential for more than \$4.5 billion in new investment in the NWT planned over the next several years. With these investments come many new jobs and opportunities.

The Northwest Territories Nominee Program is a key component of the GNWT's efforts to attract 2,000 new residents by 2019. ECE has set a target of increasing the number of nominees by 25 percent annually, starting in 2014-15.

Work to enhance our Nominee Program has already begun. We will be clarifying the nominee application process, improving the forms and access to online information and promoting and improving awareness of the program.

We will be engaging our many partners in the coming weeks to ensure the program meets the needs of the business community and is ready for implementation in January 2015.

Mr. Speaker, another of our ECE programs contributing to the GNWT's population growth work is our Student Financial Assistance program. ECE is presently considering options for enhancing the remission and repayment program to reduce students' debt much faster. We believe such improvements will encourage our students to return to the NWT and potentially encourage more southern students to come to the NWT.

As well, Mr. Speaker, due to the improved nature of collecting and sharing information from students, the GNWT is able to review the skill sets of northern students studying at post-secondary institutions and match them with meaningful and rewarding jobs with our government.

We believe these improvements will contribute both to the success of our economy and help grow the NWT's population.

ECE remains committed to delivering effective labour market programs that achieve results and respond to residents' needs. We are doing detailed assessments of the North's current and future labour market needs across all sectors so that we have relevant labour market information. This

initiative will examine skills training and post-secondary education systems and complete the entire spectrum of services from early childhood to employment. It will provide us with valuable information on which we can base our future investments and decisions as a government.

Mr. Speaker, this is work no one can accomplish alone. I believe we can achieve our goals by working together across government, through our valuable partnerships, and with businesses and the public. We are excited to be contributing to the future, and are in it for the long haul. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
INTEGRATED NORTHERN ENERGY SYSTEM

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our second Energy Charrette in as many years begins today. Will we finally get it right? We've made no net gains in the intervening time. Another \$58 million in diesel subsidies and millions in failed subsidies in connecting power grids, some clearly a waste because results were so predictable. Hardly progress. We must get real.

The Premier, ENR and NTPC may finally be starting to think in terms of keeping the lights on and begin to address energy costs in ways that also gain environmental social benefits, all part of the affordability equation.

Current diesel power subsidies insatiably consume budgets. The public pays the rising cost of government's attack on our environment through subsidies, carbon emissions and both ratepayers and taxpayers can no longer bear the burden of a monopolistic power provider. Change has become essential.

The plan to go with full-blown renewable energy will not achieve us the gains we want unless communities are involved from the bottom up. Will this Energy Charrette be based on the knowledge that we must invest in community-owned renewable energy tailored to individual circumstances if we are to cut our energy costs, build our local economies and create cleaner environments for our children?

It must be abundantly clear by now that a one-size-fits-all approach has had the opposite effect. Every region has different opportunities and challenges for meeting energy needs and conservation. Whether it's biomass, solar, wind, or run-of-the-river hydro generation, all have energy efficiency and conservation opportunities. But unless communities are fully engaged in addressing these, benefits and

sustainability will be far below what could be achieved.

I'm not saying this is easy and I don't think a one-day forum will provide the answers, though given proper context, important insights could be gained. But the right guiding principles must be asserted and the right questions must be asked.

We need an integrated energy system that looks at all of our energy needs – power, heat and transportation – and that can grow or shrink into the future as needed. We need a system that cuts costs and provides both social and environmental benefits in this challenging jurisdiction.

Finally, we need to be prepared for solutions that move away from a single provider like NTPC or Imperial Oil.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BROMLEY:** Finally, we need to be prepared for solutions that move away from a single provider like NTPC or Imperial or whomever. We must address the issue of stranded infrastructure, efficient fossil fuel backup systems, locally derived forms of energy that provide local jobs, and the energy education and training to help us move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As we hear from every quarter, scientists and our dwindling population, time is running out. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE HOUSEHOLD ENERGY WASTE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few of us today are going to be talking about energy, and I would like to add my voice to that from the angle that I've been contemplating.

With Halloween just having passed last Friday, I'm going to talk about ghost busters. Everybody knows about those little lights that are all over in your house. They call them phantom or ghost consumers of power.

What I would like to do is challenge people to go into their homes and look around their kitchen and the night table beside their bed and look at how many cell phone chargers they've left plugged in when they're not charging their phone. In the kitchen, look at the microwave, the stove, the dishwasher, the ice machine. I mean, everything has a light on it. So let's just say that every one of those little lights – think about the power bars for the multi-plugs, they've got a light on them – let's think about all of those and I challenge people to go to your house and count them up, because I think

that you could easily find 30 of those in any given home. I know you probably could in mine.

If you figure out that each one of those little lights costs about just an insignificant amount of \$2 a month for power consumption. Let's just say you could save \$60 a month on your power bill by addressing all those phantom ghost consumers of energy. Now, there are 8,500 power accounts in Yellowknife. I don't know if we could safely double that for the whole territory, but even in Yellowknife, if you took 8,500 customers and you reduced their power bill by \$60 each, that would be half a million dollars per month. Now, correct me if my math is wrong. Could that be possible? Five hundred thousand dollars a month in savings if we took \$60 off of everybody's power bill?

Now, multiply that times 12. Now we're talking over \$6 million a year. Now, let's double that because there's probably another 8,500 customers out there around the Northwest Territories. Now we're almost up to the amount that our government just subsidized NTPC for, for their fuel rider, because we had low water this year.

I don't know. Like I said, my math could be all wrong here, folks. But you know, the point of the matter is that we could all look at what we are consuming energy on and how we're consuming it, and we could probably all do something to address the consumption, therefore, our costs and the cost of living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GREEN ENERGY INITIATIVES

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We all know that in small communities and regions the cost of electricity and fuel is very high. We know that it makes it difficult for working families and individuals to balance their household budget and for local businesses to be competitive.

We also know that the costs differ from one community to another. For instance, the cost of power for Tuktoyaktuk residents is more than twice what it is in Fort Smith. The rates for residents in Nahanni Butte, Jean Marie River and Liidlii Kue are among the highest five in the Northwest Territories.

Small and remote communities cannot sustain the increasing costs of energy and fuels. In order to save money, we need to reduce our dependence on expensive diesel-generated power.

I have spoken in the Legislative Assembly in support of the government's proactive approach to developing green energy initiatives. Investments in alternative energy, hydro, wind and biomass will help us move away from fossil fuels and will save us money. Technologies with regard to many hydro

projects are improving and bode well as a solution in our regions.

Fort Simpson has identified goals to reduce its energy consumption, including promoting energy awareness, just like Mrs. Groenewegen did a few minutes ago. There are also plans to use residual heat recovered from the NWT Power Corporation's diesel generators and investigating plans of potential geothermal energy. These are great initiatives.

I also would like to wish all the attendees at this year's Energy Charrette the best as they discuss and look for ways to help all Northerners with a cheaper and sustainable future. Mahsi cho.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TARGETED INCENTIVES TO REDUCE POWER COSTS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If one was to evaluate our current state of affairs when it comes to our energy production, our over 26 percent in power rate increases over the life of this Assembly and our continued lack of a plan, some would say we are on a constant morphine drip, and they would be right. Furthermore, as a main shareholder in what is in essence a Crown corporation, the NWT Power Corporation has shown its lack of accountability, and instead of being held to task as a corporation would in the real world, we lavish it with subsidy rewards.

History has shown time and time again the GNWT has a history of failure when it comes to energy planning and rising costs in its production. How many more reviews, strategies, collaborations, reports, papers, action plans, panels and advisory groups does it take to get from A to B in lowering costs and ultimately reducing our cost of living?

As the North gravitates to what is yet another Energy Charrette – the second one in less than two years – I, like most Northerners, wonder at what point will this new initiative gather the same dusty fate as its predecessor.

As optimistic as one can be as an MLA who sees this from a unique perspective, I have a very difficult time understanding why we would be using such a delay tactic of a charrette to mitigate what we already know.

Aside from the obvious of needing to instill the proper business mentality at the NWT Power Corporation, the GNWT needs to simply undertake what I call two strategic directions.

If you truly want to lower the cost of living with energy solutions, the GNWT needs to first lower our thirst for fuel. As mentioned in last week's Member's statement, we need to recapture at

NTPC production sites, unused stovepipe heat energy and store it in earth tubes through what is called ground-coupled heat exchange system. This will immediately lower our diesel consumption in all our non-hydro communities and our return on investment would be almost immediate.

The second strategy investment is simply through incentives. We need to provide as many incentives as possible to let the industry, with all its latest technology, moving at lightning speed, do its thing. This will lower the capitalization of investment from 15 to 20 years to a more reasonable five years or less, thereby making energy investment more economically viable to the consumer.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. DOLYNNY:** It's through targeted incentives that will ultimately uncork innovation of individuals and the private sector to find the path of change. Let us not forget it was not government who made the life-changing discoveries of our past. It was the risk-takers and the inventors who ploughed the way. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MOVEMBER MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm before you today baby-faced and clean-shaven.

Today is the first day in November where we have session and I am partaking in Movember, a cause for men's health, issues for prostate cancer and below the belt issues. We need to encourage men to go get themselves checked, get their prostates checked to make sure they keep their health up.

I use my face and the little bit of stubble I'll have over the next month as a message and a billboard to men's health and that men go out and get themselves checked. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAHTU

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did you know that we have a lot in common with Ontario when it comes to complaints about government services or agencies? Getting the most grief in Ontario, which the ombudsman addressed in his 2013 report, included, ringing in at number one with nearly 7,000 complaints: Hydro One. Trailing in at second: the Family Responsibility Office of Ontario with 1,157 complaints.



It's time to get down to the facts. Isn't it interesting that the top two agencies or the departments formerly complained about in Ontario are probably the top two in the Northwest Territories. Let's stick with energy since it's the word of the day.

Last month the government said the people in Fort Good Hope would pay less to fill up their vehicles. Instead, the people saw prices at their pump jump from \$1.80 a litre to \$1.83 per litre. A promise is a promise.

Colville Lake customers got the unpleasant surprise, a 6 percent markup at their pumps at \$1.99 a litre. Something doesn't add up. But who are you gonna call? Not the Ghostbusters.

We have an abundance of energy resources beneath our feet in the Sahtu. Why aren't we using it? Why are we relying and building and continuing to build our dependency on foreign oil and gas? The time is now, the time for sustainable resource development in the Sahtu in the North, and a time for an independent watchdog here in the Northwest Territories.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE TOWN OF INUVIK

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> the Town of Inuvik issued a media release, entitled "The Town of Inuvik Prepares for the Arctic Energy and Emerging Technologies Conference in June of 2016." This could not come at a better time. The Town of Inuvik is planning to host this conference and tradeshow from June 13 to 16, 2016, and replace the Inuvik Petroleum Show, which has been successful over the years.

This new approach is going to address a lot of the current needs of not only the community of Inuvik but the Northwest Territories as a whole. If it's going to show any impact or any importance, it's going to show that Inuvik is one of the leading communities and one of the leading conferences, such as the petroleum show, and it actually will be one of the leaders moving forward into this new way of looking at alternative energy.

Over the years we have seen a decrease in the activity of oil and gas in the community of Inuvik and the Beaufort-Delta region and, most recently, in the Sahtu region. As this happens, we're also facing the realities in Inuvik of a gas shortage. We're also seeing the realities of an increase to the cost of home heating fuels and the increased costs of transporting liquid natural gas, which all, in the end, results in a high cost of living for residents of the community of Inuvik.

This year, the government alone will subsidize public housing units and affordable housing to the

tune of just over \$9 million, plus we just gave a \$20 million subsidy to the Power Corporation. Twenty-nine million dollars this year, without looking at a big increase into alternative energies, which I think really needs to be addressed to offset the high cost of living we see a lot of our residents facing.

On top of that \$29 million, we're not even talking about the costs that this government is offsetting by turning a lot of its government buildings over to diesel so that the natural gas can last longer in Inuvik.

I did speak last week to subsidies in this House, but I specifically spoke to subsidies for the homeowner and how we can subsidize them for their high heating fuel.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. MOSES:** Yes, last week I spoke on how this government, if they had any new ideas on how we can subsidize the homeowner, the taxpayer, the ones that are contributing to our economy without any good solutions. This is a growing concern for the people in the community of Inuvik. As I said, double income households having a hard time making it paycheque to paycheque.

As the Energy Charrette begins today, I just want to take this opportunity to applaud the Town of Inuvik for taking the leadership, to take the positive step moving into a new direction to finding alternative solutions to address our current gas situation in Inuvik and to address the high cost of living for residents of Inuvik. Like I said, it couldn't come at a better time, and hopefully, we can find solutions sooner than later. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES FROM SECOND ENERGY CHARRETTE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, this evening will kick off the second Energy Charrette, the second attempt by our government to find a solution to the huge cost that everyone in the NWT, including our government, pays for our energy products. The first charrette, two years ago, began and ended with much fanfare.

The reports of the event suggested we would soon have solutions to our energy woes. How wrong that was, Mr. Speaker. Now, two years later, we are no further ahead. No concrete developments that will solve our energy woes and much further behind in curtailing our spending on energy.

To be fair, there have been a few projects and they have proved successful in reducing energy use, but the gains are small. Instead the government has

been throwing money at both the problem and the users.

In the last three fiscal years, including this one, GNWT has spent almost \$36 million to subsidize power costs for residents and businesses. On top of that, NTPC has received almost \$50 million to keep power rate increases down and to convert buildings to diesel fuel in Inuvik. On top of that, NTPC has not paid any dividend to its one shareholder, the GNWT, for the last three years. That's another \$6 million that they have been gifted.

In the same time period, little seems to have been accomplished to advance cheaper energy. The many, many millions spent by NT Energy Corporation to develop power generation and transmission plans seems to be for naught, as we are now informed that it will be too expensive to follow that plan.

Instead of providing millions of dollars in subsidies, the government should have been looking elsewhere, being innovative. The second charrette comes with assurances, again, of great promises for solutions to solve our high energy costs. I am sceptical that that will be achieved, but I look forward to the results with an open mind.

There are many things we could be doing right now to lower our power costs. Community biomass plants is only one of them. Surely if Europe can have community systems, then we can as well. What is stopping us? Well, I guess that would be initiative and bold thinking from NWT Power Corporation. Something I don't believe they can do.

The Northern Journal had an editorial, several weeks ago, that summed up our situation very well and offered a solution.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** So, from the Northern Journal, "The NWT government's approach to power generation is muddled." And further, "A disturbing trend of costly ineffectiveness, despite an endless series of consultation and reviews," and further, "The NWT government has demonstrated it cannot manage the situation. It must stop wasting time and money with reviews, reports, consultants and experimenting with things it has no expertise in. It should create an environment through incentives that unleash the ingenuity of individuals and entrepreneurs. Do that and the problems will be solved within a decade."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have said it better. I only hope the charrette participants and the government are listening. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EXPANSION OF BIOMASS WOOD ENERGY APPLICATIONS

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The natural wood grows abundantly in this land mass of an area of about 519,000 square miles. We have lots of trees. Wood is removable and it is sometimes simply a matter of an axe or saw to bring a pile of wood into your home to keep you warm. Advances in technology have made many of the tasks of chopping or sawing an afterthought. Now we have chainsaws for industrial skill type methods for collecting firewood.

Wood is used in woodstoves, for heating systems, for boilers systems and for the production of wood pellets, to name a few. In the NWT, campfires burn for ages with wood and woodstoves are common. Nowadays most NWT homes have indoor woodstoves. Having a woodstove promotes independence and active living, getting your own firewood with your family with your snow machine in the wintertime.

Mr. Speaker, this is part of a greater initiative that this government has undertaken. Biomass is a source of energy. Recently in Fort Providence, it was a proud moment when the community entered into a forest management agreement with the GNWT and a business person to explore the idea of establishing a wood pellet plant. That day brought that reality closer, and at some point other communities will jump on that too.

So the northern wood has served the North really well and I'm hoping that now and into the future it will continue. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Truly the sky is falling on this particular issue if we do not make a positive change. Everyone knows renewables are the future. Those people who continue to deny this fact, deny the future that they hold for their children.

We all know we must get behind renewables and continue to make strides in that particular area. It's well known that Canada does not meet its targets on climate change initiatives and greenhouse gas problems, but yet it's leading the future into an unknown peril that we may never be able to get off of the track that's driving us to the end.

In contrast, the GNWT is certainly making great strides in this particular initiative, and we certainly have to appreciate that. But we all understand the impacts big oil brings to our world. What is this issue that continues to blind us? It may be easy to reach for the oil and it may be a struggle to reach

for the renewables, but we must ask ourselves: do we want a tomorrow or do we want to see things end in a negative way?

Mr. Speaker, those who tell you our economy is important I would not disagree with them, but our economy deserves a future and that's got to be the undertow of every consideration. Canada continues to fail its federal GHGs, as it's been reported, and even the federal deputy ministers say this as well.

Our Prime Minister promised in 2007 that he would deliver oil and gas regulations that would make sense, and yet Canada still waits. While the new Premier of Alberta, Mr. Prentice, says that he has a climate change strategy and he will be developing it in the near future, I worry about us Northerners who sit downstream as to what we will be promised because we will be the ones benefiting from their short-sightedness. Mr. Prentice goes on by saying, "We must be responsible stewards, but we can't damage industry's competitiveness." I don't want them to damage my future. Northern Gateway has been refused, for all intents and purposes, and now they look to the Northwest Territories as the solution to their problem. Let's be honest. We all know pipelines bring lots of jobs in the construction but there are not jobs in the future.

We know that a pipeline through the Northwest Territories may only create 10, maybe 15 jobs. That's not the future. Renewables are our future. We are not powerless and we should be asking ourselves to face that problem. The economy matters, but so does our future and you're hearing it today. We must get off of this addiction of oil. We must get an intervention if necessary, but we must take the first step to a future which includes renewables as the first choice, not as the last choice. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACKENZIE DELTA ENERGY INITIATIVES

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can tell, we have a theme day here on energy. I'd just like to speak to my riding.

Fort McPherson has been one of the leaders in our region in biomass as the band office is connected to one system. Also, as we move forward, the community will soon have a new elders facility which will have a solar panel system set up. Also, many of my constituents have woodstoves installed in their home. This not only cuts the cost of fuel used but during the winter months a woodstove can be a lifesaver when the power goes out.

As we move forward, we need to look at ways to make the most of our renewable resources; for example, turbine energy, as many of our communities live along a river, also wind turbines.

Many of our communities have a lot of wind, for example. Up in your region, you know quite well, wind up to 100 kilometres per hour. That alone, Mr. Speaker, probably powers our whole Beaufort-Delta region. Those are things that we need to look at moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour of recognizing a gentleman who is known to just about all of us: Dr. David Suzuki.

From the Suzuki Foundation we have, as well, travelling with him Miles Richardson, Michiah Prull, Alvin Singh, Deneze Nakehk'o, and Steve Ellis was there from Tides Canada as well. I also don't want to miss the rare opportunity to recognize my friend and colleague of many terms together – four, I believe, 16 years in the trenches in this House – former Premier Floyd Roland.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, being one of the Members from the Beau-Del, we're very fortunate that we get to rely on the advice and experience of a lot of good leaders up there, and one of those is Mr. Floyd Roland, who was very instrumental with his advice and experience when I first started this. It's been almost 10 years already; it's 10 years this month. So I thank him for that and welcome him to the gallery once more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are hosting a workshop this week for the potential for increasing support and resources to on-the-land programs. I would like to recognize some the presenters at that workshop who are in the House today. Representing the British Columbia First Nations Fund: Valine Crist, Jessica Housty and Kim Hardy; and representing Australia's Working Group on Country Program: Steve Roeger, Daryl Lacey, Bruce Rose, Patrick O'Leary. I'd also like to recognize Steve Ellis, Tides Canada's northern senior associate. Steve has been the key partner in identifying the need for this workshop and for pulling it together. So, thank you to Steve for bringing these experts north, and thanks for all of you for travelling so far to share your experiences with us. Welcome to the Northwest Territories and welcome to the House. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I'd like to recognize Deneze Nakehk'o. I've known him a long time and it's always great to see him. I certainly know his family very well and have great respect for them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to use the occasion to acknowledge our esteemed guest there, Dr. David Suzuki. In a funny way, many Canadians feel like we know him personally. As a small child growing up in Fort Simpson, I remember being sent to bed. But on Wednesday nights when I didn't go to bed, I would turn my little black and white TV on and I'd have my little string earpiece so my parents didn't know I was watching the Nature of Things. It was always great to watch him every Wednesday at 9:00 in Fort Simpson. All we had was CBC. So it's great to see him, and as I said, it's almost like all Canadians know him in some form. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity, as well, to recognize our former colleague – as Mr. Miltenberger said, many years here in the Legislative Assembly – and it's very good to see former Premier Floyd Roland. Last night as my daughter and I were waiting for guests – we were going to the Explorer Hotel – Dr. Suzuki walked in the lobby, and my daughter, who's only 25, said, "That's David Suzuki," and I said no, no, that isn't. Anyway, I had to be proven wrong today. But welcome. It's very nice to have you here. People recognize you, young and old obviously. Thank you.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm truly proud to recognize two Pages from my home community of Deh Gah School in Fort Providence: Mr. Julien Antoine, who is in Grade 9, and also Leah Baptiste, who is also in Grade 9. Mahsi.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to join my colleagues today in recognizing and welcoming Dr. David Suzuki. I think there's no question that he's a great leader and visionary in Canada for the environment and for people's health. I know he's on the Blue Dot Tour, pursuing some changes to the Canadian Constitution that actually recognizes the value and the right to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment. So I really appreciate a life of dedication and I'd like to recognize that.

I'd also like to recognize Miles Richardson from Haida Gwaii. He actually was chairing one of the sessions that our EDI committee was attending in Fort Nelson not too long ago, and Steve Ellis, who was a resident of Weledeh – I don't know whether he still is or not – and Deneze and all those in the House. Mahsi.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd first like to welcome and acknowledge His Worship, the mayor of Inuvik, Mr. Floyd Roland, also former Premier of the Northwest Territories and also former Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. I'd just like to welcome him back to the House.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome and recognize Mr. Deneze Nakehk'o, a long-time friend, grew up together, long-time buddies.

Also, I'd like to welcome and recognize Mr. Miles Richardson from Haida Gwaii and Mr. David Suzuki. Welcome to the House. I hope you enjoy the proceedings, and good luck with your Blue Dot Tour. To all members of the David Suzuki Foundation, welcome and enjoy the proceedings. Thank you.

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome to the Assembly this afternoon a constituent, Mr. Deneze Nakehk'o. Welcome. Also, former Premier, mayor of Inuvik. Great to see you back in the House, Mr. Roland. Also, to all the other visitors that have come from far and wide to be with us this afternoon, welcome to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Welcome everybody here in the public gallery today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Mr. Bromley.

### Acknowledgements

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 14-17(5): LITERACY COUNCIL AWARD RECIPIENTS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to acknowledge Mary Rose Sundberg and Rose Mackenzie. At a fall community feast at the Chief Drygeese Centre in Detah, in celebration of the Literacy Council's Peter Gzowski Literacy Invitational, two Weledeh constituents and Yellowknives Dene members were recognized for their achievements.

Rose Mackenzie, who is a second-year Aurora College Ndilo Community Learning Centre student, was honoured with the Literacy Learner Award for her determined and successful efforts towards self-improvement as an adult learner. Particularly, Rose

has excelled in mathematics, where she has moved through six grade levels in a year.

Mary Rose Sundberg, the founder and executive director of the Goyatiko Language Society in Detah, received the prestigious Gzowski Award, given to a person who shares the journalist's spirit as a proponent for literacy.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of these constituents and their awards for outstanding achievement in their pursuit of literacy. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 7, oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 496-17(5): CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE HOUSEHOLD ENERGY WASTE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I talked about the possible advantages of doing more about conservation when it comes to energy and I was speaking particularly about our high cost of power. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation.

I don't know if I should have been in marketing, but I thought of a few campaign titles if we were to actually launch a campaign to encourage people to reduce their consumption of energy. I mentioned Ghostbusters. How about The Lights Are on But Nobody's Home? I came up with a few others here too. I was just sitting here thinking about this.

I'd like to ask the Minister, what has his department, or his role as Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, what kind of research has gone into the advantages of a promotion or a campaign to encourage consumers to reduce the consumption of power? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The underlying concern, of course, in some quarters, is that the Power Corporation has no interest in encouraging people to reduce and conserve because they are profit driven and they have to survive on their revenues. In fact, if that was the case, it no longer is. As we will see over the course of the next few days, there is going to be discussion about the Power Corporation, our Crown corporation of which we are the one shareholder, of how it can better be a vehicle for the energy policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the people of the Northwest Territories.

They are committed to conservation. They're switching out simple things. Like, they're switching out all their sodium vapour streetlights to LED streetlights. They're going to be rolling out a very significant conservation program online here in the next few days. They'll work with communities and homeowners to look at what things they can do to conserve energy. We have a common shared commitment on that, and we are going to work on that together here as we move forward.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** That could be the title of another couple of campaigns: Urban Legends and Something About Myths.

Back to my question, what has this government done to launch any kind of a campaign directly targeted at consumers to encourage them? He's named some things that the Power Corporation is doing, but what has this government done directly targeted at consumers to encourage them to reduce their consumption?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we came forward and we put \$60 million, as a government, into the development of an approach to energy savings, energy efficiency. We rolled out the biomass plan, the solar plan, a strategy that has guided us. We have spent millions converting to biomass in our own facilities. We have put millions of dollars into Environment and Natural Resources as well as the Arctic Energy Alliance to help people, to give them rebates for switching over to energy-efficient appliances, to switch to biomass, conversion with LED lights, we've picked up our work we've done on recycling, all of which are energy savers in the long run, in addition to the work we're doing with the Power Corporation. We've mapped out, through our Energy Plan, a lot of these activities that we've continued to invest significant amounts of money into.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Minister Miltenberger made a brief reference to this theory or concept or myth that's out there in the public that if it costs this much to generate, distribute and retail power in the Northwest Territories, that if we actually reduce our consumption, the unit price is not going to be changed, because they still need to receive a return on their investment. I'd like the Minister to speak to that issue. People are saying, well, if we use less, the unit price will go up and we're not really going to accomplish anything.

Could the Minister please elaborate on this to dispel that myth?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I can talk to the Power Corporation. I can't speak to the NUL, which, as well, is a distributor. I know we work hard to keep the price of energy as low as we can. As we move forward, as I've pointed out publicly, we've subsidized the Power Corporation over the last three years directly over \$50 million to soften

the blow and protect rates because of the increasing diesel costs, the fact that we haven't raised diesel prices for five years to help offset the low water here in the Snare system. We have moved past the point of where it's strictly a for-profit, you have to live off your revenues, you have to generate a dividend, to recognizing that as we have moved to a two-rate zone, and actually, we have started actually moving to more of a one-rate zone, we, as a government, have put in more and more money and our relationship with the Power Corporation is now very, very close. It's not really an arm's-length corporation. It's much more consistent with the relationship we have similar to the Power Corporation, and as we move forward into the future that kind of relationship is going to continue.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't doubt or deny that our government has spent millions to try and protect consumers from the rates, but I think we need a campaign directed at the consumers at a household level to get them to do their part in tandem with the government's efforts to try and reduce their consumption.

Has that kind of a program ever been researched, and could there be projections done to see what kind of gains we could achieve from that? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As we move forward on renewables like solar, that we have in place, after some considerable debate over the years, a Net Metering Program which encourages and doesn't penalize folks for putting in solar in their own buildings. We have removed the cap, we have removed the standby charges. As we look at the charrette, we are going to be asking people for further ways that we can encourage people to look at generating distributed energy that they can generate and that we will buy back through a net metering process. There are those kinds of opportunities that currently exist and are going to continue to exist.

As we gather all these very, very interested and dedicated people around the tables here over the next few days, I'm sure we're going to find out other things that people recommend that we can do. For example, should we, as a territory, as a government, should we subsidize the wholesale change out of every light bulb in the Northwest Territories to be an LED light within the year? Should we do those types of things?

What other things, in terms of conservation, should we do? We have beefed up our energy standards requirements, both in our own construction and what we encourage people to do when they build in the Northwest Territories. We're working with industry to set up our first only pellet plant in the

Northwest Territories. We spent years building the market, now we are building the industry. That's going to give us a northern energy source that we believe will be cheaper and we know will save us 30 to 40 percent over the cost of diesel.

So, we are doing an enormous number of things and we are going to continue to do that. We are going to publically say, again, that we are prepared to invest tens upon tens of millions of dollars to help make this transition away from diesel into the more sustainable renewable. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 497-17(5):  
FUEL PRICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the old saying goes, the gas goes in your car, not on your hands. Well, customers and trappers in the Sahtu cannot afford any more spillage at the pumps. They are getting gouged. My question is for Minister Beaulieu today.

Can the Minister tell this House why hunters and trappers, customers in Fort Good Hope, got a trick at the pumps last week instead of a treat? Someone needs to say more than I'm sorry.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Public Works, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of gasoline or diesel motives or heating oil is all based on the purchase costs, the transportation, the commission that it costs us to deliver from our tanks to the homes or the cost of administering what they have there, which we refer to as operations and maintenance as well. Also, we keep track of the product evaporation and taxes. That's it; there's no profit on any of the fuels that we sell. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for sharing some of the information and the costs sheets with me. You know there is a gas war happening in Edmonton. It's \$1 per litre.

Would the Minister entertain giving customers, hunters and trappers in the communities like Fort Good Hope, a six-month grace period by selling fuel at the former rate of \$1.80? Would he do that?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, the department, through the petroleum products division, has no ability to subsidize fuel. What we do have is the ability to stabilize the cost, so we have a Stabilization Fund that we use so that there are not sharp fluctuations in the costs. We use that fund to ensure that there isn't a sharp increase at inappropriate times and so on. This fund, the Petroleum Fund, does not give us the ability to subsidize or we would run out and we would have

to change the revolving fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, a promise is a promise. In Fort Good Hope they were promised that they'd be paying less for the fuel. We haven't yet advanced far enough in our technology with the hunters and trappers to have little squirrels or animals operate our machines. We still rely on gas, and gas is what keeps our lives stable in Fort Good Hope.

I want to task the Minister again, using the Stabilization Fund, can that be used in our communities like Fort Good Hope? The hunters and trappers were told by the government that they will pay less for fuel. Can you give them a grace period, other than to let me know how the system works? That's what they're looking for. That's something that this government could look at doing, to say I'm sorry, we made an oopsie.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The Stabilization Fund is there to stabilize the cost of fuel, that is correct; however, it is not there to provide subsidies. What the Member is asking for is for us to take a look at stabilizing at last year's rate for an indefinite period of time, or six months, then what we would have to do is we would have to recover that cost at some point from somewhere. So, the only place where we have the ability to reduce the cost below the 100 percent is in Colville and Tsiigehtchic. Aside from that, other communities are too big, that once we start to provide any sort of percentage subsidy, it would cost us money and then we would see a reduction in our revolving fund. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to hold this government to account. In the CBC report this month, the government said people in Fort Good Hope would pay less to fill up their vehicles. Someone told the community of Fort Good Hope they would pay less to fill up their vehicles in the community.

Who said that? Which department? Which staff? If that's not true, then they've got to be held accountable, and that's what I'm saying. Can you say, I'm sorry, this is what we'll do for this mistake?

It takes a real government to own up to that responsibility and that's what I'm asking this government, in its goodness of the Stabilization Fund, to give them a grace period. Our fault, we'll own up to it, we'll bite the bullet. Because you know what? We just approved a \$40 million project for the North, so we do have the money. Stop pretending we don't have the money; the money is there. Let's help the people in Fort Good Hope. Let this government be responsible and big enough to say, yes, we made this mistake and we'll fix it and

not gobbley gobbling all over the answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The Member is correct that the wrong information and the wrong place was given out, and that was corrected. We had advised the community that that had occurred and we then issued the correct price to the community. However, again, it's a fairly simple process that we have no ability to subsidize. Like I said to the Member, we do have an ability to stabilize the fund and that's what we do, we try to stabilize the fund so that the constituents are not seeing sharp costs in fuel fluctuations in the cost of gasoline. So, I will check into exactly what had occurred, what type of information had been given to Fort Good Hope and I can let them know what we can do to resolve that error. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 498-17(5):  
 INUVIK ARCTIC ENERGY AND  
 EMERGING TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement on the conference that will be happening in 2016 in the community of Inuvik and looking at alternative energy sources and what's happening in today's world and in Canada, I'd like to ask the Premier of the Northwest Territories, we're moving into our second Energy Charrette here starting today. Has he had any previous discussions with our leadership in the community of Inuvik and is he looking to any types of investments for this very relevant and timely conference that we'll be having in 2016, seeing that we have enough time ahead of time to really plan and get a good conference going? Has he had any discussions with our leadership and is there any investments that he's willing to invest in that conference? Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had no discussions with anybody about this conference, other than the Member e-mailing me a press release advising of this change. I expect that in due course the money, or some portion of the money that we contributed for the oil and gas conference would probably be earmarked for a similar conference in 2016. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you. Outside of monetary commitments for investments and looking forward to this conference, I know that the government also seconds GNWT workers for organizations that also do work on behalf of government. By the time 2016 rolls around and this conference comes out, there's a good chance we'll have two, maybe even three charrettes by then and we'll have a lot of GNWT

employees who have a really good grasp of some of these areas in terms of alternative energy, where we're going to invest.

Would the Premier be looking at putting in some type of recommendation in the transition reports to ensure that we have GNWT employees who are suited for this type of work possibly seconded to help assist with this conference? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you. The Member recognizes that there's an election between now and June of 2016, but as a matter of course, we want to make sure that these types of conferences are successful. They provide for a lot of development and bringing investment into the community. By all means, we would do whatever we could to support it so it would be successful. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** In the press release, it mentioned that the Town of Inuvik is going to start preparing to have a very successful conference and trade show. In terms of any reports that do come out of the Energy Charrette that we had previous and this Energy Charrette, will the Premier ensure that the mayor and council as well as the staff that are focusing on this conference be on the distribution list or will they be able to get a copy of the report so that they can see where the government is going and possibly focus their conference on the same wavelength? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I believe the mayor of Inuvik is part of the Energy Charrette, and by all means, the outcomes of the Energy Charrette will be in the public domain. So, they certainly will be available to the organizers of the Inuvik Arctic Energy and Alternative Technologies Show. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 499-17(5):

##### PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 12, 2011, the Finance Minister in Committee of the Whole stated, "We've been working diligently on a P3 policy for government. That policy has been to committee. We have had extensive feedback. We have what we think is a workable P3 policy." According to public records on that same day, a Public-Private Partnership Policy No. 15.02 was born and on that same day the Minister also reassured the House, "I can assure the Member that the P3 policy, once in its place, will be followed by government and there's a built-in full engagement of committees as well." My questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

We have today what is referred to as non-statutory P3 related policy and not legislation. Real P3 legislation, which at times is referenced by the Minister as very prevalent now across the country,

entails what is called "vinculum juris," or the "network of rights," duties, liabilities and so forth. Unfortunately, this policy does not. In fact, this six-page P3 policy merely reflects the objectives of the government and grossly lacks institutional framework.

How can the Minister assure the public this non-statutory policy will stack up to the rigour of public confidence? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, in this case, the proof will be in the pudding. We've laid out all the steps that we are following, the rigour and due diligence that we're putting through in evaluating whether in fact the Stanton Hospital would even make the test for a valid P3 project and we have very capable people that are going to look at implementing the policy that we do have. It will be held accountable. It's going to be a transparent process and we will engage on an ongoing basis with the appropriate committees. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Let me remind the Minister, an act is designed to improve public operational efficiency, environmental performance, promote safety, attract the right private investment and minimize public liabilities. This P3 policy does not.

So again, how can the Minister stand before this House and denounce what is in the interest of public of a proper accountability and transparency process? Why did the department just not enact proper legislation rather than support and promote a policy? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. If the Member has specific suggestions other than we should do legislation, we'd be happy to look at those at this juncture.

If there is going to be any legislation considered, that would be now part of transition planning for the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you. The public has been led to believe that this lesser degree of scrutiny under a P3 policy rather than legislative process is what will guide and govern the decision-making of hundreds upon hundreds of millions of dollars of public money.

Can the Minister elaborate by what statutory obligation will general liability tort third-party liability for taxation or general risk liabilities be covered with the inadequacies of a non-statutory P3 policy? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. It was a long question, lots of technical requests, legal references. Let me just assure the public and the Member opposite that, at the end of the day, \$350 million will be invested in Stanton. It will be a



state-of-the-art facility, it will last us well past the time that I'm still walking God's green earth and it will be something that we'll all be very, very proud of. Thank you.

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

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you. We've come to expect these types of responses from the Minister. To my opening comments today where the Minister assures there would be a built-in, full engagement of the committees on this P3 policy, upon review of the policy, it only briefly mentions standing committee would be involved in the proposal assessment phase, yet fails to prescribe exactly by what means this would happen.

Can the Minister elaborate? Where is the full engagement as promised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We'd be happy to sit down with committee if there are concerns by committee on the process going forward. We'd be happy to have those discussions to make sure it is as fulsome, integrated and engaged as possible as befits consensus government. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 500-17(5):  
EXPANSION OF ALTERNATIVE  
ENERGY PROGRAMS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement, I'd like to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources a few questions.

Over the last few years, his department has worked with the Arctic Energy Alliance to install woodstoves in the communities. Moving forward, will that continue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we intend to maintain our commitment and enhance our commitment to alternative energies, to biomass, and one of the questions that's going to be posed tonight is what type of regulation and legislation do we need, in fact, to allow us to enhance woodstove use, biomass, solar use. Are there specific pieces of legislation that other jurisdictions may have, because we don't have any right now. We have legislation that governs oil and gas installations and those types of things, so we are very interested in that. We've got pathfinders in the regions. We're going to be looking at training more people so that, in fact, you can do the proper inspections and get

the insurance coverage and those types of issues dealt with as well.

**MR. BLAKE:** That sounds good. I'd like to ask the Minister, how is the department working with the communities who have taken on biomass to expand?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We work with communities on a community-by-community project basis at this point. Where there is an interest, for example, in the Member's community of McPherson there has been waste heat work done. We have been studying the viability of using fast growing willows as a source of biomass in addition to all the other standard programs of general applications that are there for all businesses and individuals to apply for. We're also, of course, very interested in working with communities as they do their own energy plans, to see what long-term planning needs to be done to ensure things are integrated and fit both for the community but are part of the broader planning of the government.

**MR. BLAKE:** Aside from one of the diamond mines, we don't really have any wind turbines within the Northwest Territories except for a miniature one that's always been up in Inuvik.

I'd like to ask the Minister, when does the Minister estimate the first wind turbine to be operating in the Northwest Territories communities?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The most viable site, in my mind, is a place called Storm Hills, between Inuvik and Tuk, where they've been doing wind mapping for some time now. We're looking at the viability of that site, and we know that if we put in six, seven megawatts, eight megawatts of power between Tuk and Inuvik, you could cut the diesel consumption for the production of electricity in half, and wind is free. We just have to work on the money. Part of the commitment here going forward with the charrette is the investment in those types of very fundamental community infrastructures that will allow us to make a serious dent into the reliance on diesel.

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

QUESTION 501-17(5):  
COMMUNITY BIOMASS ENERGY SYSTEMS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed today to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. I spoke in my statement about the fact that we are now giving up on the plans for power generation and transmission. The government's message that we've been hearing in the last month or two is that we're moving on to smaller projects now. I mentioned in my statement about community biomass, power and heat systems.

I'd like to first ask the Minister, has there been any work or any research done on community biomass, power and heat systems to date, and what has it told us?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of the first charrette came the direction to look at the issue of the distribution and the transmission grid build-out where we could hook up the Snare system and the Taltson system and investigate the cost of an intertie to Saskatchewan where we could potentially move cheaper power from places like Manitoba and north. We did that. It came back in at about \$1.2 billion, probably more than double what we had initially estimated. Rather than keep pursuing that or not do anything, we have recognized the need to change our focus to generation, and not just small generation, but we know, for example, that Yellowknife is in serious need of additional generation capacity both to offset things like lower water, minimize use of diesel, but to pick up extra growth and demand and potentially service the mines.

In regard to the question about the biomass small scale, we know from our research, in fact, we just had a meeting this morning with some of the participants from the charrette. There's a gentleman over from Germany who has installed over 3,400 different installations around Europe and some in Canada that is eminently feasible to look at that type of generation. You put in some potential batteries or diesel backup or biomass and solar, you have an opportunity to provide a very consistent, affordable, made-in-the-North type of energy source.

**MS. BISARO:** Certainly, he mentions Europe. I think it was probably three or four years ago now that we had a mission, so to speak, of Members who went to Europe. It was certainly evident in Europe at that time, and I imagine technology has advanced a great deal since then. The Minister is saying that it's 3,400 systems, I think, this gentleman has put in, in Europe.

Why are we not doing it here? It's been possible for us to do it here probably for the last four years. I'd like to know from the Minister what is holding us up from implementing a pilot or basically implementing a community biomass heating and power system?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We started this process in the last Assembly with spending the time to develop our biomass strategy. Part of that strategy was to build a market, then look at building the industry, and we've done that. We've converted a significant amount of our own facilities to biomass. We've taken those savings and reinvested them. We've set up incentives to

encourage people to switch to biomass. We've now just completed two FMA agreements, the first of their kind, forest management agreements, with the people in Providence and the people in Lutselk'e to lay out access to a source of wood fibre, so that we have a private individual that is going to put up a wood pellet plant in Enterprise that is going to be churning out tens of thousands of cubic metres of wood pellets that are going to be part of that initiative.

Now that we've proved out that the transmission initiative is beyond our capabilities financially, we're switching our focus to generation, and we are now looking very, very seriously, through this charrette and other preliminary work that we've already done, at what kind of capacity do we have for that type of configuration of biomass and solar plus diesel backup, for example, in Yellowknife, but also all the other thermal communities.

**MS. BISARO:** To the Minister, I guess I have to say – my colleague has corrected me – it was six years ago that we heard how successful community plants are in Europe, but nothing has come to fruition. The Minister mentions a lot of small things. Sure, we're pushing biomass boilers in individual facilities, but we're not developing one at a community level.

I'd like to ask the Minister, is it conceivable that this concept of a community biomass system will be part of the charrette discussions, because maybe if it comes out of the charrette it will put a little bit of a fire under our rear-end and we'll get something in place.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I would like to point out that one of our areas of interest where we've invested a considerable amount of money has, in fact, been on development of our solar strategy and the solar arrays that we've put into Simpson, one of the largest in the country up to the point that it was built, and the pilot project that we're working on in Colville Lake, where we're putting in a significant amount of solar power with batteries to look at how much we can maximize penetration into that service system so that we can minimize the cost and reliance on diesel. Now, as the technology has improved, and I've mentioned this in the House, that we know that just south of us, in La Crete, they've got a 40 megawatt biomass plant. We know that they have a 200 megawatt plant that they just refurbished, a coal fire plant in northern Ontario, and that BC is doing the same thing. We are seriously looking at that now that we are focused very, very intently on generation.

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

**MS. BISARO:** It will be very short. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I'd like to know from the Minister, when can we expect to see a community energy biomass system?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I don't believe I've used this phrase since the last Assembly, but in due course and the fullness of time as these discussions advance through the charrette, we will look at moving as fast as we can. The question is going to be, how do we get from talk to action? How much money are we going to be able to put into these initiatives? Clearly, the intent is to seriously move with great alacrity on this particular issue. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 502-17(5):  
INTEGRATED NORTHERN ENERGY SYSTEM

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier today as the head of our energy issues. The recent comment in the House about renewable energy was that from an economic or commercial objective, you would be lucky to recover your capital costs within 15 to 20 years and by then you are almost at the point of replacement, so the vicious cycle repeats itself. Such uninformed and misleading statements undermine the very opportunity that citizens have to help themselves to cut energy costs and they derail effective government action yielding the unaffordable energy costs of today.

That didn't come from that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, but a simple review of Public Works and Services' energy project indicates simple payback, as short as a year or two. Solar panels themselves are guaranteed for 25 years.

So my question is: At tomorrow's charrette, how has the Premier assured that the think-tank will start off with accurate baseline information and with the principles and the context that affordable energy systems must be based on from now on? Mahsi.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure whether the Member is attributing the comment to myself or to some anonymous source or not, but by all means, it is our intention to make sure that the charrette is informed as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BROMLEY:** The Premier didn't catch that. I said it was from this side of the House. The one-size-fits-all power system has been disastrous for our communities. In fact, community generation opportunities are diverse, from geothermal in Fort Liard and Yellowknife, to small scale hydro in Wekweeti, to solar in Colville. NTPC has considerable experience in some areas, but solutions may or may not overlap with their experience.

How has the Premier ensured that NTPC plays a supportive role rather than an influential role on the direction the charrette takes, given their record of short stopping community-owned renewable energy systems to date? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Over the past two assemblies, the role of NTPC has evolved. We now have the Ministerial Energy Coordination Committee, where all of the Ministers and departments that have responsibilities in this area come together, and the Power Corporation is working much more closely with the government to fulfill the objectives of the government, and certainly we are recognizing that one size fits all is not necessarily the way to go. We are looking to the Energy Charrette to point us in the right direction. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks to the Premier. If new clean and renewable energy systems are to have a maximum economic benefit for our communities, they must be locally owned and operated. Buy-in, efficiency, community self-sufficiency and economic stability are all positive impacts of locally based power systems.

What steps has the Premier taken to ensure discussions are open to, or directed to, consider a community-based approach to energy solutions moving forward? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We've endeavored to have a very representative group at the Energy Charrette. We have over 130 people, I believe, that will be there. It is our expectation that with the facilitators that we have, with the speakers that we have, the outcomes will be focussed in that direction and certainly we are very prepared, as the ENR Minister has said, and the Finance Minister has said, we are prepared to move in that direction, pending the outcome of the charrette. Thank you.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good to hear. Cabinet's recent subsidy of \$20 million to cover diesel generation due to climate change-induced drought brings a total over the past few years, as we've heard, to \$58 million if we ignore the indirect subsidy effects or costs. This perpetuates our reliance on diesel, obviously, by taking resources that could have been used to develop renewable energy systems and pouring them into a seemingly bottomless tank of diesel.

Has the Premier, or if not will he, include the question about where we should subsidize to get the best return for our citizenry and goals as a key question to be addressed in the charrette? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I guess you will just have to wait for tonight where we address that front and centre in both my remarks and in the Minister of ENR's remarks. Certainly, we recognize that

subsidizing is not sustainable, and at some point, very soon if not now, we have to have a very sustainable method of providing electricity going forward. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 503-17(5):

MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today was on Movember and I challenge you to be baby-faced like me, too, if you want to be for Movember. My questions today will be for the Minister of Health.

Obviously, we are concerned with men's health this month. I am just wondering what the Department of Health is doing to piggyback on top of this national campaign. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. That would have to be paid for if I was to shave this. An auction, starting bid: \$10,000. Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In September, to mark Men's Cancer Awareness Month, the department launched an awareness campaign to help raise awareness on different cancers affecting men. The campaign launched with a press conference that was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> with local cancer survivors sharing their stories. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Patrick Scott and Mr. Walt Humphries for sharing their stories as part of that awareness campaign.

The awareness campaign also includes a number of ads you will see in the newspaper to encourage people to get checkups on a regular basis. The earlier the detection the better. Later this month the department will be hosting a call-in show in partnership with CKLB to raise awareness of all cancers. The show will feature cancer survivors as well as the chief public health officer.

When it comes to things like Movember and specific campaigns that different organizations are running, myself and the public health officer tend to use social media to get that information out to as many people as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 504-17(5):

ALBERTA/NWT COOPERATION  
ON ENERGY INITIATIVES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity just recently to read a press release put out by Premier Jim Prentice, and of course, that is the Premier of Alberta. He had met our Premier Bob McLeod, it looks like, over the weekend. This has drawn my attention to the statement which is

where I am going to focus my question. It says the Premier, and it talks about the long history between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, to set a path forward to strengthen our economies. I'm going to focus my area directly to that, as I mentioned.

I would like to know the nature of the discussion that they had, what is being discussed in relation to topics that fall under, sort of, the energy development relationship between Alberta and the Northwest Territories that he has been discussing with the Premier. To my knowledge, the Premier hasn't had a mandate, so I'm curious about what he has been talking about or developing on our behalf. I think it would be a good time to talk about these types of relationships. Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NWT and Alberta has a very long, collaborative history. As a matter of fact, Alberta and Saskatchewan were carved out of the Northwest Territories in 1905. We have had an MOU on cooperation and development with Alberta for about 18 years and it's been renewed twice and recently expired in 2013. We have been having discussions on entering into a new, renewed MOU. A lot of our discussions are on energy. I believe that at the start of this session, when we all met as Caucus, that was something that we all agreed, was we had to do some work in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I appreciate the history lesson for the Premier about how Alberta and Saskatchewan came about, although I happen to already know that, just so you know, but I appreciate that all the same. But that said, energy is a very big topic, as we all know, and that's kind of what some of us are talking about here today.

I'd like to maybe drill down just a little bit as to what type of energy cooperation relationship is the Premier talking about developing with the province of Alberta with the Northwest Territories. I think this is an important topic and we need to be talking about it, how in some ways we will be working together, in some ways we may not be able to find a path together.

So with that said, what specific energy initiatives and relationship building is the Premier working on with the other Premier, and can you give us some clear examples so Northerners know what we're talking about? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** What we've been discussing is the need for an energy cooperation agreement. There are significant numbers of transboundary issues involved with energy. Not only energy, but water, transportation, tourism, medical health care, what have you, and in almost every instance we are very intertwined with Alberta.

When it comes to energy specifically, we are all part of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin, and I don't know if you need another history lesson in that regard or not, but we have very similar issues when it comes to developing our stranded resources. If we don't have transportation routes or pipelines or other ways to develop our significant oil and gas potential, then we are stuck in a situation where our population is declining, our economy is headed south. So this is an area where we feel it is very important to work together on. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Well, it's well known to most Northerners that Alberta has been looking north to ship their bitumen to the world, and when I say north, I mean through the Northwest Territories. I've always believed the old saying, if you're not part of the solution, you're certainly part of the problem.

So I want to know what type of role our government and certainly our territory, be it its people, its Aboriginal governments, everybody, will be playing in the development of any potential pipeline that's being pitched behind the scenes. So, maybe that's really the question.

What type of work has been done on that type of discussion with Alberta, because I know they're eyeing the Northwest Territories after being refused Gateway. Is this government working on a deal behind the scenes to develop it and then present it to the people of the North, because I think this an important discussion we need to be having. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I wouldn't say we've been working behind the scenes. I think we've been very open and transparent about it. We've been working with Alberta. Alberta recently released a report that indicated it was technically feasible to go north, to ship oil through what some people are calling an Arctic gateway, that it's technically feasible, and we would like to explore that much further.

The Mackenzie Gas Pipeline Project that was reviewed and was approved through the regulatory process and a certificate of public conveyance and necessity was approved, which would provide for one-third Aboriginal ownership, is a model that we think will work. We are very interested in working not only with Alberta but also the federal government because we think that is the way that we can develop our northern resources, to develop our oil and gas so that it doesn't sit stranded for another 40 years. We need the jobs. We need the business opportunities and our people want to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was certainly, and still have been, a supporter of the Mackenzie Gas Project, but that's actually gas. It's not the heavy bitumen provided by the Alberta

economy that they want to get, which is stranded. I recognize what the Premier says, they have stranded resources, we have resources. I fully understand that point, but gas is not the same as the heavy bitumen that's out of Alberta. Other regions are refusing it and it causes the question, do we want to take on this environmental burden in some process? We should be putting this question upfront before too much development happens on this file, and ultimately that's the next question.

When will this type of discussion happen as a policy initiative for our northern government? Citizens need to weigh in on this type of decision before our government makes a choice for us that citizens don't get a role in, and that's important. So that really is the question, because I think citizens of the Northwest Territories will be concerned knowing that we would be playing a role in shipping Alberta bitumen through the Northwest Territories without at least a say well in advance of this deal being struck. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you. You can rest assured that any project, if it were ever to come to fruition, would have to go through a very rigorous regulatory process that we have in the Northwest Territories, that would identify issues or conditions that would have to be approved. We're very interested in moving to the next step to determine the economics of such a possibility and whether it is not only technically feasible or technically possible but that it's economically feasible. So that's where we're looking to move to, is move on to the next step. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 505-17(5):  
FUEL SUBSIDIES FOR  
HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue on with my questioning in regard to the cost of gasoline, fuel in our small communities. I want to ask the Minister of ITI. I understand through the ITI department they have the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, or known as CHAP. This is a well-subscribed program that's very popular in our small communities, especially for hunters, trappers and gatherers of country food. These are the people that help and continue with tradition.

So with this program, is there enough in the program to help reduce the cost of the fuel that the trappers need to go on the land to support their families?

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Community Harvesters Assistance Program is a very valuable assistance program. Currently, we're at just over \$1 million in support. It provides funds that are distributed by the local committees to community harvesters in support of harvesting activities in the communities. Additional funding was secured from Canada-NWT Growing Forward 2. The agreement helped offset a portion of the cost to communities on community hunts. LWCs can apply for a maximum of up to 60 percent of the cost of a community hunt or harvest to a maximum of \$4,000. Additional funding is also available for the purchase of small tools and related equipment required to store, process and preserve foods from community hunts or harvest. Also, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources delivers CHAP to clients who are not members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in Yellowknife. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The Minister of Public Works gave me a very interesting fact sheet. The last paragraph in the fact sheet talks about the CHAP program. Through the CHAP program with the registered hunters and trappers in the communities, can they take this fund, walk down the street with their jerry can, go to the gas station, would they be able to, through this program, pay for the fuel that the petroleum products sells through their community government clients? They pay a lower price than the regular clients. Can that happen?

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you. Where the funds are administered and handled by local organizations at the community level, the money would be given to communities and it would be up to the community, in my estimation, on what they spend that money on, and if it's fuel to get out for a community hunt or a community harvest, that's what that fund could be used for and that's what communities could be putting that money toward. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** So my understanding is each type of customer that purchases fuel through the petroleum products division has its own pricelist. There are 10 types of customers, including the general public who pays whatever price they have now, the GNWT, boards and agencies, community governments, federal governments and others.

Can the community harvesters, registered trappers and hunters, be deemed as one of these 10 types of customers that could go to the gas station and under the community government clients pay a lower price than the regular customers? That's what I'm asking.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Yes, I understand the Member's concern and the Member's question. That is something that we'll look into and I can supply the Member with a response. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the response from the Minister. Certainly this would help the trappers all down the Mackenzie Valley up to the Beaufort Sea. If the trappers can get some relief, get some support, because the fuel is something that is detrimental to their way of life, unless there's a program to get the dog teams back in place so they can be used in the communities again. So can the Minister do this within the next three months?

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you. I know last week I made a statement in this House about how our government supports trappers in the Northwest Territories. We've just handed out a number of awards again this year. The fact that we've put 1,700 children in the Northwest Territories through the Take a Kid Hunting and Take a Kid Harvesting trapping programs that we have, it's very important to the Government of the Northwest Territories to continue to support trappers.

Again, I understand the Member's concern about gas prices and the fact that trappers are spending a lot of their help and their funds on getting gas for their snow machines or their ATVs or their boats. If there's a way that the Government of the Northwest Territories can continue to support trappers in their pursuit, that's something that we're very much interested in doing.

I just wanted to, if I could, just thank the Member and all the trappers across the Northwest Territories for the work that they do. We also have a new reality show, NWT Fur Harvesters, that is a very worthwhile show, and if Members get a chance to watch that show, I certainly would encourage them to view that show and see exactly what it's like living on a trapline and collecting fur. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Ms. Bisaro.

### Written Questions

#### WRITTEN QUESTION 22-17(5): JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN FUNDING

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

1. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment indicated that it will cost \$1.8 million to implement the first year of Junior Kindergarten in 23 communities in 2014-2015. How much is being allocated to each education authority to deliver Junior Kindergarten in 2014-2015, excluding one-time or infrastructure funding? Please provide the following:

- a) total amount for the 2014-2015 school year;
  - b) total amount for the period September 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015; and
  - c) total amount for the period April 1, 2015, to June 30, 2015.
2. In 2014-2015 how much funding will be deducted from each education authority to implement Junior Kindergarten, and how will these amounts be determined? Please include a breakdown of any reductions to education authorities if these reductions involve multiple sources; for example, PTR adjustments or inclusive schooling adjustments.
  3. In 2015-2016 how much funding will be deducted from each education authority to implement Junior Kindergarten, and how will these amounts be determined? Please include a breakdown of any reductions to education authorities if these reductions involve multiple sources; for example, PTR adjustments and inclusive schooling adjustments.
  4. In 2015-2016 what amount of funding will be provided to each education authority to implement Junior Kindergarten, excluding one-time or infrastructure funding?

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 5 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** I'd just like to recognize a couple of visitors in our gallery today, Mary Lou Cherwaty and Steve Peterson, both well-known representatives for employees and well-regarded activists for strong social and labour standards within the Northwest Territories.

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to recognize Mary Lou Cherwaty, a constituent of Kam Lake; and I know Steve Peterson. I've known Steve for a long time. Welcome to the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Bromley.

### Petitions

#### PETITION 4-17(5): OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

The petition contains 123 signatures of Northwest Territories residents, and the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut adopt the proposed Occupational Health and Safety Regulations as drafted in 2011 by the Safety Advisory Committee of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ramsay.

### Tabling of Documents

#### TABLED DOCUMENT 166-17(5): NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAM 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Northwest Territories Community Futures Program 2012-2013 Annual Report."

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

#### TABLED DOCUMENT 167-17(5): CORRESPONDENCE FROM NWTAC TO MINISTER R.C. MCLEOD REGARDING HOMELESSNESS RESOLUTION

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter and an attachment from the NWT Association of Communities to the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, in regard to a resolution on homelessness.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. I would like to remind everybody about electronics in the House. It's not allowed.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 41:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PARTNERSHIP ACT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, I will move that Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, be read for the first time.

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

BILL 42:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, I will move that Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 35:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I moved, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 35, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2014-2015, be read for the first time.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 35 has had first reading.

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 36:  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
PROFESSIONS ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act, be read for the first time.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 36 has had first reading.

The Minister of Finance, Minister Miltenberger.

BILL 37:  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 37, Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 37 has had first reading.

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 38:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE JURY ACT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act, be read for the first time.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 38 has had first reading.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 39:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 4, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 39, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2014-2015, be read for the first time.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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



---Carried

Bill 39 has had first reading.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 40:  
APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2015-2016

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 40, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2015-2016, be read for the first time.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 40 has had first reading.

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

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 34:  
2015 POLLING DAY ACT

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act, be read for the second time.

Bill 34 provides for an alternate polling day for the 2015 General Election in order to avoid an overlap of the election period for the next federal election.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 34 has had second reading.

Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2), and have Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act, moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 34 is moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 35:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 35, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for 2014-2015 fiscal year.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 35 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 39:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 4, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 39, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to register my concern about this bill. I think, given our fiscal status, we are going out on a limb here. There is no need to advance \$40 million on the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project in particular, given that there is no record of performance on that project on which to base such a decision and there is ample time to do that during the winter session, which starts a couple of months from now. I just want to make sure that was clear that we are making this decision to advance a considerable amount of money, given our fiscal status and all the unexpected expenditures that we have had this year, to advance a very significant amount of money and I wanted to register my concern about that. Mahsi.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 39 has had second reading.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 40:  
APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2015-2016

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 40, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2015-2016, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make infrastructure expenditures for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thank you.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 40 has had second reading.

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014; Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act; Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act; Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act; Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act; and Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Before we move into Committee of the Whole, I would like to welcome Mr. Andrew Cassidy, mayor of Hay River. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. There are a number of matters before us on our agenda.. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to continue with Bill 30 from last week and then Bill 25, Bill 27 and Bill 34, time permitting. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. We will reconvene after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. With that, we'll go to the Minister responsible to see if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring into the House.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Beaulieu, if you could, please introduce your witnesses to the Chamber.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, to my immediate right, Shirley Desjardins, deputy minister of Human Resources; on my far right, Nicole MacNeil, director of labour relations; and to my left, Ken Chutskoff, legal counsel.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Again, I'd like to welcome Ms. Desjardins, Ms. MacNeil and Mr. Chutskoff back to the House. Minister Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman, legislative counsel.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Committee, we last left and concluded clause 4. Does committee agree we continue on with clause-by-clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Clause 5. Minister Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. We'll just circulate the motion.

Committee, the motion has been circulated. The motion is in order. We'll turn it over to the Minister to comment on the motion. Minister Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 97-17(5):  
AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 5,  
CARRIED

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 30 be amended by

a) renumbering clause 5 as clause 5(1); and

b) adding the following after renumbered clause 5(1):

(2) Subsection 34(8) is amended by striking out “the Minister” and substituting “the deputy minister of the department responsible for administration of this act.”

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** We will continue on with the clause. Clause 5 as amended.

---Clause 5 as amended approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Clause 6.

---Clause 6 approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Clause 7.

---Clause 7 approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree that Bill 30 is ready for a third reading as amended?

---Bill 30 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Bill 30 as amended is now ready for third reading.

I'd like to thank Minister Beaulieu this afternoon for joining us. Mr. Chutskoff, Ms. Desjardins, Ms. MacNeil, thank you for joining us. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber, thank you.

Thank you, committee. As agreed upon earlier today, we're going to continue our deliberation this afternoon on Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act. With that, will go to the Minister responsible for the introduction of the bill this afternoon, Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I am pleased to introduce Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act.

The purpose of this legislation is to bring education superintendents, other than Yellowknife Education District No. 1 and Yellowknife Catholic Schools, into the public service.

Currently, there is a wide discrepancy in pay and benefits between superintendents. This change will help create equitability in the pay and benefits offered to superintendents.

This change will also make it easier for divisional education councils to hire qualified northern educators, many of whom are already, and wish to remain, within the public service pension and benefits system.

Of the five superintendent positions impacted by this bill, three incumbents are already seconded from within the public service. The bill includes a transitional provision to honour the existing contracts of the two superintendents who are outside the public service. We engaged all boards and superintendents on this proposal, and they are in agreement with this change.

I want to be clear: this bill does not change the reporting relationship between a divisional education council and their superintendent. The divisional education council will also continue to hire, supervise, evaluate and, if necessary, discipline and fire their superintendent. This is set out in the Education Act.

In terms of following my direction, superintendents are already required under the Education Act to follow ministerial directives, and nothing will change in this regard.

Having superintendents within the public service will also help strengthen accountability in the education system. It will create consistency between the employment status of superintendents and their staff and teachers. It will also clarify that superintendents must comply with GNWT acts and policies, such as the Public Service Act and the Human Resources Manual.

Overall, this bill will improve our education system and help attract and retain the best northern educators for the important position of education superintendent.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Minister Lafferty, we will offer the committee that reviewed the bill to make some opening comments on the bill. Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act, on May 28, 2014. A clause-by-clause review was conducted on October 5, 2014. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill is intended to bring superintendents of the district education councils and the Commission scolaire francophone into the public service. Three school boards would not be affected. The Tlicho Community Service Agency has a unique structure and will not be affected by this legislation. As well, the two Yellowknife superintendents will remain outside the public service.

The bill makes corollary amendments to the Public Service Act to address the employment status of superintendents.

The committee consulted with the chairs of the affected education bodies and no concerns were identified. However, during the public hearing in the clause-by-clause review, Members expressed some concerns about the implications of bringing superintendents into the public service. Specifically, some Members were apprehensive about the potential for the authority of superintendents to be unduly constrained. Members also noted that some superintendent pensions are currently provided through NEBS, the Northern Employee Benefits Services, and asked the Minister to clarify who will cover the costs of converting pensions from NEBS to the GNWT Public Service Plan.

The Minister subsequently advised that if there was a cost to the employer to convert pensions, the department would cover that cost.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 25 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 25, and individual committee members may have additional questions and or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee chair, Mr. Moses. With that, I'll ask the Minister if he has witnesses he'd like to bring into the House today. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could be kind enough to bring our witnesses into the Chamber.

Mr. Lafferty, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses to the Chamber tonight.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have to my left Rita Mueller, assistant deputy minister, Education, Culture and Employment, and Ian Rennie to my right. He's the legislative counsel within the Department of Justice. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Rennie, Ms. Mueller, welcome this evening. Committee, we'll open up with general comments to the bill. General comments. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have some concerns about some of these changes. Obviously, the superintendent, one of the reasons I've had more concerns is he's in the South Slave. I guess the one main area of concern is how this reporting would go. I know the Minister talked about

how the reporting wouldn't change, but I guess the difficulty comes in the fact that now you have a superintendent that's a government employee but also reporting to a board at the same time, the DEC. I guess how that individual will be conflicted, obviously, from his boss versus the people that direct him on the initiatives. I would use recent discussions about our Junior Kindergarten as an example. We have the department who are the bosses and will be paying his wages and yet the direction of the DEC was that there was difficulty they were having with implementation of that. I guess my concern will be the reporting.

In difficult times, I think on most issues this wouldn't be a factor. Most of the day-to-day operations I can understand the superintendent working with the DEC and not even having to deal with the government most of the time on day-to-day operations, but in the critical decision times there are times to criticize the GNWT about some of the implementations of any program or funding budgets. Some of those types of items, I think it's going to be difficult for that superintendent to tell his bosses – and I say "he" because in the South Slave we have a male superintendent – the people that sign the cheque, that this is the problem that we have, we need to fix this. I think that's one of the issues we've been pushing for Junior Kindergarten, as an example, this was an issue.

So I have difficulties with this as far as superintendents becoming GNWT employees, and I understand some of the rationale behind doing it, but there's that main issue of the reporting process and when it comes down to some tough decisions, and they may only be five or 10 percent of the time, but at that time it's going to be critical when you need a superintendent to fight for the DEC. How much can you really fight when he's giving direction and concerns to his boss? So that is definitely a concern.

The other area of concern that we've heard from our DEA was just the fact that our superintendent has a great deal of education and can he keep the same type of individuals that you want. Doctorates, let's say, for a superintendent. Would you be able to keep that type of individual if they're a government employee and on a pay grid? My understanding is that as superintendents come in, they'll be red circled for whatever their wages are if they are above the existing pay grade, but the difficulty comes in the fact that don't we want the best person that we can possibly get in our system. That would be limited because we have a set wage, we have a set amount of money that we can pay this individual. Sometimes when those people have a doctorate, they may be able to get work other places for bigger money. So, obviously, are we getting the best people in our education? Yes, we can find people that are educated and do a job, but

are we getting the best people that we want to get in this system?

So those are the two main areas that I have concern with on the changes to this act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. We'll allow the Minister to respond to those concerns. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This obviously has been brought to our attention through the committee's work, and the committee has heard a lot from South Slave members, as well, the DEC's and DEAs. The reporting mechanism has been talked about with the South Slave as well. I met with them about a month ago. This particular topic was brought to my attention, so we talked about how it's going to be structured. The reporting mechanism will stay the same as it is now, it will just be part of the public service staff if you will.

So we did talk in length about the reporting mechanism and the current superintendent did state and reiterated that he would like to be part of the GNWT public service immediately if that's the case, but we still have to work with his current contract because we're honouring the contract that they have. But he reiterated on a couple of occasions that he would obviously like to fall under the public service. So we did talk to them and they were satisfied with that reporting mechanism and I'm there to work with them. At the end of the day, the decision lies with the district education council.

The superintendent, obviously we want to have the best-qualified people for those positions because it is a high level position. What's happening now is there's a huge discrepancy between the superintendents. What we want is them to be in a position with our current GNWT senior staff pay grid, so that will be aligned with other senior staff at a comparable level.

Those are the discussions that we've been having. It was satisfactory when we presented that case, so those are two areas that we'll continue to push. We had a really good meeting in the South Slave when we met with them on these two subjects. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the two issues that were brought up, you know, it's fine for right now I think as far as what's going on, but the problem is when you create this bureaucracy and put the superintendents into the public service, what's going to come forward in the future once there's a new Minister, once there is new staff in the DEA, DEC, and once there's new staff in the Department of Education and now they're going by the written document? They're not going by okay, this is what we agreed, we agreed to the fact that the superintendents will report to the

DECs and the Minister and give them direction from there. But the way it's written, the way it's being described and will be described in the act, is the fact that they actually report to the Minister. Right now we're saying this is the way it's going to be, but in the future when you go back to the written document, it's going to read completely different, so the direction can be taken and interpreted any other way. Like I said, that 5 to 10 percent of the decisions that have to be made and argued for a DEC against the superintendent or against the Minister, when the Minister is the boss of the superintendent, will put that person in a wedge that would be very difficult for him to fight the battle to a point. He will be able to make the point, but he won't be able to fight it because the Minister will just say, you know what, you are an employee of the GNWT. You should be taken to a certain task, but you can't be pushing me too far, and the DEC's may need that superintendent to push the Minister to the point where they need to go in a different direction.

I find that very difficult in the fact that superintendents are going to be able to fight that battle when he's got two bosses being pulled and pushed from both sides, so I guess I do have concerns about the way it's going to be. We can say what it's going to be like right now, but when it comes five, 10, 20 years from now, how it's going to be written in this document is going to be the way it's going to roll out after a period of time after we've gone.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The board superintendents do have the flexibility if there are issues being addressed and they're not in agreement with my department. Obviously, they can voice their concerns still through the board chairs. We have been going through the process where I deal with the board chairs, and the superintendents also deal with my senior staff. Obviously, that reporting mechanism will still be captured as part of the DEC's board chair. Currently, he reports to them and that will continue. Yes, there will be some feedback or criticism behind the scenes from the superintendents, but that's always been the case, and we work with that.

The superintendents, as I stated, will continue to report to their respective DEA and DEC's. The DEC's, the district education councils, will continue to employ, hire, and also dismiss and evaluate their superintendent. All the superintendents, obviously, still have to follow the Education Act. All of them. As it stands now, they've been following that and will continue to do so. The Education Act, under Section 78, already requires the superintendents to perform the duties assigned to them by the act and the regulations in respect to education bodies and the directives of the Minister. That has been

ongoing for a number of years now and that will continue.

I understand where the Member is coming from, but the reporting mechanism still falls under the regime of the board district education council. As the Minister responsible, I still have to work with the board chairs in that manner, but at the end of the day, they report to the board district education councils.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Continuing on with general comments on the bill, I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the beginning of Bill 25, I certainly also had concerns with the reporting, the proposed structure and set up, and the jurisdiction, the authority, and maybe the confusion around the board chairs and the Minister himself. I had that confused. I have noted that I did receive a letter from our chair of the Sahtu education board and they wanted to clearly state that there are clear indications as to our superintendent and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I believe the Minister did receive that letter and that the board wanted to know that, you know, are we creating a two-headed dragon here called superintendents of education boards. There is clear, as the Minister just read out, ministerial statement guidelines for the superintendents. Even though it falls under the premise of the GNWT now, the jurisdictions, the funding will go to our education boards who will sign off on the cheques as they are being discussed here.

I did talk to the education superintendent in the Sahtu and he wanted to make sure, and he is okay. There is still a bit of apprehension yet in the Sahtu health board. You know, it's a matter of transition. I somewhat agree with my colleague from Hay River. The chairs are voted like a political body. They deal with us and they deal with certainly the overseeing of our superintendent, and the Minister has clearly written down the board still has that responsibility. I just wanted to say that very clearly. I'm not too sure where the previous speaker mentioned about in the act, and that's always been something we think about in the future. We're not going to be sitting in these chairs all our lives. In the future, if for any reason the interpretation is misconstrued about what is meant in the act and what the Minister is saying right now to us. Is this the intent, the spirit and intent of this act, and they cannot deter, erode or derail what the previous speaker and myself are saying, that a board still has a strong connection to our superintendent. What happens if the superintendent does not agree with the Minister's direction yet still works for the Sahtu, and if the Sahtu does not feel that the direction of the Education department is going the way they want to go, and they're directing their superintendents to do

something else may be very radical? That's what they want to know.

That's my one comment. I mean, I have read the Minister's statements. There is a little bit of a leap of faith here. There is some trust here, but like my colleague says, 10, 15, 20 years down the road, we don't know the interpretation, and if the interpretation of what we're talking about today and what the Minister is saying, that's it and then that's it. Because we know that, over the years, interpretation changes. Different players come into place. Just as when we negotiate our land claim, the spirit and the intent of some of those clauses have changed with the different players and today we get different interpretations, so you've got to pull out the old files and say is this what you meant when you're sitting across the table and you agreed to this clause. That's what we have to not to always go back to that. That's what I'm saying.

The other one, before I close, is the Minister, in his comments, says that overall this bill will improve our education system. I guess it's a matter of, again, interpretation. I'm not too sure how it will improve our education system. That's a pretty vague statement. It's kind of... It doesn't say too much. I just want to say, what do you mean by improving our education system? We always want to attract the best and the brightest and the most culturally driven type of superintendents in our education system. Well, our Minister knows how much work we have to do in that. So, what does he mean by that? I guess it's too vague for me, how he's going to improve our overall education system. So, I am looking forward to hearing what the Minister has to say. Mr. Chair, those are my comments.

In summary, I want to say that the reporting has to be clear; it has to have a strong foundation because you're dealing with a political body, which is a community chair to be voted by everybody. That's a political body. They fight for our people in the community and we're the ones that go to the regional meetings and give direction to the superintendent. The superintendent has the...(inaudible)... The Minister is right; they have the Education Act they have to follow. In the chair sometimes we want to do something radical to improve the education of our children, and they have to know that they cannot be in conflict if the board says something and the Minister's staff say something else. The department can always fall back on, it says in the agreement here. It's a very greyish area, I would say. The easy answer says, well, you have to follow that. This is it. Without any type of, I don't know, they may be tired, they don't have any discussion, they have lots of things on their plate. That's what I'm looking forward to, especially from small communities, small regions. I think it could work.

As my superintendent is okay with it, my chair is going to know that as long as we don't lose that relationship with our superintendent and not have the government, in the future, come down and say, too bad, you signed it already. We have history amongst our people of these things happening, so we want to be very careful. That's what I want to say. I'm not going to oppose the bill; I just want to say, those are my concerns. I support the Minister and the bill. Maybe a good preamble should go to that. Anyhow, that's it, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I just want to be clear that this bill does not change the reporting mechanism or the relationship between the district education council and their superintendent. That relationship still continues with DEC's and board chairs. They have very positive working relations right now and we would like that to continue.

The superintendents, obviously, give advice and also feedback to the district education council. Obviously, we may disagree on various issues or things that are happening, but at the same time, we work with it. We're not going to discipline a superintendent for saying certain things. It is up to the DEC's to deal with that.

The reporting mechanism stays the same. We're not talking about that. We are talking about having superintendents under the GNWT Public Service Act. So, improvement in our overall education system obviously is to attract the best superintendents out there that can be part of our team and that can work with the district education council. Highly experienced Northerners, obviously, is what we want to attract and who want to be part of the public service and also get the GNWT benefits.

Those are just some of the education outcomes that I would like to achieve over the long term. Just to be clear, we are not embarking on the relationship between DEC's and superintendents, but just having those individuals under the public service, and the reporting mechanism will stay the same as it is now between DEC's and superintendents. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Next I have Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few minutes ago we had heard the concerns about reporting lines and the Minister keeps saying that they will be reporting pretty much the same as they are, but the fact is, we really have no guarantee at the end of the day. The superintendent is instructed to pursue and follow, to the best of his abilities, obviously, the Education Act. One would have no doubt that that would be the case.

But we do have a very vivid, vibrant and certainly a functional example where the department had stifled superintendents for speaking their mind and telling the truth to the school boards. By an edict issued by the department – luckily we have the person here today who told us that – that they had to stay quiet on that particular issue when it came to Junior Kindergarten.

So what we have here now is the financial reporting line changing. So really, where does the loyalty of these particular employees now stay? It causes me great concern on how are we going to adjust this in the future? So in the future, when we run into another incident like Junior Kindergarten and the superintendents are told to stay quiet, they in essence have to be forced into a very difficult challenge, and I don't want to use the word lie, but I will say they are put in an awkward position not being fully truthful in some manner, form or other by avoiding the truth or avoiding the situation. It does cause me concern as to what we are putting in place here, which is the mechanism of loyalty between the school board and their superintendent.

Frankly, I don't really care about the paying process, it will be what it is. Does the government now want to regulate school board superintendents' pay? It's odd they have such courage over such few superintendents when they don't have the courage to regulate gasoline prices which would help far more people in the Northwest Territories, yet we will put our finger on a single little issue here. Do they like the way school board superintendents pay their employees? Well, you know what? I'm sorry, the school boards pay their superintendent employees is what I'm trying to say.

Frankly, I think it's none of their business. This is why we have an elected board. Do we know how much the government pays some of their senior bureaucratic employees? We know some deputy ministers make well over \$200,000. We know presidents of organizations make well over that amount and number. We know, but we don't put the spotlight on those things.

It's not a question of the money, and that's the easy distraction of this particular one, is to be saying, well, we want to adjust the line by line on the Hay Plan and coordinate them with similar employees in the GNWT. Honestly, that is just a distraction to what the issue is. Ultimately it comes down to control. Who is going to be in control at the end of the day?

Now, the Minister will say, my goodness, day-to-day operations, they report to the school board and the chair and the process, and he will probably reach in his hand – he probably already has it there in his right hand – and they quote chapter and verse of the legislation on what clause they say they do. I yet again stress that they probably will be reporting to the school boards. But you know, it is

always a scenario of saying, follow the money, where is the money, who is in control of the money? If the GNWT is in control of the money and billing the school boards back for the superintendents so the school boards get less money, I just don't like the tone of this. It's controlling the school boards whether they like it or not. They can try to say that there are firewalls and there's a way to show they are not controlling, but we have examples now that they are. The current examples, the real examples, we have seen what crisis it has put our school boards in by putting pressure on school board superintendents with the edict of silence.

Mr. Chairman, I am worried about what trend this will leave. This Minister won't be Minister of Education for long. We have a year, so what happens to the next Minister? What happens to the next board? What happens and on and on? It's easy to say we are going to realign these things, and it's easy for him to say that he's not going to do anything. Well, no, it will be business as usual. Well, maybe it will be business as usual in the next 12 months, but it's 12 months and a day I worry about it. It's 12 months and two days I worry about it, 12 months and two years and four years and 10 years. It's things beyond our grasp which we have no control over.

So, we have to caution ourselves how quick it is to change these things, because at this point, is the school board now turning into an advisory as opposed to a management board? They say management on paper, but now you're controlling the infrastructure, the administrator. You're paying the administrator and you can't tell me you're not in charge of the administrator if you're paying them. Is the administrator somewhat accountable to the department more than they are to the board? That question eventually has to be faced.

We can hear all the answers and justifications, but that's the reality before us. Of course, they will provide their argument saying that's not true at all, but what, in all fairness, is the person who pays is the one who provides the direction.

I'm concerned with where this amendment is leading. Frankly, I think that this is a bad choice. This is not about the money and people should not be caught on that. It doesn't really matter what the money is. It's about fairly allowing school boards to duly operate unfettered by the Department of Education which sets the playing field, which is called the Education Act. As long as they work within it, the Minister should stay out of the business. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have to make it clear that this is not a bill. It does not change the reporting relationship between a

district education council and their superintendents. That will continue as it has been for a number of years since the inception of this government.

There has been a change, obviously, of leadership from Ministers, but we continue to build on the relationship with the district education council and we would like to continue doing that. Not every one of us will stay in this position forever, obviously, but during the inception there have been changes over time. At the same time, this reporting mechanism has always been with the district education council and will continue as we move forward on this particular bill that's before us.

The superintendents, obviously we're dealing with public money. There obviously needs to be a public accountability too. That's our role as elected officials. Member Yakeleya also alluded to we're elected members of community district education councils that we should be working very closely with. I totally agree with that because they're accountable to their constituencies like we are, to the Northwest Territories. That area will continue. At the same time, the Education Act again, Section 78 requires all superintendents to perform their duties assigned. One of them I heard that one of... there's the superintendents or board chairs don't follow their directive. Well, it's in their Education Act, Minister directive. There is a directive. They have to follow that. It's nothing new. It has always been there.

If I missed out on maybe key topics, my assistant deputy, Ms. Mueller, can elaborate a bit more if I did miss out on key points. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Assistant deputy minister, Ms. Mueller.

**MS. MUELLER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just on the point about the discrepancy of the funding, we are talking about two of the superintendents that are outside the public service, and there is a huge discrepancy between the amount of funding between the lowest paid superintendent and the highest paid superintendent among all of them.

As the Minister has suggested, these are public funds. All of the education authorities are provided funding for all of their staff, teachers and including superintendents. That's based on the latest Hay Plan pay grid. However, for superintendents who are outside of the public service, their contracts are negotiated with their DEC's and anything above and beyond the amount that has been determined according to the Hay Plan, then those funds come out of operational funds for the education authority.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, assistant deputy minister. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister knows that this department has controlled the superintendents to stay silent on particular issues. This just reaffirms the reporting line by now



being known that the person from whom they receive their paycheque, they have to further take direction from the department. This is a major issue; it has been recently a major issue; and frankly, I don't see this getting any easier.

I say that we can confuse the issue by dangling the carrot of money in front of people and saying, well geez, it's a money issue. But it's not necessarily a money issue. It's a distraction of the fact that these boards are publicly accountable. They table their budgets. They have budget discussions. They invite the public in to talk about them. The boards publicly debate them. The board votes on them. Every one of those folks are, through a duly elected process, brought onto that board.

I'm going to wrap it up very quickly here. They go through an election process, I think, all but one. Frankly, we can talk about the disparity of these things and be confused about the issue. These boards are empowered to make their decisions. Now the government is taking their power back. This colonialism aspect of this government is now taking control of the school boards. We always talk about wanting to draw down and empower people. Well, this is the exact opposite. So I find it offensive that no one talked... The Minister or his staff member didn't talk about them controlling school board superintendents by giving them the hush order or else. Why don't we spend some time talking about that? You don't think that dotted line now becomes a solid line after this situation? If they speak against the department, the department will put undue pressure on them. So let's not fool ourselves. There's a lot more happening here behind the scenes than certainly just this one reporting line. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. We're not taking the power back. What we're talking about here is bills to have those individual superintendents under the Public Service Act. The reporting mechanism, the bill does not reflect on that. The reporting mechanism will continue as is for a number of years now, will continue to support that through their elected officials as DEC's.

We've also met with the board chairs on a number of occasions on this particular bill that is being introduced here today. For the record, there have not been any major issues brought to my attention from the board chairs that I've been dealing with for a number of years now. When I presented this idea, obviously the board superintendents would like to be part of the public service, but they did question the accountability issue of who is the board superintendent going to be reporting to. When I made it clear that the reporting mechanism will still continue, there were no issues. They were satisfied and happy with the process.

This is the bill that's before us to have those individual superintendents as part of the public service under the Public Service Act, and the reporting mechanism stays the same. It stays with the district education council, the elected officials as Mr. Yakeleya alluded to, and I have to respect that. I have to work with that. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Committee, we're on general comments, Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act. Next I have Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to welcome the Minister and his department here today. As noted, bringing superintendents into the public service did seem like a very simple design in the bill format. But as you have heard today, it has raised a number of concerns and some issues. Some of these concerns and issues have been clearly articulated by our committee chair and some of the Members as well. For the point of clarity, I'd like to talk about five key areas, and they're in no particular order or priority.

One of the concerns which seems to have a basic theme in some of the bills that we've been reviewing as of late was the consultation process. In this case here, the concern was that when the bill came to light through submissions – and again, these are submissions brought to committee – some district education councils expressed concern of not being able to review the bill prior to being tabled in the House.

With all due respect, there may have been the intent of wanting to do this, but again, committee has to be forthright in making known that not everyone was agreeable to the bill as presented. The concern that we received in submission was the fact – and we heard this today already – the concern of control and reporting requirements, that the DEC's wanted to retain this power of management and administration to take care of their own superintendents that they currently do.

So I know the Minister has addressed this a couple of times now with committee members here, but it's clear that there is a concern, as we've heard, Mr. Yakeleya used the words "two-headed dragon." We have the illusion of reporting. Again, I do favour some of the comments mentioned here. Even though I believe there was no intent of the bill to create this, in its wording it does suggest, as that old saying goes, "He who holds the gold makes the rules." I think this clearly sets that tone loud and clear. So I'll let the Minister once again try to reassure Members that is indeed not the case.

The other one was the issue of financial cost from superintendents being withdrawn from the Northern Employee Benefits Service, or NEBS, and going into the public service pension and benefit plan. Apparently there would have been potential loss of monies in the transfer of superintendents moving

from one plan to the other. The big question out there is who is going to pay for that, who should be accountable for that transfer of money and potential costs in that transfer. So again, I'll ask the Minister to comment on that as well.

Then the other financial cost issue really is the potential decrease in funding or the funding flow disruption that could occur with the contributions of ECE when we start pulling superintendents away from funded models that they are in currently. So some of those gaps could be substantial. Again, not knowing wages, I don't think that's the issue of the question. The question is: Would there be adjustments to lower funding models at school boards or authorities if indeed this bill comes to fruition?

The other one, there is a concern that this amendment could codify and enshrine the establishment of a two-tier system in our education system. So let me clarify. With this bill's passing there would only be two superintendents left outside this act, both in Yellowknife, which are YK1 and YCS. So, many of us, including myself, have looked at this from a different perspective and a holistic view, and going: what are we creating here? We're creating a secondary system within the educational delivery of programs within the mandate or ministerial mandates. I was a bit concerned, and other Members expressed the same issues, at what are those pitfalls or any of those potential loopholes that are now created within I call it a two-tiered system when we deal with superintendents. So again, I would seek clarification from the Minister if indeed the department has thought of that and whether or not there's some suggestions moving forward.

Finally, there were a number of concerns around the potential of the Minister to impose his direct appointment authority to favour a particular superintendent appointment, especially in the wake if a board is not positioned to the department's views. This was somewhat brought up by a couple of Members here today. This last point is of a particular scenario. We know that there's a certain scenario involved, but the committee felt that in reality this could present itself. The reality is that this is very viable in design. Again, what are those pitfalls that we should be careful of in terms of optics? Again, if the Minister wants to give the particular ministerial direction in a particular area of concern or a board, could he or she use that appointment authority to favour a particular direction?

So, roughly five areas of concern. Some of them have been covered by the Minister earlier today. But I would think, for clarification, I think just to reassure me as a Member, besides just trying to talk about "well, it's enshrined in this act, it's enshrined in that act," what safeguards are there

really to make sure that we feel comfortable as Members voting in favour of the amendments to Bill 25? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The engagement process obviously started back in November of 2010 when we met with the board chairs and superintendents to discuss this matter in the preliminary stages at that time. There was also a letter directly to the board chairs, as well, the DEC's, in January of 2011. So within the next few months from there. There's also a proposed approach that was discussed with the board chairs and the superintendents as recently as May 2014 and there was no opposition to the changes.

Just last month, a month ago, I also met with the South Slave because they brought up some concerns on the reporting mechanism, and we dealt with that and they were satisfied when we left the community of Hay River Reserve. They did have logistical questions about bringing superintendents into the public service, but we did answer their questions and that satisfied them as well.

The financial cost, obviously it's been brought up in the committee's discussion. Not only that but even at the district education council, who is going to be paying for the difference if there is a cost factor once their contract is up and they're transferred over to public service? I did commit to the standing committee that my department, obviously, will cover the costs. We don't know what the costs will be at this point because it does fluctuate, but when the contract term is up, then we'll know for sure and then we'll cover those costs at that time.

A decrease in funding potentially because a superintendent's salary is under public service. We'll continue to provide the financial budget to the district education council because they have to hire or retain a superintendent and they still pay. It's just a paper transaction that we provide the senior Hay Plan, the salary that's attached that's comparable to other senior staff and provide that to the district education council and they'll continue to provide that to their superintendent. So the budget doesn't really change in that regard because we'll be doing it according to the GNWT Hay Plan on senior staff.

The two-tier system has been brought up by the standing committee as well. YK1 and YCS are out of the picture. Not only that but there was discussion about the Tlicho Community Services Agency, as well, because of their uniqueness, a self-governing board. This is an area that obviously has been brought to our attention and by nature, obviously, they're divided into two different approaches. The staff and teachers of two Yellowknife boards, obviously, the YK1 and YCS are outside the public service. The teachers are not part of the public service, so their superintendents

remain outside the public service and they maintain consistency within their organization.

Those are just some of the discussions that we've had with the board chairs. The board chairs raised that issue with us, as well, what's going to happen to us. So, we did raise that issue with them. We'll continue how we've been doing business with YK1 and YCS.

The Member did raise the issue of direct appointments, as well, in the standing committee. There were a lot of options, a lot of scenarios. What if there's favouritism from the department perspective or the DEC's? I did make a commitment to the standing committee that we have to find the best qualified superintendent, preferably Northerners, of course, to be on the DEC. Any appointment process obviously would fall to the government to make that decision. They are recommendations from the DEC's.

All these years, the Dehcho Education Council has made the recommendations and I've brought that forward, as the Minister responsible, to the government. At the end of the day, the government makes a decision on that. But it's always been the case where the government made a case and there was support from the DEC, there were no issues over the years. That practice will continue. At the end of the day, my view is that we find the best superintendent as possible with the qualifications and also the experience. The DEC's also request that the incumbent superintendents be direct appointed to the position of superintendent with the public service, so we've been dealing with the DEC's on this matter as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Next I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My comments are not dissimilar to those of my colleagues. I will be brief because they've pretty much been mentioned.

I want to, at the outset, say that I'm very glad to hear the Minister finally confirmed that any costs to the boards for superintendents to withdraw from NEBS will be covered by the department. That was something that took us a little while to get that confirmed, but I'm very glad to hear that that is now confirmed.

I have the same concerns as a number of my colleagues in bringing superintendents in under the public service. Not that their relationship with either the Minister or the board will change, but I see that there's going to be a conflict of interest for those superintendents, particularly with regard to policy. If there is a policy which the department or the Minister wishes to put in place – not a directive but just a policy or a change to a program – and the board disagrees with that change, the board will need to rely on their superintendent to speak on

their behalf, to do work on their behalf, to get the message through to the department and to the Minister. Yet, at the same time, the superintendent is employed basically by the Minister and will feel obligated not to speak against the government. That's what most GNWT employees are obligated to do, not to speak against the government.

It's one thing to say that the board can speak to the Minister and can present their case. That's all well and good, but board members are volunteers and board members are not involved in the day-to-day operation of the board and of the education authority and superintendents are, so it's going to be difficult for board chairs to truly fight a policy or a program change without the support of their superintendent. I see that as a problem. Mr. Hawkins referenced a situation where superintendents in the not so distant past were advised not to speak against a particular programming change that was coming down, and the department will have the capability to dictate to superintendents what they can and cannot say, and that's a very large concern for me.

The only other question I have here, in the Minister's opening remarks he says that this change will create consistency between the employment status of superintendents and their staff and teachers, and by that I think he meant that they will all be part of the public service. I don't think we ever talked about this when we discussed this issue at committee, but that sort of consistency in employment status suggests to me that it's possible that the superintendents may be part of the teachers' union, and I would like to get that confirmed. If that's the case, I think that's fraught with difficulties. That's really my only question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The Member raised the conflict of interest between the Minister and the board chairs and the DEC's with respect to if there are any program changes the superintendent, well, they'll still work on their DEC's. I don't see that changing. Right now, if we're introducing a new initiative and there are issues, the board chairs usually raise that issue with us, whether it be public or in person with the Minister responsible for education. Superintendents will continue on record. They will still continue to report and to provide advice if there are any issues with program delivery. Obviously, they'll be reaching to their DEC's to raise their concerns to us as the Minister responsible.

I deal with the district education council chairs and also elected members of the DEC's and DEAs. Superintendents still have their avenue through the board chairs and that continues to exist today and even into the future. The reporting mechanism is not part of the bill, obviously, but as I stated before,

I deal with elected officials. Superintendents will continue to provide advice. Those two individual superintendents that we're discussing, three are already part of this comment. I'll have Ms. Mueller to elaborate, because Member Bisaro alluded to the teachers' union. I'll provide that to Ms. Mueller.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Assistant Deputy Minister Mueller.

**MS. MUELLER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The answer would be no, the superintendents would not belong to the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Assistant Deputy Minister. Ms. Bisaro, anything further?

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I think that's it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Committee, we're on general comments for Bill 25. Does committee agree we have completed general comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** We'll go to clause-by-clause review of the bill with a further number in the title. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 4 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** The bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Does committee agree that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 25 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Thank you, witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

Committee, we will now work to Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014. I'll go to the Minister responsible. Minister Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** I am pleased to be here today to discuss Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of the bill.

The purpose of Bill 27 is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for which minor changes are proposed or errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

Each amendment included in the bill had to meet the following criteria:

- a) it must not be controversial;
- b) it must not involve the spending of public funds;
- c) it must not prejudicially affect rights;
- d) it must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

Departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes.

Most amendments proposed in Bill 27 are minor in nature and many consist of technical corrections to a statute. The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly.

I will be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have regarding this bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Next, I'll go to the chair of Social Programs, Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014, on September 12, 2014. A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

This bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill also deals with matters of a minor, noncontroversial and uncomplicated nature. A minor amendment was made at the committee clause-by-clause review and concurred with by the Minister. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 27 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 27. Individual members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Committee agree to go to general comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Minister Ramsay, do you have witnesses to bring into the Chamber?

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort our witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Ramsay, will you please introduce your witness.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Mr. Ian Rennie, the acting director of legislation with the Department of Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you. Welcome. Committee has agreed that we will begin general comments on Bill 27. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Committee has agreed we will go into details?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** We will go to page 1. We will go back to the number and title. We have 16 clauses. Does committee agree we will take them in groups of four?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Clauses 1 to 4.

---Clauses 1 through 4 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Clauses 5 to 8.

---Clauses 5 through 8 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Clauses 9 to 12.

---Clauses 9 through 12 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Clauses 13 to 16.

---Clauses 13 through 16 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Does committee agree that Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 27 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Bill 27 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out of the Chamber.

Thank you, committee. We will turn our attention to Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act. I will go to the chair of Caucus, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to provide the opening comments on Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act.

Mr. Chair, the general election for the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is currently scheduled to take place on Monday, October 5, 2015. Prior to the passage of fixed election date legislation in the Northwest Territories, the timing of our elections was a moving target. Subsequently, the Parliament of Canada adopted similar legislation establishing the third Monday in October every four years as the date fixed for federal elections. This has resulted in an overlap in the campaign period for the upcoming federal elections and those scheduled to take place in several provinces and territories, including our own. If the NWT and federal elections are held on the dates planned, there will be a 21-day overlap in the campaign period for each jurisdiction. In a small jurisdiction like ours, it is often the same people who administer federal and territorial elections in our communities and volunteer for various campaign organizations. Concerns have also been raised about message confusion and the potential

mixing of partisan debate with our consensus system of government if the two campaigns take place concurrently. It is for these reasons that the NWT, like some of the other provinces in similar circumstances, supports a rescheduling of our election date in 2015 to avoid this overlap.

Mr. Chair, Bill 34 establishes April 1, 2015, as a go/no-go date for our 2015 General Election. If on that day the federal election remains scheduled for October 19, 2015, this bill will automatically delay the NWT election until November 23, 2015. The campaign period for a November 23<sup>rd</sup> territorial election will commence on October 30, 2015, a full 11 days after the federal election. If the timing of the federal election changes prior to April 1, 2015, so as to avoid an overlap in campaign periods, the date of the 2015 NWT General Election will remain October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, Bill 34 will only take effect if the Parliament of Canada passes legislation permitting the life of the current Assembly to extend beyond its current four-year mandate. Section 224 of Bill C-43 recently introduced in the House of Commons intended to do just this. Although Bill C-34 permits the life of the current Assembly to be extended by up to one year, the proposal before you today contemplates a delay in our general election of only just over six weeks. Bill 34 deals only with the timing of the 2015 General Election. Additional legislation may be required to avoid similar overlaps in future years.

This concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to answer any questions from the committee.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Do you have witnesses to bring into the Chamber?

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Yes, I do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort in the witnesses.

Thank you. Mr. Yakeleya, could you please introduce your witnesses, please.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left is Ken Chutskoff, legislative counsel; and on my right is Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Committee, we'll go to general comments on Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a comment. I don't have any questions on this. I think we've come a long way and it's been an interesting discussion. I think we've come to the

right conclusions on this. Of course, we could change legislation at the federal and territorial level to extend our mandate up to a year, but I think we've listened to the public who expressed some concern about that.

This is an extension, but it's a modest extension and, I think, theoretically at this time, depending on when the federal election is actually finally decided to be, I think this is a very reasonable stance to take and I support our conclusions here and this legislation. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I see that as more of a comment. General comments. Does committee agree that we go to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you. We will defer the bill number and the title. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** To the bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you. Does committee agree that Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 34 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Thank you, witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Chair, I move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Good evening. I will call the House back to order. Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Bouchard?

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act; Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014; and Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act, and I would like to report progress with one motion being adopted and that Bills 25, 27 and 34 are ready for third reading and that Bill 30 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Do I have a seconder to the motion? Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

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

### Third Reading of Bills

#### BILL 35: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 35, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 35, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2014-2015, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

#### BILL 39: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4, 2014-2015

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 39, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 39, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2014-2015, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

#### BILL 40: APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), 2015-2016

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 40,

Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2015-2016, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 40, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2015-2016, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 30-17(5), National Inquiry and National Roundtable into Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act
  - Bill 37, Financial Administration Act
  - Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act
  - Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act

- Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014
- Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
- Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

