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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Great Slave)

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Persons with Disabilities

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, November 4, 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. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Abernethy.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 117-17(5):
SENIORS PROGRAMS**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, November 6-12, 2014, is National Seniors' Safety Week and it is a good opportunity to remember the important role that seniors and elders play in our communities.

Elders are the heart of our communities, providing guidance, care for children and serving as volunteers. But as they age, seniors often require a greater level of support than others.

The government has taken several steps to restructure our system so that it is responsive, comfortable and efficient when it comes to meeting the needs of seniors.

Mr. Speaker we are not alone in trying to find innovative ways to offer programs and services for seniors. Every province and territory is facing a growing seniors population and working to find ways to support seniors so they can remain in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. At a recent Health Ministers meeting, I heard firsthand the challenges my provincial colleagues face in providing care to an aging population. We share those challenges and also face our own unique issues.

Elders who live in small, remote communities do not have access to the same range of services, medical care and social supports that are available in larger centres. Seniors may also experience a variety of limitations that hinder their ability to connect with family and friends and participate within their communities, resulting in social isolation. These limitations may be due to personal circumstances as well as barriers at a systemic level.

We have considerable work to do; however, we have made some great strides for seniors. In November 2013 we completed a continuing care review providing us with key information on our current continuing care services and direction to take in moving forward in a focused and supportive way to reduce barriers and address gaps in care and service delivery. We also released a strategic framework, Our Elders: Our Communities, in May 2014.

Mr. Speaker, Our Elders, Our Communities will help guide our actions as we work together with external partners and other departments to ensure seniors can live safely and independently as active members of our communities. Rather than developing one single action plan, we will develop multiple action plans focusing on different priority areas that support aging in place and long-term care.

The GNWT already has a number of programs that help seniors continue to live independently and participate in their communities while staying in their own homes or rental units, including providing public housing to eligible seniors through the NWT Housing Corporation. Rents for seniors who receive the Canada Pension Plan income in public housing are capped at a maximum of \$80 to help to ensure that affordability issues do not limit their ability to continue to live independently. For seniors with additional income, the first \$1,000 per month is exempt in calculating rent. There are presently about 650 seniors living in public housing.

Seniors who own their home may take advantage of the Housing Corporation's CARE program, which provides financial assistance for making necessary repairs and enhancements to homes. The corporation also provides assistance to homeowners to undertake preventative maintenance or emergency repairs. Seniors with disabilities may also receive assistance to make accessibility modifications, like installing grab bars or wheelchair ramps, to support independent living. Through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, low- to modest-income seniors may apply for a home heating subsidy that helps them with the cost of heating their homes. Education, Culture and Employment also offers the NWT Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit to low-income seniors to help pay for living costs. The

program provides a monthly payment to seniors and is automatically available to eligible seniors who are receiving Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement or the spouse's allowance from the federal government.

Seniors who own their homes are also eligible to apply for property tax relief under the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act. This program is administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and aims to support seniors who want to remain in their homes as they age. Applications for property tax relief are accepted on an annual basis and can be picked up at community government offices and regional Municipal and Community Affairs offices.

Ensuring that elders in small communities receive all of the support and services to which they are entitled is an important role performed by government services officers. Government services officers in 18 small communities conduct weekly visits to elders and provide support, often in the elder's Aboriginal language. This can range from opening and reading mail, assisting elders in making applications or renewing eligibility for both territorial and federal programs, to connecting elders with other service providers in their community.

The Department of Health and Social Services is working in partnership with community organizations like the NWT Seniors' Society to identify other ways to help, like programs to help people shovel walkways or get groceries to help them live in their homes for as long as they can.

In addition to the efforts to strengthen home and community care services, we must review and prepare for the increasing demand for facility-based long-term care, including dementia and extended care, and to improve and enhance supports for respite care, palliative care, geriatric assessment and restorative care.

We're expanding our complement of long-term care facilities so that this service is available in every region, allowing our seniors and elders to be closer to their families and their homes, which we have heard is what they want.

We are in the process of adding new long-term care beds in the NWT. New facilities in the communities of Behchoko and Norman Wells will provide 27 additional beds within our territorial system to support our aging population.

We established a dedicated Territorial Dementia Facility four years ago to support seniors who have developed dementia and to support their families in dealing with this devastating disease.

We have made other improvements to care delivery and supports for seniors.

We have updated our continuing care standards, to ensure consistent service delivery across supportive living, home care and long-term care programs no matter where you receive services. We are continuing focused work related to our falls prevention program, which includes the development of effective tools to prevent falls in the homes of older adults. We have established focused activities related to home care safety through an integrated approach to case management and coordination of services. We are piloting a Flexible Respite Model which will allow us to gradually expand caregiver support services to communities across the NWT.

I am especially proud of our partnerships with the NWT Parks and Recreation Association and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to deliver the Elders in Motion program. This program is a series of fitness training programs to enhance their ability to lead active lifestyles.

We are also partnering with the NWT Housing Corporation to introduce supportive living housing for seniors in small NWT communities. The design of these facilities will allow barrier-free, independent living accommodations with a common space for delivering social programs, meals, Elders in Motion and home care supports. Construction of these new seniors independent living facilities are starting this year in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Fort Liard. These facilities will contain nine units including the caretaker. Similar facilities will be built in Whati and Fort Good Hope in 2015-16.

We are partnering with Avens through a joint steering committee on their Avens Pavilion expansion plans. This steering committee is working on the documentation required for the government for consideration in the capital planning process.

We will be looking to other jurisdictions for their best practices, in particular how to support and promote aging in place. We continue to participate in federal/provincial/territorial working groups and look forward to the Council of the Federation Chair's Initiative on Aging to look at the impacts of an aging population on Canada's social and economic future. We will also look to the dementia research being carried out by the Canadian Institute of Health Research on behalf of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health to help guide our own efforts.

We will continue to strengthen our home and community care services and respond to the increasing demand for facility-based long-term care, including dementia and extended care. We need to improve supports for respite, palliative and restorative care as well as geriatric assessment.

Working together with our many partners, we can support our seniors and elders so that they can

continue to make valuable contributions to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 118-17(5):
LAUNCHING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
NEW GREAT SLAVE LAKE FISHERY BRAND

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, with viable markets, a healthy stock of freshwater fish, and growing interest, we are working with our partners and the fishers on Great Slave Lake to breathe new life into the Northwest Territories fishing industry. Today I am pleased to share with Members some of the steps we are taking to encourage the resurgence of the NWT fishing industry.

The NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy recommended expanding three essential elements of the NWT fishing industry: the markets, the infrastructure and the workforce. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is now taking steps to implement those recommendations.

First off, we are working to establish a stronger commercial market for our fish here in the NWT.

Growing the demand within our territory will provide new income streams for the industry, support import substitution and lessen our dependence on export markets.

We will be launching a campaign within the NWT to build the profile for fish harvested in the territory. This will include the design of a new brand, promotional items, recipe cards, sales information and posters.

ITI is also using its Northern Food Development Program to move fish into communities around Great Slave Lake and into the Beaufort-Delta.

Revitalizing infrastructure is another area for improvement.

We have committed \$200,000 this year to develop a building and financing plan in support of a fishery for Great Slave Lake and Kakisa. The intent is to leverage partnerships to design and construct a new export-grade plant for the fishery. We have identified \$1.5 million in our 2015-16 Business Plan to help stimulate this development and look forward to working with our partners to move this important project forward.

Mr. Speaker, the third element to strengthening the NWT fishing industry is increasing the workforce.

It takes a great deal of skill to operate successfully within the fishing industry and I commend the Northerners who persevere season after season. In the summer of 2013, there were a total of 34 fishers from the NWT fishing on Great Slave Lake.

We are developing a strategy to attract new fishers from both inside and outside of the NWT. During the summer of 2013, seven individuals from Manitoba and Alberta launched vessels in Great Slave Lake as part of our fishery. Their harvest represented over 30 percent of the entire fishery's income, totalling \$1 million for the summer of 2013.

Through the revitalization of markets and infrastructure, we will grow our local workforce, and by recruiting beyond our borders we will help this industry reach its full potential.

Recent changes in provincial legislation and regulation in Alberta and Saskatchewan may create an added incentive for fishers from these provinces to consider moving their commercial fishing operations to the NWT, where we continue to work hard to grow the fishing industry. As interest and participation in our Great Slave Lake fishery grows, so will the availability of product, employment and local economies.

This government has worked alongside the NWT Fishermen's Federation and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to harvest and market fish from Great Slave Lake and Kakisa. We continue to serve local industry through these partnerships and the experience, knowledge and input they bring to the table.

The objective of the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy is not simply to support small businesses in our territory but also to establish competitive business environments in our regions and communities in which viable economic prospects can be identified, developed and realized.

Mr. Speaker, new markets are emerging for Great Slave Lake fish and, with them, new opportunities for those working in this sector. We are acting to stimulate a new era of self-sufficiency for the NWT's fishery and return it to the leading economic contributor it once was.

These developments are helping to create a diversified economy that provides all communities in the NWT with opportunities and choices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 119-17(5):
CELEBRATING THE SIGNING OF
LABOUR MARKET AGREEMENTS
AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
APPRENTICESHIP IN THE NWT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, a skilled workforce is a prerequisite for growing a strong, diversified economy in this territory and our government is doing its part by supporting training and certification programs. This year marks the 50th anniversary of apprenticeship training and certification in the Northwest Territories. Since 1964

more than 2,600 apprentices have been trained and certified as journeypersons in the NWT.

This marks 50 years of success in the NWT and we will be celebrating in every region as part of Skilled Trades and Technology Week from November 3rd to 7th. We will be hosting awards presentations to recognize excellence achieved by apprentices and recognize employers and journeypersons for their contributions to the success of the Apprenticeship Program.

There is a bright future for skilled tradespeople in the NWT and partners like employers and journeypersons are helping us prepare NWT residents to take advantage of that. In fact, Mr. Speaker, partnerships are key in all the work we do in labour force development. Partnerships with Aboriginal governments, industry, Skills Canada NWT, Aurora College and the Mine Training Society contribute to that strength.

Partnerships with the Government of Canada are also critical and have led to labour market agreements aimed at developing a skilled workforce and providing all Northerners with training and employment opportunities.

This year I have signed three labour market agreements with the federal government: the new Canada-Northwest Territories Job Fund Agreement, renewal of the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers Agreement, and the new Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities.

These three agreements will provide comprehensive training, education and opportunities for our employers, our older workers, our adult workers and critical under-represented groups in our labour market such as Aboriginal people, youth, women, income assistance recipients, entrants/re-entrants into the labour force, and immigrants.

The economy of the Northwest Territories is growing, and our programs must support that growth. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is taking a systematic look at adult and post-secondary education and skills training in the NWT. We want to improve employment success for NWT residents, close the skill gaps for in-demand jobs and more effectively respond to the requirements of NWT employers and industry.

As well, Mr. Speaker, as we improve the collection and sharing of information from students, we are 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.

Mr. Speaker, these investments and initiatives will complement our work with our partners to build on existing programs and services to ensure that NWT residents have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to participate fully in the vibrant,

sustainable northern economy the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to create. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister for Public Works and Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 120-17(5):
PROCUREMENT SHARED SERVICES

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, improving procurement services is helping the Government of the Northwest Territories achieve this Assembly's goal of more effective and efficient government. By strengthening our procurement practices, we are making sure that local businesses can benefit from government contracting opportunities and that our high standards of fiscal responsibility are maintained.

On April 1st the Procurement Shared Services Centre in the Department of Public Works and Services began operating government-wide in order to better support these goals.

Government-wide operations followed the successful launch of the centre in Yellowknife in June 2013. The centre brought together a team of professionals who were previously located in individual departments. This has made it possible for the GNWT to maximize and build upon the skills of its employees while also providing a more efficient, consistent and transparent procurement experience for the business community. The centre is positioned to focus on procuring goods and services at reasonable prices while considering key environmental and social benefits such as worker health and safety, energy efficiency, minimal packaging, or other sustainability aspects over the entire lifecycle of the product or service.

An important part of this initiative is bringing procurement support to the regions in order to better meet the needs of our departments and the local business community throughout the territory. As of April 1st, the Procurement Shared Services Centre has consolidated tender desks operating in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River and Inuvik that are responsible for the distribution and receipt of all government tenders, including construction.

In addition to consolidated tender desks, new fully dedicated procurement positions have been established in these communities as well. These regional positions have created employment and training opportunities for new and current regional employees. With the support of the entire Procurement Shared Services Centre team, these employees are handling all procurements of goods and services estimated to exceed \$5,000 in value on behalf of our GNWT departments and the NWT Housing Corporation, excluding contracts for construction.

To give Members an idea of the volume of work being undertaken by the Procurement Shared Services Centre, over 900 procurement service requests have been received with 710 contracts awarded for a total value of \$79.2 million along with 289 tender and RFP documents being handled by the consolidated tender desks on behalf of our clients.

Mr. Speaker, GNWT staff in other departments also benefit by being freed up to focus on program delivery, while our dedicated procurement offices offer a consistent single-window location for the business community to access tender and contracting opportunities with our government.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today.

---Unanimous consent granted

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: An important focus of this initiative is to improve our procurement management by providing professional support to our departments and professional services to the public. Training, development and the implementation of best practices will continue to be important as we realize the full benefits of this initiative.

The centre has already provided training to more than 630 government employees, has established a quality assurance function and has gone through Fairness Commissioner training. The centre also focuses on providing training and workshop opportunities to the business community.

Workshops have been delivered in the communities of Inuvik, Hay River and Yellowknife on "How to do Business with the GNWT" with 46 representatives from local businesses having attended. The centre also sponsored a very successful proposal writing workshop in collaboration with the Supply Chain Management Association of the Northwest Territories and continues to work with the association as well as local chambers of commerce, to explore ways to further improve how the business community can access government contracting opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, procurement shared services is another step in making our government more effective and efficient while decentralizing government positions and ensuring socially responsible economic development, all priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CELEBRATING NORTHERN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed an interesting little thing on Facebook last night and it's called Top 10 Doctors in the Northwest Territories, Canada. It's based on a website called ratemd.ca. I'm glad they don't have a website called ratemlas.ca. Nevertheless, I don't really like to compare people and say this person is number one, but it was an interesting read to see that people took the time to post comments about these Northwest Territories doctors on a website; and to read the comments, it's just glowing about the experience people have had when they have had to be attended to by these physicians.

In looking at the list, it says the number one top doctor in the Northwest Territories is Dr. Bing Guthrie. I take some pride in that.

---Applause

Dr. Guthrie's first place where he practiced medicine in the Northwest Territories was in Hay River. He was our chief of medical staff there, and during that time he decided to become a specialist. Under a GNWT program, he was sponsored to go to Edmonton, go into residency and become an obstetrician and gynecologist, and then as part of that return of service, ended up back in Yellowknife but continued to come to Hay River and still does come to Hay River. An interesting thing that you may not know about Dr. Guthrie is that not only does he receive this high honour here in the Northwest Territories but he also finds time to serve in his medical field in Third World countries and has made trips abroad to help people in other countries, which I think is remarkable.

Another thing people may not know is that Dr. Guthrie's wife, Margaret, is a registered nurse and staying home to raise their children. When they were in Edmonton and here in the Northwest Territories, they took in medical foster children. So babies that were born in the hospital that could not go home because they were so ill and were probably not even going to survive, the Guthrie's took them into their home. So not only would he work all day in the medical field, then he would go home and he would have little ones in his house that had severe challenges and medical conditions.

One other doctor on this list is Dr. Hassan Adam.

I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: An interesting thing is when a dentist makes it onto the top 10 doctors list. As I was sitting in the dental chair this morning at

7:00 a.m. in Dr. Adam's office with Dr. Adam, everything that they say about Dr. Adam on here is true. I mean, top 10 in the Northwest Territories. I think if anybody with knowledge were to examine his credentials, he's probably in the top 10 in Canada if not North America.

These are amazing medical professionals that we have here in the Northwest Territories. So for no other reason than just to say thank you, not just to the people on this list but to all of the medical professionals who serve the Northwest Territories, I would just like to say thank you very much.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NURSING SERVICES IN WRIGLEY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's happening again, Mr. Speaker. The death of an elder in Wrigley has family members and friends asking valid questions. Why doesn't Wrigley have a full-time nurse? Would this elder still be alive today if a nurse had been there to step in?

As if I need an excuse, I feel compelled, once again, to ask when the Department of Health and Social Services will remedy this situation. Wrigley and eight other small communities do not have full-time nursing staff.

Earlier this year the Minister of Health and Social Services stated in the House that his priority was to provide the best possible service to clients, including residents of all communities throughout the Northwest Territories. He said that he understands more needs to be done and he's committed to finding solutions that work. So the government says it's committed to providing high-quality health care to all residents regardless of where they live, and yet a handful of communities rely on occasional fly-in visits from nurses and doctors. It's a scary situation when a serious medical emergency arises.

For years I've been pressing the government to staff the empty nursing station in Wrigley. We've been repeatedly told that Wrigley doesn't meet the minimum threshold under the department's service delivery model. A community has to have 250 people to warrant full-time nursing.

It's time to rethink this service delivery model. Health care shouldn't be reduced to a numbers game. As my people of Wrigley found out recently, when reliable access to health care isn't a sure thing, lives hang in the balance.

The Department of Health and Social Services is in the process of streamlining the health system. They're looking for efficiencies and cost-savings. This is exactly the right time for the department to review and renew its service delivery model.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for Minister Abernethy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2014 FOREST FIRE SEASON

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of the NWT are survivors. With the worst forest fire season in the history of the NWT behind us, it's time to take stock and give thanks.

Thanks goes out to all our own very hardworking firefighters, suppression crews, air fleet and those outside our territory for protecting our property and saving lives.

That said, this season did consume our grossly underestimated budget of \$8 million and we now have over \$50 million worth of questions, or at least we should be asking some sort of transparency and accounting to this spending.

It's important for us to ask such questions as we need to learn how to fight fires more efficiently and be better prepared in the event of another disaster as the 2014 fire season. Questions like, did we have enough air attack officers on duty, especially early in the season, because without such officers coordinating from the air, the entire fire suppression air fleet cannot fly, putting at risk our ground support network. What was the rationale for us not using our entire air attack fleet during the whole season? Why did some of our planes on contract log very few hours at some of our at-risk peak moments? How is our ability to administer the sophisticated science of dealing with fire? Do we have the right caliber of academic people, science officers and tools at our disposal to manage the science of fire? How was our communication with the public? Did they feel informed? Clearly, communication did improve greatly throughout the course of the season, but was this in place at the start? How can we improve our communication even further? Is simply putting a fire icon on a web map enough? Do we need to provide more specific coordinates of fire patterns so property owners and hamlets can FireSmart accordingly? Did we have enough equipment for our front line and property owners to use? Finally, were our communities reasonably prepared with up-to-date fire emergency evacuation plans or overall emergency plans? If not, how do we mitigate this in time for the 2015 fire season?

I believe Members and the public look forward to an informative and frank report from the Minister with the ability to ask these questions in a transparent fashion, and I encourage him to do so sooner than later. Until such time, I wish to again congratulate and thank everyone who coordinated with our fire suppression season of 2014. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
LEGAL AID SERVICES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later on today we'll be debating a motion that's near and dear to my heart: missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Well, today I want to draw attention to another issue: not visibly having equal access to government services from the communities. Once again the base of a two-tier system is rearing its head to the realities of our communities outside of Yellowknife when it comes to access to legal services, particularly family law.

I appreciate the answers we usually obtain from question period in this House and the respect we have amongst ourselves as Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly, but I continue to see a huge gap between services in Yellowknife and the rest of the outlying communities and regions, like the Sahtu.

We want, as Minister Beaulieu said, a more effective and efficient government. That's great, but when it comes to justice, health and education it's a totally different story. With justice I'm talking about family law and civil law where access to proper legal counsel is so desperately needed in our communities, but we fall short of the demand.

Some say it's the messiest out there with some of the most expensive legal retainer fees that exist in the Northwest Territories.

Today I'll have questions for the Minister of Justice about why my constituents and others from across the Northwest Territories are getting half of the legal services compared to those who live in Yellowknife. Why the difference? Why do our communities continue to tolerate this type of justice in the Northwest Territories? Would anyone in this House accept these types of services from our government?

As my colleague said, maybe it's time to rethink our model of community justice in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
2014 ENERGY CHARRETTE

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night and this morning I had the opportunity to attend the Energy Charrette. It looked like there were over 200 people there. The Premier and Minister Miltenberger made presentations there last night, and last night and today we listened to Marlo

Raynolds from BluEarth, an expert on renewable resources. He described the Northwest Territories as one of the most complicated 64 megawatt systems he has ever seen.

We have brought in a whole bunch of different experts. We have brought in engaged people from the Northwest Territories. We have brought in power providers, regulators, private businesses, NGOs, experts from around Canada as well as even European experts. This is all an answer to the cost of living in the Northwest Territories, the cost of power, the cost of heat, and we need to look at opportunities. We need to look at changing our way of thinking.

Currently, in Detah right now, they are continuing to discuss... Just when I left they were just getting the review of the current projects that the GNWT is going through. They were going through the current budgets of what the Energy Plan has going forward. This group will give us direction and give us some idea of where they see us putting our dollars to, to alleviate the cost of power, to alleviate the cost of energy in the Northwest Territories.

It's not just about dollars, but it's a way of changing our way of thinking, not only the GNWT but individuals. We need to look at different opportunities that individual people can do throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A year ago we adopted a motion calling for the GNWT to investigate the practicality of introducing a universal, affordable child daycare system run by people trained in early childhood development, building on successes in Quebec and Scandinavia. This Thursday, parents in Yellowknife will have an opportunity to participate in the government's feasibility study on universal affordable child care. This is an important opportunity. I hope it is one available throughout the NWT, and I hope it has been well publicized.

Universal child care has provided incredible benefits in jurisdictions where it's been adopted, including improved early childhood development, decreased child poverty, increased numbers of women in the workforce and a better quality labour force with the added and unexpected result that it paid for itself through revenue and savings.

As a jurisdiction, we have dabbled in child care support, though some might say we have dithered. While ECE provides a daycare subsidy, a recent year estimate was that only about 40 parents met the qualifications to receive it and only a few were added after purported improvements.

There is also the question of facilities outside of the major centres. They are virtually non-existent and often woefully inadequate in the places where they do exist. To my mind, we need a comprehensive, focused and accessible program if we are to meet the needs of parents and children in the NWT. Such a program must reflect best practices recommended by early childhood development research to date.

It appears that ECE has been trying to meet both daycare and JK Program needs through universal JK. An unintended consequence is that Junior Kindergarten is rendering other early childhood programs, including child care services which are becoming less feasible with declining enrolments. We need to recognize that child care services, especially for the early years, have a priority role in providing critical support to parents in ways that will give big returns on early childhood development and the ability of parents, especially women, to take part in the workforce. It can mesh well with quality JK.

Localized child care services should be regulated and supported to ensure qualified early care personnel and developmentally appropriate play-based approaches that support early childhood development. JK would then become part of the continuum to complement community child care services.

I appreciate the department's move to consult with parents.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: As I said, I appreciate the department's move to consult with parents. Let's learn from the success of other jurisdictions and the citizens of the NWT. Universal daycare delivered as part of a holistic, ground-up approach to early childhood development can play an important role towards achieving happy families and healthy communities, something I know we all would like to see.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Today I would like to provide a few statistics and describe the daily regimen for diabetes patients.

Nationwide, diabetes is a serious public health issue for Aboriginal people. The prevalence rate is on the rise at about three times higher than the general population. About 2,000 NWT residents have this disease.

For diabetes patients to stay relatively healthy, they must maintain a painstaking daily regimen, eating well, getting exercise, testing blood sugar, taking all required medications and undertaking foot care. Diabetes patients are also directed not to smoke or walk barefoot, even around the house.

Nerve damage and poor circulation to the legs and feet are common problems. Certain injuries, even minor ones like blisters or cuts, can take a long time to heal. Unnoticed or untreated, injuries can quickly become infected.

For people with diabetes, preventative maintenance is exacting, time consuming and relentless. Foot care involves a long list of daily activities: washing feet in warm soapy water; drying the feet carefully, especially between the toes; checking for cuts and cracks, ingrown toenails and blisters; using a hand mirror to check the bottom of the foot or getting someone else to do this; cleaning cuts or scratches, then covering them with a dry dressing; trimming toenails; applying lotion to the heels and soles, avoiding the toes because excessive moisture can promote infection; and wearing fresh clean socks and well-fitting shoes.

This type of daily care can be especially difficult for elders, some of whom are living alone or lacking the mobility to perform their own care.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services about how this government cares for the growing number of diabetes patients. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN IMPLEMENTATION

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stood up in this House on many occasions to speak about education and some of our social issues that we see in the Northwest Territories, specifically in the education services within the Beaufort-Delta region and the community of Inuvik, Northwest Territories, whether it's speaking up on behalf of the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority, the Aurora College, Aurora Research Institute, East Three elementary or secondary schools or the Children First Centre.

One thing that occurred to me and one thing that I brought up in previous statements is that the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority is a unique area in the Northwest Territories and a unique situation when we have to fly in board members or go to schools. The cost of doing business and travelling in the Beaufort-Delta is a concern that was brought forward to me, whether it's education councils or else the education authority itself.

Last week I fought to try to get them more funding and look at how we do the formula funding with the education authorities throughout the Northwest Territories and, like I said, especially in the Beaufort-Delta region where the high cost of doing business with travelling and flights and those kinds of things.

Last week on October 30th, the Premier made a Minister's statement about Junior Kindergarten and that we're going to go ahead with this Junior Kindergarten in 23 communities without changing the current funding approach to Junior Kindergarten and will not offer the Junior Kindergarten Program in any of the regional centres or in Yellowknife. That brings up a concern, because I fought to try to see if we could get more funding for the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority to continue to do its business, and what we are seeing now, is under this funding approach to Junior Kindergarten, I know the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority is going to have to find money within to fund these programs. It's not only programs within the region, it's programs throughout the Northwest Territories in 23 communities for this year and possibly for next year if they decide to continue on.

Mr. Speaker, we only have eight communities in the Northwest Territories, some of them we can't get some of our senior management, some of our teachers in and out whether it's training or not, and this money really has an impact on them. The money that is going to be coming out for this Junior Kindergarten Program is also going to have an impact on the way the education authority does business.

The education authority is very innovative; they find ways to spend money. The e-learning program is a big one. They used money from within to try to get the best education for our students in the coastal communities. How will this Junior Kindergarten impact those types of programs? I don't know, but I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
IMPACTS OF EVADING
CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many people know too well that the poverty trail has many paths and once a person does start to travel down those paths, whether they've been born into it or they quickly found themselves in this torrent, it's quite a difficult challenge if not almost impossible to get out. It's like swimming through quicksand. The more they struggle, the more they find how difficult the challenges can be. Often these challenges can be lonesome. But when you are the person trying to

take care of your family, the struggle becomes more than just the road less travelled.

Poverty is not an adventure people look fondly back to and recall and think of themselves as the journey of, boy, I can't recall a better time. These are journeys where the heavy struggle is carried by the children as well as the parent, often in some cases single of parents such as mothers.

The government has done many good things to help, but I think they can do much, much more. It has many tools within what I would call its grasp, or certainly what we would define as their toolbox of options. As we look around and we look at some of the options that we use to help alleviate the throes and punishment of poverty, because no one wants that type of thing, poverty is something that we must help others get out of.

But we must enact better resources, such as our maintenance enforcement orders. I've often called these folks deadbeat dads, and that's who they are sometimes, and the system will define them as debtors. Often deadbeat dads avoid making payments and they think they're punishing their former spouse. That may be true in some form, but truly the bottom line is they're punishing the children that belong to them. This is a terrible step where they think that there is a means to the end. They're punishing their children and keeping them in poverty situations.

We must be doing everything within our grasp, within our toolbox, to ensure that we track these folks down and get them to pay. We keep these families struggling and, if anything, we're supporting the poverty cycle that they live in by not fighting as hard as we can for these families.

Sometimes we find these deadbeat dads working and then we run into the struggle as wondering why they're not tracked down and maintenance enforcement orders implemented as quickly as possible. I've seen people avoid \$100 payment orders and I've often wondered why. Again, they think they're punishing their ex-spouse, but really they're punishing the children that they should be loving them and doing everything they can for them.

In closing, I will certainly have questions for the Minister later today, but I'll be talking about the Ontario government's website. It says www.goodparentspay. They also have wanted parents' posters that point this out, but all of that will be revealed in my questions later today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT PROCUREMENT POLICY
AND TENDERING PROCESS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really interesting that we had a Minister's statement on

procured services today because that's the focus of my Member's statement today.

An issue recently came to my office from a constituent and it's one which I believe highlights inefficiencies and problems in the GNWT procurement process.

This summer a tender was let by Public Works and Services for goods. Two businesses responded to that tender, one northern, one southern. The tender was awarded to the southern firm, but for a premium of almost \$60,000. Yes, the northern firm bid \$57.7 thousand less than the winning bidder.

Now, I believe that all MLAs and the Minister, as well, want to maximize business to the NWT rather than to southern suppliers, and I believe we all want to ensure that northern businesses survive and keep Northerners in the North. I also believe that we all support a fair process, but this and other examples Members have heard about show that our procurement process is flawed and perhaps unfair.

So what happened here? Well, apparently based on failure to meet specifications, this requisition for goods went to a southern supplier, even though the southern bid was 67 percent higher than the northern bid.

The tender allowed for equivalencies but failed to clearly identify what that meant. The failure to meet the specifications deemed the northern bid unresponsive or non-compliant, even though the variations from the specs were seemingly minor. Under our rules, an unresponsive bid is automatically eliminated.

Because of our policy and our rigid tender process, the government turned down an \$85,000 northern bid for a \$143,000 southern bid without any opportunity for minor negotiations to address variances in the northern bid.

Tender processes should be rigid and should be fair, but in this case, the way the tender was written forced the northern bidder to be unresponsive. If any tender requires a very specific product, then say so. Don't make the bidder painstakingly produce a bid for a tender which the government knows full well he cannot meet.

Procurement services must use language and processes which ensure that we provide the opportunity for northern firms to bid on any tender. Not an advantage, Mr. Speaker, but the opportunity for an equal bid.

Taxpayers are going to have to eat the extra \$58,000 in this case, and the northern supplier has lost \$85,000 worth of business. It begs the question: could the southern bid have been 200 percent higher and still be accepted? Maybe 300 percent higher?

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: What limit do we put on accepting a bid that is much higher than another one?

There is an opportunity here to review and amend our procurement process. We should be aiming for better support for both northern suppliers and northern taxpayers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRIBUTE TO LATE ELDER
PIERRE MARLOWE

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

Today I rise to pay tribute to the late elder Pierre Marlowe of Lutselk'e. The late Pierre Marlowe was born April 1, 1932, and peacefully passed away surrounded by family and friends on October 30, 2014. He was 82 years old.

The late elder Pierre was born in the Fort Reliance area. When he was five years old his mother died and at 21 years old his father passed away.

In December 1962, Pierre married Helen Enzoe-Benaya. Through this marriage, Pierre and Helen had three children: Mary, Ernie and Charlie. Pierre and Helen also adopted three children: Sonny, Evelyn and Tobie. In 1984, after 22 years of marriage, Helen passed away, and Pierre continued to raise his children.

The late Pierre was a hunter and trapper and enjoyed being on and living off the land. He worked various jobs throughout the years, such as guiding and a guide to the RCMP for many years, and for the NWT Power Corporation.

Also, it was clear to all those who knew him, his love for the land always brought him back there whenever possible.

The late elder Pierre Marlowe enjoyed being actively involved in local politics throughout the region and was well known for being very outspoken and direct and was considered to be politically astute. Pierre was usually happy and was known for his sense of humour.

The late elder Pierre Marlowe is survived by his sons Sonny and Tobie, daughters Mary and Evelyn, 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and his sister Celine. He was predeceased by his parents, Antoine and Elizabeth Marlowe; his wife, Helen; sons Ernie and Charlie; five sisters and four brothers.

The late Pierre Marlowe's children and grandchildren will always remember him for his unwavering love, dedication, kindness,

compassion, along with traditional culture knowledge and language he passed on to them. Entering his home, anyone could see the results of a very religious man.

The late Pierre Marlowe was a well-known, respected elder. He will be sadly missed. My sincerest condolences go out to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sister, and many nieces, nephews and friends. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize some visitors from the Status of Women of the Northwest Territories: Lorraine Phaneuf, the executive director; and Samantha Thomas, community development coordinator. As well, from the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories I'm very pleased to recognize Nola Nallugiak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, like the Premier, would like to recognize the same three people. I'll start with the executive director of the NWT Native Women's Association, Nola Nallugiak; Lorraine Phaneuf, executive director of NWT Status of Women Council; and Samantha Thomas, community development coordinator. I believe Mr. Sonny Lenoir is in the gallery, as well, from the Dene Nation. That said, thank you everyone for coming today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to recognize some visitors in the gallery today. Lorraine Phaneuf, I recognize Lorraine; also a constituent, Samantha Thomas. Welcome. I believe you're still a constituent. I hope so. Also, Nola Nallugiak, welcome to the House today. Also, to Sonny Lenoir, good to see you here.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome Sonny Lenoir to the gallery, a former resident of Simpson. As well, I want to congratulate Nola, who returned from a four-year degree in Native Studies back to the Northwest Territories. She's a former resident of Fort Simpson, and I won't try to pronounce her last name. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members in this House like to recognize former residents of their communities. So in case anyone didn't know, Samantha Thomas is actually from Hay River. I'll say hi to your mom and dad for you, Samantha. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to welcome everybody here. Thank you for taking in our proceedings today. Thank you.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 506-17(5): RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what kind of programs the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services still has in existence for general practitioners who may wish to become specialists, for students studying medicine who may want to return to the Northwest Territories under some kind of a bursary or sponsorship program. We have found these sometimes to be successful, but at the same time we've also heard of stories of NWT residents that did want to return to the Northwest Territories and there were obstacles and barriers, and we do not want to see that.

Although Hay River has two permanent physicians now out of the complement of seven for which we're funded, we still do need more doctors in the Northwest Territories. I'd like the Minister to update us on the programs and his policies of his department to encourage that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're currently reviewing or actually re-creating our Human Resources Strategy for health and social services professionals. I'll be ready to bring it to committee in December to have a more fulsome conversation.

Right now the physicians in the Northwest Territories have a very generous contract that allows for some opportunities for professional development to enhance skills and increase their skills, and we're always looking for ways to encourage Northerners to pursue medicine and come back when they're done.

I'd be happy to share that report. We'll have that ready in early December. So, we can have a more fulsome discussion. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: We will look forward to that. Are the programs that were previously in place that people subscribed to, are there policies or scholarships or programs in place at this time? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Northerners who actually pursued medicine and received some of the bursaries that we have available, but most of them are still in school. We've actually discontinued the bursaries because we've done a bit of an analysis and there wasn't a lot of value for money. A lot of the people that we were supporting weren't coming back to the Northwest Territories. So we're exploring new ways to work with these students to find ways to make sure that they do come back to the Northwest Territories, and that is part of the review that we're doing and the information that will be coming forward to the Member and committee in December. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Under the direction of our previous Minister of Health and Social Services, the government and the department took action to establish a pool of physicians that they had spoken about locating in Yellowknife either as locums or as regular resident physicians that they would then deploy to the communities and to the health authorities who needed that support.

Could the Minister please tell us what's the status of that program? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That work has been done. All the physicians in the Northwest Territories are under one employer, and we're able to send physicians from different locations to different locations as needed.

We actually had a happy surprise out of that program. When we created that program it was because we were having difficulty actually recruiting any doctors to the communities. Since we've put in that program – and the doctors, regardless of where they are located, have privileges to Stanton and have a larger body of professionals that they get to collaborate with on a regular basis – we've actually been lucky enough to actually fill some positions in Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik and part of it's about this bigger relationship that the doctors are a part of a larger team, as opposed to being a member of a team of one in Hay River. Now they're part of a territorial team. It's actually worked out in ways we didn't anticipate, for the positive.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, is the recruitment of

physicians and locums currently something that is done at the local health authority level or is it something that's done by the department?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It is not done by the department. It is done by the authorities, but the authorities are working together as appropriate.

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

QUESTION 507-17(5):
MACKENZIE DELTA FERRY SERVICES

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, this is the second year in the Mackenzie Delta that ferry services are operating during the winter months. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation for an update on the ferry services at this time.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is continuing to work on both the ice bridge and getting the ferry across. We were able to get the ferry across once either today or late yesterday.

MR. BLAKE: That's great compared to the progress we did last year. I'd like to ask the Minister, when does he see us actually transporting vehicles across on the ferry?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I would hate to venture a guess. I'm hoping that as soon as possible, when the department is comfortable to have made their way across once. I think it is just a matter of the ice conditions, some parts of the ice that was still fairly soft, to be able to make it into a fairly solid area for the ferry to pass through, so we're hoping that that part of the ice strengthens up a bit and at that point the cut area should remain open.

MR. BLAKE: It's been brought to my attention that the reason there's no service right now is because of overflow or high water levels. I'd like to ask the Minister, is the department looking at making a landing structure for vehicles to drive on?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The department will be doing everything to facilitate vehicles getting onto the ferry. I don't know the exact specifics of whether or not they are going to have to create a separate area for landing or boarding the vehicles onto the ferry, but I can get that information for the Member if he wishes.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of this is to have more LNG to the community of Inuvik. I'd like to ask the Minister, when does he expect the first truck of LNG to arrive in Inuvik?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I believe that we will be able to move vehicles quickly and within probably the next day or two. I don't think there are any weight issues with the ferry, so when the LNG vehicles arrive that need to get across, we should be able to transport them across the ferry at that point.

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

QUESTION 508-17(5):
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of 2011, in a report from the office of the Auditor General for Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, the OAG staff noted the following, "little information is recorded on the performance of the health care system". Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this has not improved since. We have seen a steady stream of failed commitment upon failed commitment in our inability to monitor and report what I like to call basic health outcomes. As a consequence, our ability to monitor performance on a national basis is extremely hampered and limits our opportunity to be tested on national trends or concerns.

My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Can the Minister inform the House, when can we expect to see these system-wide performance indicators as was promised in this House almost four years ago? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recommendation from the Auditor General was to develop a set of system-wide performance indicators for the purposes of regularly informing the public about the performance of the NWT health and social services system. We have established and put into place 32 indicators, which I would be happy to share with the Member and then committee. These indicators have been selected through an extensive system-wide consultation with decision-makers and experts and they reflect national best practices.

The information collection has already begun. Initial information collection for the...(inaudible)...report is estimated to be complete during November, so we are in the middle of putting that information together. I believe we will be tabling that report in the May-June session of this Assembly. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Members that this department has promised this and failed more times than we can count, although I do welcome what we have just heard here of potentially 32 indicators that we might see in the

May-June sitting. Accountability performance measures are really the backbone for an effective delivery of health care, especially in best practice.

Again, I ask the Minister, why are we seeing such a delay for so many years? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Doom and Gloom is a great Rolling Stones song but it's not really appropriate here. The indicators are in place. We are collecting the data. The data will be compiled and will be provided to the Members. I can't say why it wasn't done before. I have been the Minister for just over a year now and this information will be out in May-June, just like I said. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: The Minister knows very well this is not doom and gloom. The Minister realizes that our front-line workers and our decision-makers continually work in a vacuum, not knowing where they stand on policy or what is considered national best practice.

So again to the question, how does the department measure our performance nationally when we only produce today about five or so of the best indicators over a list of, nationally, up to 40 recognized benchmarks? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: This was a recommendation from the Auditor General. We have worked with our professionals here in the Northwest Territories. We have also worked with professionals across the country to identify the 32 indicators that are consistent and will provide us with the information we need to make evidence-based decisions in the Northwest Territories, which I think is what everybody wants, including the Member. That information will start to roll out in June of next year and it will become more valuable over time as we have years of data that can compare to the previous year's data. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, if I go back to the Auditor General report of 2011, it indicated a recommendation of regularly informing the Legislative Assembly about the performance of the Northwest Territories health care systems and the department replied, "Agreed. Developing an ongoing system of reporting and evaluation is a priority." If it is a priority, we have not seen this.

So again to the question, when will the department provide to the Members and to the public an ongoing system of reporting and evaluation as they promised four years ago? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, for the third time, May 2015. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 509-17(5):
NURSING SERVICES IN WRIGLEY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement and ask questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The Minister has stated in the House that his department is reviewing options and looking for creative alternatives for providing quality health care.

Will the Minister please provide an update on the plans to enhance nursing services in Wrigley and other communities that don't have full-time nurses? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right; we are always looking for creative new ways to provide valuable services in our communities and we want to make sure that our residents, regardless of the community they live, have access to these services that we provide. So, we are looking at different ways to provide those services.

Right now we do provide nursing services in Wrigley. We have a CHN in there for three to four days a month. We also have a CHN who spends four weeks twice a year in there during freeze-up. I do hear the Member that the Member and the community want to have more people in there. We're always interested in ideas Members have.

But one area that I can talk about is we are exploring the opportunity of finding a way to train local people to do local work and to provide some degree of health services, similar to models we might see in Alaska or BC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: That's a nice, unique idea. I think the department may be on to something if they consider making communities like Wrigley a training ground for nursing students. A nursing student could get valuable hands-on experience and Wrigley residents could relax in the knowledge that someone is always on hand.

Will the Minister consider that idea seriously? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It's an intriguing idea and it's certainly something that I'll bring up with the department. My only concern with that particular approach is a nursing student isn't a nurse, and I'd be nervous about having them in the community alone without the supervision of another community health nurse or a nurse in charge. But it's certainly something that we will look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: As I mentioned in my statement earlier, the Department of Health and

Social Services is in the process of streamlining the health system.

What cost saving does the Minister anticipate, and will these savings permit the department to revise the service delivery model? Especially, can the Minister ensure that even the smallest community will have year-round nursing services? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to improving the provision of health and social services in the Northwest Territories and one of the areas that has been identified as an opportunity to reduce some of the duplication of services and find some economies of scale, which should allow us some more freedom to provide a greater degree of front-line services throughout the Northwest Territories including in the smaller communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Will that be nurses or will that be some other creative solution that we've worked on with the communities so that those needs are met, I can't say, but we are doing that work and I look forward to working with committee and residents of the Northwest Territories as we explore those solutions and those opportunities. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Back in the '70s when there was an established nursing station and RCMP in Wrigley, one of the reasons was because the industry was moving north. They were going to build a pipeline, they were going to develop the Mackenzie Highway, and in fact, some of those things are happening today as we talk about the developing Sahtu oilfields.

Will the Minister consider in their planning, about returning nursing to the community of Wrigley? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The changing landscape and the changing of communities is something that we do factor in as we're planning and trying to make sure that we're providing services. Things like the Mackenzie Highway, if it goes up through Wrigley into the Sahtu, that's certainly going to change the realities for Wrigley as well as all the work that may come with that.

So those are certainly things that we're factoring, certainly things we're considering and things that we will address to make sure that the needs of our residents are met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 510-17(5):
2014 ENERGY CHARRETTE

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement about the

Energy Charrette, I'll have questions for the Minister of ENR and the Minister of Finance I guess. But I guess the first question I have: Do they have the estimated costs of this Energy Charrette?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's in the neighbourhood of about \$120,000 I believe. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: As we left this afternoon, the charrette was looking over the review of the budget.

Is this government committed to shifting gears if the charrette group indicates that we need to shift some of our funding arrangements right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As I indicated, we continue to spend millions of dollars a year, but a lot of the items that we're talking about are going to be dependent on the resolution of our borrowing limit discussions with the federal government. Pending that successful conclusion, we are absolutely committed to investing significant amounts of money to engage in this transformational change. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you. Can the Minister indicate are we done doing the studying, are we done doing planning, are we looking to put money on the ground in the communities in renewable resources to reduce the cost of living in the Northwest Territories?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Yesterday I posed a number of questions. We are committed to looking at the whole range of things that need to be looked at as we do this type of change. It's the putting projects on the ground, the mix of biomass and solar, potentially wind, batteries, diesel, liquid natural gas if it makes sense. We need to look at the rate structures, we need to look at the governance models, and as we look at those issues we have to look at the regulatory function. As well, we need to identify, I would suggest on a go forward basis as we move more fully into these alternative energy technologies, the legislation that will govern the application of biomass, the wind and the solar so that they have the same kind of framework and comfort that oil and gas folks currently have as they do the work they do. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: The Minister is an experienced politician and I ask that question again. Is this government committed to reducing the cost of living to Northerners?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. In response to my cherubic friend with his Movember face slowly getting grizzled, I would restate that

yes, all the things that we're doing are focused on energy efficiency, cost of living, reducing our footprint, cutting our carbon emissions and sustainability. So, absolutely.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bouchard. Okay. The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 511-17(5):
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
LEGAL AID SERVICES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

Can the Minister update this House as to why, in this day and age, in the year 2014, legal aid clients or clients of any lawyers outside of Yellowknife get minimal time with their legal counsel? Actually, some don't even see their legal counsel until they come to the community on the court circuit and it's usually one or two hours before the court. Sometimes it's a totally different lawyer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a Legal Aid Outreach Program to communities that I've highlighted in the House in the past. Just this summer, clinics were conducted in Kakisa, Fort Providence, Behchoko, Fort Good Hope, Tulita, Deline, Colville Lake, Norman Wells and Hay River. With the resources that we have, we do attempt to provide the best service as we can to the smaller communities. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Mr. Ramsay hit it on key: they are making an attempt to provide the services with the resources that they have. We have the resources, we just need to direct some of these resources in the areas that they're mostly needed in the communities. So, I understand that Rome wasn't built in a day and we know there's a serious backlog when it comes to family law, criminal law or any type of law that requires legal aid in our communities. We know that lawyers are in demand.

How can we stand here and say that a lawyer truly represents a client from outside of Yellowknife if they're only to meet their clients on the date of that hearing, the same day the lawyers come in? So, can these lawyers arrive one day ahead of the court party to have sufficient time with their clients? Can that happen?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Of course, access to justice is a very important issue across the Northwest Territories and across this country. If the Member has some ideas about how we can improve the level of service for his constituents and people in smaller communities outside of Yellowknife in the regional centres, that's

something that we'd like to discuss with the Member and other Members if they have ideas. I mean, that's what we're here to do, is how we can make things better and better service for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly would be willing to sit down with the Minister because I have a lot of ideas, the Sahtu people have a lot of ideas. We heard from Mr. Andy Langford last month, telling the media that kids should be with their families in their home communities.

Can the Minister look at hosting a family law clinic or a forum to discuss the serious issues facing the NWT with the access to family law legal aid lawyers that families need? Can the Minister commit to that?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. If there is a case before the courts or in the process of being before the courts, of course that would preclude me getting involved as the Minister of Justice. If there is an issue of access to justice and getting legal aid, somebody trying to attempt to get legal aid and having questions surrounding the process and how it is that they'd qualify for legal aid, that is something that my office and the department can certainly provide answers to. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have one idea. I want to ask the Minister if he would look at if it's possible to set up a Sahtu mobile legal aid office in the Sahtu region. Could this work? What do you think?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. The Member is asking my opinion, and again, I take the Member's comments, I take his concerns very seriously. I know him, and we have worked together for the past 11 years and I know he's a man of the people. Certainly if he has an idea like the one that he's talked about here today in the House, we have a process in place here with business plans with going through that type of process, and if we can take a look at something like that, I'd be happy to sit down with the Member and have a look at that idea and see how it would look in reality and what it would cost. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 512-17(5):
ACCESS TO DIABETES TREATMENT
AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. In this country, diabetes patients typically have access to a range of health care providers, including foot specialists, certified diabetes

educators, doctors, nurses, and professionals who specialize in orthotic and prosthetic devices.

Can the Minister tell me if diabetes patients in the Northwest Territories have access to the full range of knowledgeable health care providers? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Diabetes is obviously a huge problem here in the Northwest Territories, and we're trying to support communities and individuals to live healthy lives so that they don't become type 2 diabetic or type 2 diabetes. We have put in new type 2 diabetes screening and diagnosis clinical practice guidelines, which have been approved and disseminated to all of the health providers, all the health centres throughout the Northwest Territories so that our nurses have the tools they need.

We do provide the types of programs that the Member is talking about. Sometimes people have to fly into places like Hay River or Yellowknife to get them, but we do provide that and we're always looking for ways to push additional services out to communities and we do have professionals who travel to the communities from time to time, but some of them aren't available in every community. Sometimes people do have to come to the centres for those services. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Mahsi. About 90 percent of type 2 diabetes cases are preventable by taking several simple steps: keeping weight under control, exercising more, eating a healthy diet, and not smoking.

Can the Minister please describe his department's efforts to promote healthier living? Specifically, what promotion and prevention efforts are underway in my Deh Cho communities? What's on the ground for my people?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We provide a wide range of services throughout the Northwest Territories and a number of them focus on healthy eating, reducing the amount of sugar, reducing the amount of fat, addressing obesity throughout the Northwest Territories. I've got a comprehensive list of the types of programs that I'd be happy to share with the Member. I can't say off the top of my head which ones are delivered in which Deh Cho communities on which particular day, but I will get a breakdown of the ones that are being provided throughout his region.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for committing at least to providing that information.

Can the Minister describe how elders in remote communities get assistance with daily foot care, and can he guarantee that elders in remote communities are receiving assistance for this crucial component of preventative maintenance?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We do have programs in the Northwest Territories, and as I said, we don't offer all of those foot care programs in all the communities throughout the Northwest Territories. I'll get the detail the Member is looking for and I will provide it as soon as I can.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Initially the Minister had stated that there are types of programs that are being delivered in terms of trying to meet standards so that diabetes programs and initiatives are brought to the community level.

Where are those programs being delivered? Is it specifically the Deh Cho or throughout the NWT?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Throughout the Northwest Territories programs like that are ... (inaudible) ... different communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Each one of the health centres have the tools to do the diagnosis and screening that have been just recently developed. Those are throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 513-17(5):
ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN FOR
'CARING FOR OUR PEOPLE'

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have questions for the Minister of Health. I'm noting all the concerns about health delivery here today, but judging by the full colour, quarter-page ads I'm seeing in the newspapers across the North, very expensive advertising, the Department of Health and Social Services is flush with money. These ads, Caring for Our People, ask for input to a survey on health care, and I've done a little bit of research and these are over \$1,000 a pop.

Can the Minister tell us what this colour newspaper advertising campaign has cost the people of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the exact cost, but I will confirm that and provide it to the Member. I will remind the Member that what we're talking about doing here in the Northwest Territories is a fundamental change to the way that we provide health and social services. With respect to consensus government and with respect to making sure that the people are engaged, we are trying to ensure that the people have the information and have an opportunity to engage and provide us with much detail and information and thoughts on this important transition. This marketing campaign is intended to ensure that people are aware what's going on, give

them an opportunity to get their input and guidance into us so that we can make sure that when we make the changes to the NWT health and social services system we get it right so that it meets the best interests of the patients.

I will confirm the actual cost, but this is an important initiative. I've heard the Member on many occasions talk about consulting with the people, listening to the people. This is our method of ensuring people know what's going on and encouraging them to be active participants in this change.

MR. BROMLEY: The ads ask people to come to the website to give their comments which, incidentally, seems to be the preferred method of public consultation for this government now. In these expensive ads MLAs are frequently featured and touted as supporters of improvements to the NWT health care system. I have yet to meet any MLA or anybody who isn't.

On what basis has the Minister concluded that the public would benefit more from the tens of thousands spent monthly on colour advertising featuring MLAs saying they support improvements to health delivery rather than actual expenditures on more or better health delivery?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As the Minister of Health and Social Services I've had a significant amount of opportunity to work with the Social Programs committee, and the Social Programs committee has told me time and time again we need to do something different to improve the results for the residents of the Northwest Territories. We need to improve health care. We could run out and make the change, but it's important, in my opinion, to talk to as many people as we can. I've had an opportunity to travel to communities throughout the Northwest Territories and talk to our residents, talk to our people and hear what they have to say about improving the system.

This is an advertising campaign to encourage people to get involved, get engaged and be aware. I hear the Member. I don't agree with the Member. I think it's important to be engaged. I think it is important to get input. We have had a significant amount of input as a result of these ads, and we will continue to see input as we move forward. This is step one.

MR. BROMLEY: Again, full colour, quarter-page ads are very expensive. This government is always telling us how tight money is and many worthwhile projects go begging for lack of funds.

How has the response the Department of Health and Social Services received through its website as a result of these costly ads been justified or has the result, in fact, been on par with the dismal response

to the ads inviting input into devolution on that website?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The period for this first initial round of input ended on October 31st, and we're currently compiling the significant amount of input and data that we received. I'm going to be happy to share that with Members when we have had an opportunity to consolidate that.

I'll say it again, this is an important initiative for the people of the Northwest Territories. Regular Members, the Social Programs committee has indicated time and time again we need to do something differently; we need to think outside the box. These ads have been an opportunity for us to encourage people to be engaged, to provide us with data, to provide us with information, so that together we can make informed decisions on moving forward with an improved health and social services system. I think a small investment in ads to encourage this conversation is worth it, and I would be happy to share that data with the Member when we've consolidated it.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure MLAs enjoy the free advertising. Which of us wouldn't? But I suspect the public may have a different view.

Given that this campaign is over, can we expect any more of these and can we expect to see tens of thousands of more dollars drained away from health delivery with exercises such as this?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'm, frankly, a little confused by the Member's direction here. From time to time we hear the Member talking about how important it is to engage and consult with the public, and now he's saying but in this case it's too expensive and I don't like the colour ads.

This is an important initiative. We are making fundamental changes to the way we provide health and social services in the Northwest Territories. I've worked with Regular Members. I've worked with Social Programs and made an offer to Social Programs who have articulated time and time again that they're directing us to make significant changes, and I asked them if they'd be interested. Some of the members said yes. Some of the members said no. We will continue to move forward to make these changes, and we will continue to engage the public in whichever ways are appropriate to get as much feedback and input as we can.

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

QUESTION 514-17(5):
MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT ORDERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like the Minister of Justice to talk about the Maintenance Enforcement Program, as I highlighted in my Member's statement. My concerns, of course, are if we're not fighting as hard as we can for those parents going through that process, those parents need every dollar and they struggle. But when we have debtors that do not pay, it's almost like the foot that keeps them under the water as they struggle, and we must do every effort we can to help those families who are struggling.

The question to the Minister of Justice is maybe he can outline some of the process here, and I'm waiting until he looks ready. Maybe he can outline some of the process here as to when debtors are identified. How long does it take to get an engagement of the order in place so we start collecting some money? I can speak to examples here that we found people working and we get no money out of them, and then they've disappeared off the radar again, and who are we punishing? Not just the mother but the children, and we've got to solve that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would have to be a debtor that, first, one of the persons would have to apply to maintenance enforcement to put the other parent in the program. It takes three months or \$3,000, I believe. Those are the two triggers without payment that would look to maintenance enforcement moving on some enforcement opportunities that they have at their disposal to collect the money. There are a number of those that I can outline for the Member. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for at least getting the discussion going now.

We have cases where we have in excess of the \$10 million of outstanding payments to family members through the Maintenance Enforcement Program that has recently been reported upon. The example I am providing is not just a single example, it's applied many times over, shamefully of course. But why is it left to the single mothers to track down these folks to make sure they are paying, or at least tracking them down for maintenance enforcement? We have cases where these people have found them and maintenance enforcement has not engaged with this particular debtor's employer and made them pay their maintenance enforcement through a garnishment program.

What is stopping the maintenance enforcement from doing that? What is the delay? What type of

process engagement, because we have families that are unfairly being denied this money. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: There are many tools available to obtain payments from parents through maintenance enforcement. Driver licence revocation and partnerships with Canada Revenue Agency to obtain information, the ability to garnishee wages, and we have to carefully consider the effectiveness of approaches that involve publically shaming parents before we use them. Unfortunately, we have instances where parents do not have the ability to pay. They are without work or are the subject of other payment orders such as those from the federal government. We, of course, want to use all options available to us, but again we need to very carefully consider what works before engaging tools such as this. We work with the other agencies involved to get the information so that we can attempt to make collection on the arrears. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, these arrears are hurting the families, the single parent, that is, and certainly the children, and keeping them in their situation of poverty.

Ontario has a website called goodparentspay. They even shame the bad parents who don't pay. They actually have posters, almost like wanted posters showing this.

I go back to the problem because we still haven't got an answer for it. What does it take to engage an order that is legally directed by the courts? The Minister knows of the particular example, but it is not the only example out there. People have found the debtor, pointed them to maintenance enforcement and nothing has been done to go get the money that is duly court ordered and owed to them. So, frankly, this family continues to struggle like so many.

Can the Minister focus just on that question and not dance around it? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, there are tools available to our staff at maintenance enforcement, and I want to state for the record, I have the utmost respect and admiration for the job that our staff at maintenance enforcement do on a day-to-day basis. They are challenged with some very trying circumstances involving a lot of feelings and emotions and they do a great job for us.

The Member, if he has specific occurrences or situations, I would be more than happy, more than willing to talk about somebody's circumstances and whether or not the processes that we have in place at maintenance enforcement are not meeting their requirements. Each circumstance, of course, is different. I would suggest to the Member, if he has an individual or person that feels the system isn't supporting them, that we're not doing enough for

them, tell us who they are and we will do our best to try to help them out. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a new problem. This is not about trying to beat up the maintenance enforcement staff, and I would resent any characterization about this. This is about the process of trying to get the money to the families that need it.

To my knowledge there have been no default hearings in the last few years here in the Northwest Territories, and that continues to be a problem. I have a bunch of questions still outstanding with this department almost a month old on this particular file. The parents are waiting, they are struggling and the children are the ones being punished by the process being too slow and doesn't engage.

The final point I want to make is the system is designed almost to make the single parent, who is taking the full responsibility of the children, to also be the police mechanism to go report them, and that's not fair. The system must support them and I have tried to highlight how it should. We need some real answers and engagement.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I'm an easy guy to get in contact with. My phone number in my office is 669-2377. If anybody, anybody out there, feels that maintenance enforcement is not addressing their concerns, please contact me. I would be more than happy to try to help them out. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 515-17(5):
FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF JUNIOR
KINDERGARTEN IMPLEMENTATION

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's kind of unfortunate that we're continuing with these junior kindergarten discussions and the implementation that occurred over the past year and this fall and the amount of money that is coming out of the district education authorities throughout the Northwest Territories.

Before I get into what we can do for the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority, I would just like to also acknowledge that the government, even though I'll be asking questions today on how we can fix this and offset this and mitigate it, that the government has been pretty good in a couple of areas: the Children First Centre, the investment in the infrastructure and doing this one-time funding for e-learning and understanding that e-learning is a very important tool. However, when we do give funding to these education authorities to do the good programming, the innovative work that gets our students in the coastal communities, the isolated

communities, educated and then a year later we tell them that now they are going to have to find funding to run a program that was fast tracked.

I would like to ask the Minister in terms of all this, I have been asking for extra dollars for the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority and the formula funding framework. This is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Has the Minister come up with a funding formula to assist equal funding based on location for education authorities across the Northwest Territories? Is there a funding formula in place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON., JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The funding formula is already in place, based on enrollment of the students in the school system. Based on that, our contribution is on an annual basis, pending the number of students before September 31st. Those are some of the areas that we have been dealing with based on formula funding across the Northwest Territories. That is how we base our funding to the district education councils. The district education council also works with the DEAs, district education authority, for funding down to the specific communities. We do have formula funding in place. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: I guess further up they get a little bit more detailed. Is that formula funding that is in place right now, the framework, in place so that communities in the Beaufort-Delta region, with the high cost of travel, even just getting out of Inuvik to come to Yellowknife is very expensive, but if you take it even further and go to Paulatuk, to Ulukhaktok or Sachs, it gets really expensive and it just eats up the education authorities' budgets. Is that unique situation put into the formula funding framework and is that addressed in the current formula funding that we have right now? Thank you.

HON., JACKSON LAFFERTY: There is price index added to our contribution to the district education councils, so yes, the formula is already set up that way with our contribution. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: I know the Minister does meet with the chairs of the DECs on a regular basis, but he also meets with the education authority staff I am sure. I am sure the Minister knows how many times the education authority has talked about needing more funding to do the programs and services and even things such as travel for board meetings, travel to meet staff, professional development, all of those things can be affected.

What is the Minister doing right now to meet with the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority to offset the high costs before and after the Junior Kindergarten money was taken away from the education

authority budget to these 23 communities in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, I'm fully aware of the cost factors going to the communities. Since I got on board, I've been travelling to the communities and that's what we've been hearing. There are high costs of living in the communities, especially when you have to travel for professional development.

Based on our contribution on the enrollment, we provide funding to the district education council and they decide where the money should be expended. They do have a budget for travel, as well, a budget for professional development. They also work with NWTTA. That's been allocated as part of their negotiation with the school boards, that professional development fee, and the funding is allocated pertaining to that.

So, those are some of the areas that we have been working with the DECs and NWTTA. We'll continue to push that forward. Mahsi.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that, you know, moving forward with certain programs such as Education Renewal and Innovation, Junior Kindergarten Program and other of the action plans that we had, and I know it was emphasized from the Standing Committee on Social Programs that they would be willing to support a supplementary appropriation for any of those programs that offset the costs that weren't agreed to in our last main estimate sitting.

So, I'm wondering if the Minister would be looking, halfway through the year, at this Junior Kindergarten Program and whether or not program services are being effected within the education system and the Junior Kindergarten system. If his department would be looking at coming forth with supplementary appropriation to offset those costs and let the education authorities out there know that we support all the work that they do, whether they had a surplus before or a deficit. Will he be willing to come back with a supplementary appropriation halfway through the year, looking at the proposed budgets right now and the money that's coming out of some education authorities right now? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. The Beaufort-Delta District Education Council obviously has been in deficit prior to the JK in discussion. The administration, the superintendent and the board chairs are doing what they can to get out of the deficit and we are there to assist them as well.

As we committed in this House, the 23 communities that are rolling out Junior Kindergarten, there will be a review of that and we will be working with the regional centres and also Yellowknife, based on our

discussion and their input. So, those are the discussions that we need to collect from them, their input into how to best deliver that programming. So that has been a commitment that was made in the House. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 516-17(5):
GNWT PROCUREMENT POLICY
AND TENDERING PROCESS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Public Works and Services and I want to follow up on my Member's statement about procurement.

I gave an example in my Member's statement and the example I gave means that there's an extra cost to both the government and to the taxpayers. We are paying a premium in this case which is at least 40 percent, 50 percent more than what we should.

So, I'd like to first ask the Minister something that I asked in my statement. Is there a maximum amount or what is the amount that we are willing to pay before we will cancel a tender and start again?

I mentioned 200 percent, 300 percent; in this case it's 40 or 50 percent. But is there a policy or a guideline that we use? I would like to remind the Minister that in his statement today he talked about reasonable prices, and this is a perfect example of an unreasonable price that we are paying. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Public Works, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a department puts out a tender that Public Works and Services is going through their procurement for, we use a budget as the limitation. The budget will govern how high we're able to go with the tender. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that. It's hard for me to believe in this case that the budget allowed a differential of \$60,000.

In the Minister's Statement earlier he started off his statement by saying, we want to make sure that local businesses can benefit from government contracting opportunities, and that's a lot of the point that I'm trying to make today.

I'd like to ask the Minister, what does he ensure, or what does Public Works and Services, would procurement shared services do to ensure that northern businesses get government contracting opportunities? How does procurement maximize the process for northern vendors? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The procurement shared services follows the Business Incentive Policy. The Business Incentive Policy is

there to give an advantage to the northern suppliers, northern providers of service. So we use that to make up the difference usually in a product that comes from the South versus something that we're procuring in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: BIP doesn't always apply and I have discovered that BIP doesn't apply if you are considered non-compliant or unresponsive, which I guess if you're out you're out, but in this case one of the difficulties was that the tender was made difficult to understand. The tender document was looking for equivalencies to a particular product, but it doesn't define the term "equivalencies" and it's left to the bidder to try and figure out what that is. In a lot of cases they will state equivalencies are acceptable, but ultimately want a very specific product, and as I said in my statement, why do we not just say so? We want product X and never mind the equivalencies because if they're trying to match it to something that already exists, an equivalency won't do.

So in a case like this, what adjustments will the department make to assist bidders in better understanding our tenders and what we're looking for in a bid? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We can add the definition of equivalent into the tenders if that would be of help. Anything that has the right form, fit, function and quality would be considered to be an equivalent product. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this case it was a matter of furniture and, as the Minister says, form, fit and function. They all fit, but they were off enough because it was not the exact same product, a product not available in the North, it was deemed unresponsive.

Lastly I'd like to ask the Minister, with centralized procurement shared services, it's a new product, it's a new service that we are putting out. I presume we expect to see improvements.

Will there be any kind of an evaluation or any kind of an analysis of whether or not there are improvements and when will we see that? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. When the government determines to put together a shared service, whether it be a financial shared service or any other shared services that we offer, we do that based on efficiency and effectiveness of the product or item for the task that we're trying to perform. So it would be essential, I believe, for us to review procurement shared services. We could perhaps run it for two years and then do an evaluation to see if it did function and did meet its

intent to improve efficiency and effectiveness of procurement services. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 517-17(5):
STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FOR
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I had the opportunity to attend the kick-off of the Energy Charrette last night at the Explorer Hotel. I found it very interesting that the keynote speaker was talking about the great decline in the cost of capital infrastructure for alternate energy. It used to be that the payback on investment in wind and solar and different alternative energy sources was prohibitive. Now the cost has gone down, it's diminished to such a great extent and yet we in the GNWT can't seem to get on board. I know the Minister will point to the solar panels in Fort Simpson and the Arctic Energy Alliance with their rebate on new appliances and small things like that, yet we, as a government, continue to spend millions of dollars, which by comparison, what we're actually doing that is tangible is a pittance.

So I would like to ask Minister Miltenberger in his very knowledgeable opinion, where is the Northwest Territories going next in terms of energy? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier laid out yesterday, we're looking at a shift away from the initial project where we looked at costing out the transmission build out, which is still a very good project, but it's fiscally not affordable. So we're looking at focusing on generation, the opportunities to add generation in places like Yellowknife and all the thermal communities to cut the cost of living, look at the rate structures, how do we in fact make commercial rates more affordable in the thermal communities where the price impact on citizens on food bills and those types of things is prohibitive. We're looking as we finalize the borrowing limit in investing in a very significant amount of money in that focus. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I've been here as long as the Minister has been here in this House and the Minister could tell us right now how many days we have left in the 17th Assembly. I'm sure he knows. I want to say I for one, as my colleague used to say, am sick and tired of talking about this while we spend money on chasing rabbit trails that go nowhere.

How many millions of dollars did we spend talking about the Taltson expansion, for the power purchase agreements for the mines, which went absolutely nowhere? I could have told you that was going to go nowhere. We were never going to build a transmission line across the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to the diamond mines. Then the study to whether we should build a transmission line to hook up the grid. All of these studies, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, I mean, we could fill a library with all of the studies that we have done. Yet I want to say we need to leave a legacy of the 17th Assembly. Maybe it's partly devolution, I don't know what it is, but this Minister has been here a long time. I'd like to start doing some tangible things so that we can say that we made a difference and we just did not continue to spend millions of dollars thinking about it, looking at it, holding energy charrettes. Let's do it.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Its 335 days, not counting the bill that's going to be given assent to on Thursday. So it will be another six weeks added to that. We have the same goal. All this work is going to be predicated on the successful conclusion of the borrowing limit discussions with the federal government. The minute we know that number, then perhaps we can put a dollar figure out there that we seriously want to invest in making that kind of transformational shift that the Premier referred to in his comments yesterday. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: In this House I've spoken about this before and I would like the Minister to tell me again why we can't, if we're trying to reduce our carbon footprint, why can we not increase our use of biomass by putting pellet stoves or woodstoves in the homes of NWT residents that would significantly and immediately impact their cost of living if they chose to subscribe to this offer. We can do it. When John Todd was Minister of Finance he threw out \$10,000 grants under the Downpayment Assistance Program like he was throwing out peanuts at a Sunday school picnic. I mean, it was broadcast. Anyway, that is something small, it is something tangible.

Will the Minister put out an RFP for a supplier of pellet woodstoves to start installing them in the homes of NWT residents? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Once again, I mean, the Member and I share the same intent. We have put millions into rebate and incentive programs to encourage people, to assist people to buy energy-efficient appliances, to switch to biomass and some of these programs are serious money, like tens of thousands of dollars for the commercial applications; for residents, there's a fairly significant one. So if there's a need to sweeten that pot to provide greater incentive, I think we would be prepared to look at that as we go forward and our fiscal situation becomes clear.

I wasn't joking yesterday, as well, when I talked about if we did a wholesale change-out of all the incandescent, sodium vapour lights in the Northwest Territories, what would that save us in terms of energy costs? Those are very fundamental quick, immediate things that we can do. We're switching streetlights right now, but those are the types of short-term, immediate impact things that I think we'd be in the position to discuss, once again, once the borrowing limit discussions are concluded.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, I do thank the Minister for that, but we spend tens of thousands on rebate programs for appliances. We've spent tens of millions trying to figure out what we're going to do next. You know what? I might just add up the costs just to make my point, but I can't do that right here right now.

I'd like to ask the Minister if we could not please find some money to do some more. He suggests switch out to all the LEDs. I'd like to switch out heating appliances or put dual heating systems in every home in the Northwest Territories where the homeowner or the occupant would like to subscribe to it. Could we please make that a priority legacy of this 17th Assembly?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: When I talk about tens of thousands for the commercial application, for an individual application there is a significant five digit amount of money that is potentially available for a business wanting to change their appliances at a commercial level.

Once again, the issue that the Member raises is one that we can look at. The big issue we're going to have is once our fiscal situation becomes clearer, then we can have a much more informed and meaningful discussion. Right now, we've just gone through the capital plan, we've just gone through and we're working on finalizing the business plans for the upcoming O and M budget, and the Member knows that our fiscal circumstances are constrained and every cent we have is spoken for. We've taken a bit of a pillaring here in the Legislature about the fact that our \$100 million cushion is actually only about \$96 million. It's a concern to us all, so we want to be very careful about any further expenditures until we know what our borrowing limit is going to be.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ramsay.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 168-17(5): 2013-2014 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS RESULTS REPORT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "2013-2014 Grants and Contributions Results Report."

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 169-17(5): STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2014-2019, FINANCE

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following report, entitled "Strategic Action Plan 2014-2019, Finance."

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 170-17(5): NUTRITIONAL FACT SHEET SERIES

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Nutritional Fact Sheet Series."

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 171-17(5): PACKAGE OF LETTERS REGARDING AN INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table documents calling for the Government of the Northwest Territories to request an inquiry into the missing and murdered indigenous Aboriginal women, documents from the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories, the NWT Metis Nation, the Salt River First Nation, grand chief of the Dehcho First Nations, Chief Frank Andrew of Tulita and the Canadian Public Health Association executive director statement to this issue here.

TABLED DOCUMENT 172-17(5): ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 2013-2014

TABLED DOCUMENT 173-17(5): INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I hereby table the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Pursuant to Section 68 of the Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy Act, I wish to table the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Nadli.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 31-17(5):

ESTABLISHMENT OF OMBUDSMAN OFFICE

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 6, 2014, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that the government introduce legislation that will establish an ombudsman as an independent and non-partisan statutory officer;

And further, that the government, in designing their corporate legislation, refer to the report produced by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and work closely with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to examine the options of both a stand-alone office and one that might combine with another statutory office;

And further, that the government provide a response to this motion within 120 days.

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

MOTION 32-17(5):

EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO FEBRUARY 4, 2015

MR. YAKELEYA: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, November 6, 2014, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 4, 2015;

And further, that any time prior to February 4, 2015, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Hawkins.

Motions

MOTION 30-17(5):

NATIONAL INQUIRY AND NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE INTO MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS Aboriginal women are at greater risk of violence as evidenced by the recent RCMP report that documented 1,017 Aboriginal female homicide victims and 164 missing Aboriginal females between 1980 and 2012;

AND WHEREAS the number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada is disproportionately high and unacceptable;

AND WHEREAS the Native Women's Association of Canada Sisters in Spirit campaign found 582 cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women between 1980 and 2012;

AND WHEREAS the RCMP's 2014 study found that 47 out of 50 women murdered in the Northwest Territories between 1980 and 2012 were Aboriginal;

AND WHEREAS the RCMP's 2014 study confirmed that the Northwest Territories has three unsolved cases of murdered Aboriginal women and three unsolved cases of missing Aboriginal women;

AND WHEREAS, for numerous and complex reasons, including historical trauma and current socio-economic conditions, Canadian Aboriginal women are at greater risk and are more vulnerable and at risk of being exploited;

AND WHEREAS Canadian national Aboriginal organizations are leading the calls for a national inquiry and a national roundtable into missing and murdered Aboriginal girls and have asked for Canadian Premiers' support;

AND WHEREAS Canadian Premiers supported the national Aboriginal organizations' call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls and a national roundtable;

AND WHEREAS Canadian Premiers supported the national Aboriginal organizations' invitation to the Prime Minister to take part in a roundtable discussion about murdered and missing Aboriginal women;

AND WHEREAS all levels of government are working to take action to prevent further violence against Aboriginal women and girls and the national roundtable as proposed by the national Aboriginal organizations will be an opportunity for a coordinated national dialogue;

AND WHEREAS the Native Women's Association of Canada and the other national Aboriginal organizations have asked Premier McLeod to work

with them to facilitate the development of a national roundtable;

AND WHEREAS the rates of violence against Aboriginal women and girls are unacceptable to this Assembly and to the people of the NWT;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the 17th Legislative Assembly supports the national Aboriginal organizations' call for a national inquiry and a national roundtable into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly supports a national roundtable on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls to have a national dialogue that will allow all levels of government to work together to identify concrete outcomes that will prevent further violence against Aboriginal women and girls;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly supports the efforts of the Premier of the Northwest Territories to help the national Aboriginal organizations facilitate the development of a national roundtable;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly urges Premier McLeod to continue his dialogue with the federal government on the proposed roundtable and report back to this House as progress is made;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Premier of the Northwest Territories transmit a copy of this motion to all his provincial and territorial counterparts with the request for their consideration of support for a similar House motion.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin to my prepared comments, I want to say thanks to many people who have provided some inspiration and insight to help me do this. This was not done alone and there are some special people I wish to thank. Although I don't have time today to thank them all, I do want to give acknowledgement to Nola Nallugiak, Marie Speakman, Terry Villeneuve, Paulina Roche, Della Green, and although there are many more, there is one in particular I do want to mention and a special thanks to Beshia Blondin, a special lady in my life and many of the lives of our Members here.

Without their inspiration and support, it makes it tough to make a motion that is written right and the right direction. You want a motion that is meaningful because this is an important issue.

This is more than an important issue. I want to stress that in a lot of ways this is a tragedy. We must do all we can to help solve this problem. By doing nothing, in some ways I would point it as we are allowing this tragedy to continue.

I read this motion today and I am very proud to be what I like to think is trying to fight to find a solution.

I do this because I believe in the hope that we can do more.

Thinking about this issue, to be honest, actually causes me great pain. I grew up in Fort Simpson and I often think to myself: could this have been a friend of mine or could this have been my friend's mother, could it have been a sister? It actually does cause me great pain because I know one of the ladies on the list – I grew up with her – who has been lost in the Northwest Territories.

This motion gives me hope because I believe as many Members here will say today, I think, that they too will support a solution. We must find a way. As a Canadian, I really believe we can do more and, as a person, sometimes this makes me mad, but I am also hopeful, as I have said. I think everyone should be a little upset about this issue, if not furious, because this is an important one.

I know I don't stand alone and I do think about those lost souls, those families that have struggled through this and every day they continue to struggle. Although they may not have a candle in their window, hoping their loved one will come home, they do in their hearts.

Why isn't more being done? I want to give credit to our Premier because he certainly does deserve credit. He will be leading our national dialogue on this one, and with his vision and his ability, I am sure we will get far. I welcome the first step of what I hope is many steps. Again that gives me hope.

Many people out there who I have talked to have lost loved ones and they want more to be done. Wouldn't you want more to be done if this was your family member? Wouldn't you want more to be done if this was a friend of yours? Do you not think these people deserve dignity? I think of the great opportunity that this provides. This is not just about blaming people or blaming the system, blaming the police or blaming the government, but what this is, is pause for us to say to ourselves, we could do more.

I believe in the system and I believe the system can do more. This is about respect that we should have. Did people lose respect somewhere along the way? I have always been taught that people should be born and given respect, and we must find every way to lend strength to that. That respect should never end. This motion is part of the solution. It may not be the only solution because I know that there will be more. But this motion is about speaking loud, clearly, saying that action must be taken.

So many Aboriginal women and girls have been unfairly targeted. The statistics point that way and they are very clear. They are clearly in contrast to other statistics and it causes people like myself to wonder why. This is not fair. These women, these girls, these families deserve more, they deserve our collective support.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident, I am hopeful my Members and my colleagues will be in favour of course.

In August our Premier was part of a collaboration of other Premiers that called upon Ottawa to act. We need to find ways for our Premier to keep that going forward. I certainly will be standing on every call of action he needs support with.

This helps keep their spirits alive. There may be loved ones gone, and in some cases we may not know where those loved ones are, but their spirits will always be with us. I strongly believe these women deserve more and these families deserve more.

We need an inquiry that drills down and is honest about the problem. Is the situation, as we know now, honest? I am not saying in the context of being dishonest, I'm just saying have we brought the true facts, the true stories and the scenarios together and looked at ourselves and said, have we done enough? Has the system done enough?

We cannot let these Aboriginal women and girls to be targeted in this way and stand with inaction. We must find ways to be relentless for them. That's why we're here. We're not here as legislators, we are here as people, we are here as family members, we are here as friends. A roundtable I welcome. It is a first step, and I would describe it as a first step in a journey that will lead to a better solution.

There are those who may say this may cost too much. I will respect them by saying there will be a cost, let us not be fooled, but is the cost too great by not doing this? Is the cost too great to those who have lost so much?

I recall many moments in my life where I have been taught about equality in Canada. It all started at my home and by my friends, all shared throughout here. Are we demonstrating equality by not supporting this? Are we demonstrating equality in the best way we can? We must do this. We have to do this.

The reality is we do this sometimes not because it's easy but because it's hard. I don't expect the answers to be simple. These women, as I have said, are people. They have been personally attacked. We must end this ignorance of letting this happen. We must find ways.

I believe Canadians deserve more and I believe our government can do more. When I mean our government, I am talking about the Canadian government because I know our government will do what it can. This is a disgraceful and objectionable situation on every level.

When I read the statistics that five times the number of Aboriginal women attacked and killed and murdered than non-Aboriginal women, it makes my gut feel terrible. It makes me think, how can this

happen to a group of women and there not be a national crisis and people screaming, what's going on? We are hearing voices, but we must now raise them to the level of Ottawa and ask the other Premiers to support this.

Because, Mr. Speaker, these are women, they deserve more; these are girls, they deserve more. Not one of them is anonymous. In some way, some of them were mothers, sisters, daughters, friends.

This motion is about a future, though. Don't let those mothers, sisters, daughters and friends be lost. This is about trying to find a way we can do more. This is for the families. This motion is for the living. This is for the future for that young unborn girl that we want to know she has a safe life ahead of her and to know she is going to be treated and respected.

The system may not be working perfectly and some will say it may have been failing, but we could do more. As I said, it is not about blaming others, but the numbers say something is wrong and we must do all we can. The numbers tell the true story. If we have them in front of us, I think everyone else will be upset, if not angry and mad.

How deep is this problem? We must do the work to turn the page to find out how deep it is, not ignoring it, but confronting it. I hope this isn't a problem based simply on culture because I do not find that acceptable in any way. These are people. I would expect something more if it was my family member, and I don't blame every single person out there who expects more as well. In some ways it disturbs me.

There are ample reasons why we must do things in life, and today I think this is a historic moment where we can all get behind and say something more must be done. Loved ones have been lost and their future has been robbed from them. Hoping they will come back can't always carry the day. We can try to prevent further tragedies by doing more.

I'm going to close my opening comments, but I will say, it would be a mistake not to mention that many Aboriginal men have been lost too. We must be asking ourselves, have we done enough. An inquiry might not be the easiest way to do this, but I think it's one of the ways to bring significant change and that's why it's so important, that we have to create change by doing something. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'll allow the seconder to the motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hawkins for bringing this motion to the floor today.

I really thought about this motion for some time. When I went back to Tulita and I thought about this, I had kind of a sad feeling and a sick feeling because one of the people that we're talking about

in the Northwest Territories is a family member of mine here in Yellowknife who was killed and still today we don't know what happened. The family doesn't know what happened.

So, before I could say anything, I had to sit down with the father and it was very, very scary because you don't know what the father will say or what will come out in conversation, because I wanted to do this. I had some time with the father and I said, this is what we're planning to do and I might talk about cousins and daughters, and the father said, with tears in his eyes, he said, "Be good." I said, "Well, how is it you're dealing with this?" "Every night," he says, "I keep waiting for her to come home. I still don't know what happened and the RCMP are not really keeping me up to date, so I don't know." So, I'm sitting there and he's sitting there, and I can imagine the father sitting there every night going to bed wondering what happened to his daughter. That, Mr. Speaker, really put a sense of how real this issue is.

These are people in our communities, people we may have known, friends you have who have known these people. These are real people and it's happened right across Canada. No territory has been untouched by this issue, from the Far North to the east coast to the west coast to the southern borders of Canada or worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I've tabled a bunch of support letters from grand chiefs, Metis presidents, women's organizations and associations, even the Public Health Association of Canada saying we've got to do something. So there's a call. There's a lonely, lonely call being gathered in Canada, making one strong voice, saying we need to know why, we need to look at this.

The Northwest Territories has always been trailbreakers, and there's no exception here with our Premier taking the lead in the roundtable, a trailbreaker. A true northern Aboriginal trailbreaker. We deal with the wilderness and you break trail. We did it with the birthplace of ice hockey. We did it with residential schools. There are many more, if you check history and the Hansard of this government, trail-breaking, and it's not a glorified, easy task. It's a tough task. But you know what? We're a tough government, and it's for that I stand behind this Premier on these issues here. He has my full support sitting at that roundtable, getting the people together, saying okay, we have an issue here. That is important because when the Premier sits, he looks across and says, yes, someone's been touched in the Northwest Territories, in this Assembly.

So I urge the Premier to push on with this urgent issue. Push on, don't give up, Bob. I'm sorry, Mr. Premier.

The motion talks about 47 of the 50 women that have been murdered in the Northwest Territories

over the past 32 years. While we realize a majority of the missing and murdered population are Aboriginal, it touches everybody, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal because they've got friends too and they may have partners. This cannot continue. It tears at the cultural fabric of our communities and our regions. Not one region has been left untouched from this tragedy.

I want to thank again the Member for Yellowknife Centre for working with me on this motion. It shows that if we believe something, we'll gladly say whatever we need to say in whatever means you have to do it, public statements, Member's statements or the media because it gives people hope, hope that we as Members of the Legislative Assembly, the lawmakers of the Northwest Territories, are listening and want to do something about this. We have heard the call, find out what's happening to the Aboriginal women, why are they missing, why are they being murdered. This is not okay in Canada, this is not okay in the Northwest Territories.

No gender is more revered than our female Aboriginal women. They are the givers of our children, grandchildren, our family, but somehow that's been lost. This is not about gender against gender or one creed versus another; this is about humanity. This is about who we are as legislators, bringing the humanity back into government and saying that you matter.

I also wanted to say mahsi cho to the Native Women's Association of Canada. I want to say mahsi to Ms. Pauline Roach from Deline, who is also president of the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories, and her executive director. Also, mahsi to Ms. Villebrun who sits on the Assembly of First Nation Women's committee. Hats off to Ms. Lorraine Phaneuf and her board, sorry if I've said your last name incorrectly, at the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories, also the Sisters in Spirit movement and the Walking with our Sisters community groups from across Canada. They are the ones who are really leading the charge.

Just think if it wasn't for our women, or our mothers, our aunties, grandmothers, we would not be here. No wonder we call it Mother Earth and Father Sun. As I said, I've personally been affected by it, my mother has been affected by it. My mother's older sister was murdered in Edmonton a long, long time ago and they haven't found the person to this day. So it not only happened a couple of years ago, it happened a long, long time ago. My mom is way over 70.

Like I said, I want to thank the honourable Premier Bob McLeod for assuming the lead on this issue at the Council of the Federation. The Premiers from across the land, I urge you strongly not to give up, keep rallying for this roundtable to be built, to be

seated and to know that the women out there, the ones who are missing, they will be heard and there will be action and there will be accountability on all levels of government. We as Aboriginal people have always survived. Grandfathers, ancestors, thousands of years. We are survivors and adaptors and I can attest to this by surviving the residential schools. It won't ever put us down, but we learn from it. Policies that were outdated, this cannot continue.

We're from the true north, strong and free and we're all northern people. It's time again to honour and respect the important role that women have in our communities, in our homes and our respective nations haven't forgotten our pasts. How did we get to the point that 1,017 Aboriginal women were murdered in our country and 164 and counting are still missing? Is our justice system broken? Are we not important to the police? No, not really. It's time to break the cycle of abuse, time to stop the neglect and take action.

Let us pray with the families of the murdered and missing. Honour these women. Don't pity them.

We have a complicated series of traditions. Whether they're Dene, Inuvialuit, English, Metis or French, we're all human. Let us stand together in this House again. Let us show our families, our wives, our partners, our mothers, our grandmothers, daughters, nieces and cousins the power of love and hope we have for them; more important, the ones yet to be born, that society has changed because we made a difference today, we stood as one. Let us show them that we love them, we care and we're going to stand up to discrimination, to violence and to end this cycle. The time is now. Mahsi cho. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the mover, Mr. Hawkins, and the seconder, Mr. Yakeleya, for bringing us here today and to thank the many stakeholders, as was mentioned in both their statements, who allowed us to recognize this very important piece in our Canadian history.

When one reviews the motion in detail, it is extremely hard to ignore as the facts speak for themselves and they're daunting. It's clear from a broader perspective this motion is really dealing with the dysfunction of our social conditions and circumstances from substance abuse, chronic violence, economic deprivation, cultural trauma from residential schools and colonialism in general. Yet to the heart of the debate the questions that still bear asking, what will such an inquiry accomplish and how? What questions should this inquiry try to put to rest and how would things change moving forward?

If anything, the calling for such an inquiry appears to have become almost the default political position for many where it sparked opposition in its framework.

I have thought long and hard in preparation for today's motion. I have scoured the opinions of political analysts. I have reviewed the many positions of First Nations organizations across the country, and I read numerous reports and their findings. My conclusion is actually mixed, but it is supportive, and I would like to explain.

Many believe that such a national inquiry would be very long, laboured, complex and an expensive exercise with questionable impact. Others agreed and said, yes, it will be complicated, painful and sensitive, but argued this is exactly what needs to take place during a crisis, that public record needs to take place and that this will symbolize a national narrative for the transition of healing, and I do agree with that.

As for how much this type of an inquiry would cost, this was a difficult research question to answer. Some peg it that it would cost over \$60 million and others claim it could cost well into the hundreds of millions of dollars. To the question of costs, as mentioned earlier by Mr. Hawkins, is that really the determinant we should be debating? I don't think it is.

Many believe the issue at hand would be better addressed with taking this investment and national mandating an elite police task force with Aboriginal representation to tackle the backlog of these unsolved cases. I believe the latter point would definitely have a more action-orientated outcome, but would we be resolving the root cause of the problem? I don't think it would.

In essence, I would suggest that both approaches in a multi-pronged framework would need to come together to have truly effective resolve. Despite the potential of design flaws with such a national inquiry, in my opinion, makes little sense for me to oppose it given its tremendous influence it could have on future government policies, closure for families and public healing as a whole.

Therefore, I wish to thank Mr. Hawkins for bringing this motion to the floor of the House today and, of course, Mr. Yakeleya, for seconding it so we could have this important and needed debate for the victims and their families.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Often when we contemplate a decision or an issue, it's just perhaps instinct that we find ourselves rationalizing. We say cost is a factor or else perhaps we've been through this process before and we don't need to reinvent the wheel. At the same time, there is a level of denial in terms of the hard core facts that

we have Aboriginal women that have been murdered, at the same time, missing.

With that in mind, the NWT has a record of very stellar leadership and being at the national forefront whether it's advocating for First Nations in terms of housing initiatives. At the same time, recently the biggest achievement that the NWT has achieved is through devolution, and we play a very prominent role. Perhaps this is the time to put our leadership on the table and say we need to step up on this matter and do something. I think today is the time.

Personally, I know of some people that are missing in my home community. There was a local elder that wandered off in the bush and was never found again. There is another young woman that I know of in our community who has been missing for some time. At the same time, we have another person that I know of who has never been found. If people go missing, there's no closure. You don't know whether they're going to come back one day, and this leaves the family in a very grievous state. You know, they'll wonder. If you can imagine that this circumstance is right across Canada, and we need to do something about that.

This motion calls for a national roundtable. Yes, we've seen some initiatives recently. What comes to my mind is the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. It was a very extensive study in terms of looking at the history of First Nations in terms of their role within Canada, with how they're related with the federal government, the obligations of treaties, promises that were made when Canada became a country and even before that time. We've also seen recently that Truth and Reconciliation Commission that travelled across Canada looking at the residential school experience.

We have initiatives that have gone on before, but what's important to note is that we need to do something about this, and I believe today is the time to step up and say, yes, we're going to act upon this and move forward. I will be supporting this motion.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to thank the mover and the seconder for bringing this motion to the floor. It's something which has been spoken a great deal about in the media, not just today but over the last number of months. It's an issue that is very complex but it's also a very long-standing issue, and I'm glad that we, as an Assembly, are looking to add our voice to the other calls that are out there for some action.

I am somewhat conflicted on the motion, on the contents of the motion. When Mr. Hawkins initially indicated he was going to bring this motion forward, I sent him a few remarks and explained to him that I am not totally convinced that an inquiry is what we

need. I do believe that a roundtable is certainly a good move. An inquiry will cost us up to millions of dollars I'm sure. Certainly previous inquiries that we've had on other subjects have cost the taxpayers millions and millions, and I think my rationale for not spending it on an inquiry is that if we took those millions and we put them into providing better homes, better services for all Aboriginals, but particularly Aboriginal women and girls, I think we would be providing a better solution to the problem.

That said, most of the motion talks about a roundtable, and I do believe that a roundtable is an excellent starting point. I think the money that will be invested in a roundtable will look at the root causes of this problem. This is not something that is going to be easily solved, and it's going to take some very hard thinking, it's going to take some people who are going to dedicate a great deal of time and energy and effort to this problem, and I think a roundtable is a very good first step.

With that, I am in support of the motion, and I encourage all my colleagues to do the same, to vote in favour.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join my colleagues in thanking the Members who have put together this motion and brought it forward. I would also like to thank Premier McLeod on the leadership role that he is taking across this nation.

I think the data and the trends are clear on this issue and, sadly, they have been for a long time. There can be little doubt, obviously, here in the Northwest Territories where it has been noted we know many of the women and girls or their families who have suffered from these tragic circumstances or are sometimes even related. This is sort of a no-brainer for us, we're so close to it.

Fundamentally, I think we're ashamed at the unresolved injustices, a lack of action, the lack of success and commitment when it's plain as the egg on our face that we should have been on this a long time ago. That just makes me more appreciative of those, and I know we've got people in the House today, we've got organizations across the Northwest Territories and Native Women's Associations across Canada who have been struggling to raise this issue, and I am very appreciative of the ears at the political level now, at all levels of government that are hearing these voices, and I appreciate the voices very much.

As has been said, I think things are overdue. It is time now, but please, let all this talk that we are seeking in this motion result in real on-the-ground action.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will be voting in favour of this motion. This may have been said, but in May of 2014 the RCMP released the national review on missing and murdered Aboriginal children. The most comprehensive account in Canada to date and the most glaring fact was Aboriginal women, or 4.3 percent of the total population, yet 16 percent of all female homicides are Aboriginal. This is why, when women are missing, there is fear in our communities, fear with the families and fear with everybody.

What this motion means to me, and us as MLAs, and us as a government, is that we support our women, support our Aboriginal communities when they say this overrepresentation has to stop. We must find the root cause. I believe that a national inquiry would do that. I am not too sure about the roundtable, but I think that the Premier has heard us. A roundtable, yes, it's significant, but it has got to have teeth. It has got to find out the important things that a national inquiry can have to find out the root causes, and the investigations into our missing and murdered women throughout Canada have to be investigated thoroughly, and I think that's what the Aboriginal groups, all Aboriginal groups want from Canada. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find the motion very confusing. "Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member...that the 17th Legislative Assembly supports the national Aboriginal organizations' call for a national inquiry and a national roundtable into missing and murdered Aboriginal women." So I don't know; which is it? Every person that has stood up has said they support a roundtable but not an inquiry, they support an inquiry and a roundtable. The motion is very confusing.

I can't support the motion because I am absolutely opposed to a national inquiry. I would totally support a roundtable on this subject, and I believe there have already been roundtables taking place. I believe that when the Premiers got together that was a roundtable, but now they want to step it up to a higher profile, they want to invite the Prime Minister into it and they want to have those discussions.

Every jurisdiction in Canada has statistics and social indicators which is a very clear picture of what we need to address. Spending the money that we should be spending on addressing those challenges and those issues and those social conditions on a national inquiry is not an acceptable response. I think that a national inquiry... Well, I have seen many national inquiries over the years,

and many of them come out with recommendations that are never acted upon. Who benefits from a national inquiry? All you want to do is quantify the problem. I think the problems and the challenges and the social issues are well quantified.

What we need to do is put more money towards the restoration and towards the reconciliation and toward supporting people who are affected by this statistic and this demographic. That's what I am in favour of.

So, like I said, I find the motion confusing and for that reason and I cannot support it because I will not support a national inquiry into this topic.

I do appreciate the work that is done at the Native Women's Association, at the Status of Women, of all organizations that try to be a support to those who are in need and who are, unfortunately, the victims that represent these statistics. That's where I want to see the money go. If we have extra money for an issue like this, let's not spend it on a national inquiry. Let's spend it on the front line with people who are effecting change, who are out there in the trenches every day. We need safe homes; we need shelters; we need mentorship programs; we need so many things within that social network of supports and help to people who are at risk and that's where I support the money going.

Because this is complicated and I don't want to be looking like I support a national inquiry, I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my question here, I would like to read an excerpt from an article in a paper that I recently read.

"An Aboriginal girl born in Canada today will die up to 10 years earlier than the national average. She is more likely to live in a crowded home without access to clean running water. She is more likely to be sexually or physically abused and stands a far greater chance of becoming addicted to tobacco, alcohol and drugs. She is more prone to host a life-threatening ailment like diabetes, heart disease and cancer, and worse yet, as a recent RCMP report showed, she is five times more likely than her non-Aboriginal counterpart to meet a violent end at the hands of another."

I would like to thank Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion forward. It is a motion that touches everybody here in this Great Hall, in this Chamber, in this House. It's a motion that touches everybody across the Northwest Territories.

Members here today have spoken very compassionately on why they are going to be supporting the motion and why we need to take action and step up to the plate and also encourage

our other national counterparts to do the same, our other jurisdictions across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, you know this, every Member in this House knows this, when something happens in the Northwest Territories, whether it's somebody missing, Aboriginal or non, we have such a small population and when somebody does die, that we do, in fact, it affects everybody. Everybody talks about it the next day. Everybody feels sorry for the family. Everybody sends condolences and we make statements in the House regarding that.

You heard Mr. Hawkins give out some statistics about why this is important. The Native Women's Association of Canada, in a recent report, out of 582 cases, 60-some percent, two-thirds, were murder cases. Sometimes the person that did this heinous crime was known to the victim. Twenty percent of these cases are categorized as missing; 4 percent are suspicious death; 9 percent unknown.

When something like this has happened, it's the family and the children that are also impacted by the disappearance or a murder that has happened. So when we talk about this, we are also talking about the families, we are talking about the kids who don't have a mother.

Over the course of this session, you have heard me speak to many, many issues that can really impact this without going to a national inquiry, without doing the national roundtable, which I do support.

I have made recommendations. I have talked in this House about the coroner's reports and recommendations. This is a national issue, but it also happens in our backyard. I know the recommendations out of the coroner's reports aren't binding; however, there are some really good things in there that could have possibly prevented something else from happening further. Yet we take those recommendations and sometimes we don't act on them.

I have also spoken about victim coordinator support. In some domestic violence cases, the victim is too afraid to go to the RCMP or too afraid to go through with pressing the charges. Sometimes that victim actually relies on that individual, her partner, or it could be another family member, by providing the necessities of life – food, shelter – and they continue to go like that. So when that person goes to jail, they can't go ahead with it. However, we do have some amazing victim coordinators in the Northwest Territories that will work with victims, get them to the courts, help them make the impact statements, get them into the RCMP stations and help them every step along the way so that this stops.

I have also reviewed, over this last little while, domestic violence review committees, something that I know our coroner is in strong support of and something that we need here in the Northwest

Territories. Jurisdictions such as Ontario, New Brunswick, Manitoba and BC all have very good terms of reference. The mission in most of them is just to conduct a comprehensive review of all domestic violence deaths and make recommendations that will help prevent deaths as well as reduce and eliminate domestic violence in whatever jurisdiction it is. That's what we need here in the Northwest Territories.

These review committees would help to identify the presence or absence, in a lot of cases, of systematic issues within the system, within the government system, problems, gaps or shortcomings of each case to facilitate appropriate recommendations for prevention, and that's what we need.

Like I said, I'd like to thank Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion forward and I'd like to thank all Members who spoke very compassionately about it and in some cases talked of personal experiences. But I'd also like to thank all stakeholders, all groups, not only in the Northwest Territories but across Canada, who are speaking on this issue, who see the importance of this issue and who know that we've got to start doing something right now so that this doesn't continue to exist within our nation, even within our territory.

So with that said, I'd just like to thank all Members who are going to be in support of this motion, as I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Research and reports confirm that nationally Aboriginal girls and women face greater and more deadly violence at a rate of four times the average for all Canadian women and go missing at a rate of three times the national average. We need to recognize the causes of violence are complex and that we must work together to address the many factors that contribute to violence against Aboriginal women and girls so we can find solutions. This includes current conditions such as poverty, access to education opportunities, systemic responses and intergenerational impacts of historical trauma suffered in residential schools.

Some of the factors contributing to the high rate of violence against Aboriginal women and girls include attitudes and stereotyping. These attitudes need to change if we are to make a difference. I believe that with the national attention on this issue, attitudes are changing and good work is being done across many jurisdictions.

Through Canada's Premiers, the Government of the Northwest Territories supports the national Aboriginal organizations' leaders' call on the federal government to host a national public inquiry into

missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The Government of the Northwest Territories further supports the proposed roundtable and is encouraged by the federal government's willingness to participate. The proposed roundtable is being led by the national Aboriginal organizations, and the Government of the Northwest Territories is supporting the development of the roundtable at the request of the national Aboriginal organizations.

With a two-year chairmanship of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, the Government of the Northwest Territories is well placed to provide focus and coordination on this important issue. Across a number of national tables, including the Status of Women, Ministers of Justice and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet will be supporting this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I'll allow the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start off by thanking the mover and the seconder for the motion that we're debating today. I also want to highlight the efforts of our Premier of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Bob McLeod, in his leadership role that he's taken on in helping the national Aboriginal organizations facilitate the development of a national roundtable.

We know that the RCMP complete extensive and exhaustive investigational efforts at the start of each missing and murdered person's case and that investigation effort continues on. We also know from released statistics that Aboriginal women are overrepresented amongst Canada's murdered and missing women. We support a coordinated approach across Canada as violence against Aboriginal women and girls is a concern in every jurisdiction across this country.

I believe that a national roundtable on this serious issue will allow all the good work that has been done to date be presented and understood in a coordinated fashion. It will allow us to build on that work and have the ability to share best practices to better coordinate to stop violence from occurring.

Our departments cannot work in isolation on this issue. That is why during the recent FPT Ministers responsible for Justice meeting this was on our agenda. In the Premiers' meetings, Status of Women's meeting and Health and Social Services' meetings, we have each spoken to ways that we can contribute to the prevention of violence.

We are moving in the right direction. By bringing these types of topics to the forefront, conversations are happening around kitchen tables, around the territory, at leadership meetings with organizations throughout the North, and that is happening in all three northern territories. This roundtable will be one step closer to giving us the support to move

these important conversations forward, increase awareness of the issues and assist us as we work together with community members from, again, stopping violence from happening in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I will be, as the Premier mentioned, supporting this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel I'm compelled just to speak about some of the missing and murdered women in Tu Nedhe. In each of the two small communities I represent there have been women from those communities who have been murdered, one recently that was in the news. It affected the whole community. Both times it happened it's affected the whole community. In the missing young ladies, each of those people that are missing, it's still fresh in people's minds when someone goes missing. It is unlike knowing that the individual has passed away, but that the individual is just missing and nobody really knows what has happened. So it remains fresh in people's minds at all times. I still have young ladies that were the age of the young lady that's featured on the poster from Lutselk'e who come up to me and they're adults now and they were friends and it's like they're speaking about something that occurred a couple of weeks ago or last week and said, I was going to go on the plane with her that day, but she didn't show up so I returned to Lutselk'e on my own. People that speak of her, and her father speaks of her, as this being something that remains fresh in their mind. So it's very devastating to the community when people are murdered and when ladies go missing. I know that the children of one of the ladies that were murdered have never been the same. So it was something that continues to impact them into their adulthood and I'm sure it will impact them for their entire lives.

So I felt I should stand up and acknowledge the people of Tu Nedhe that have gone missing and have been murdered. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I'll allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to give a sincere thanks to everyone who spoke here today. I'm very thankful for the passion in their words and I also am very thankful for their honesty.

This is a difficult motion in that we've all seen and we've heard people who have seen there are multi sides to this problem. It's not an easy one.

I also wish to sincerely thank Member Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu. With his help we were able to collaborate something that I think is meaningful and I certainly think that with his help it's much stronger. I enjoy every occasion I get to work with

Member Yakeleya and this was definitely one of the best experiences to get this issue forward.

I look forward to seeing our collective strength send a message forward to others. Hopefully other Legislatures will be able to consider similar action.

I understand the difference between the roundtable and the inquiry. The roundtable is proceeding forward with the strength and vision of our Premier and I'm grateful he's there leading this. I think the Northwest Territories citizens, women and children, and Aboriginal women and children will be well served with his experience, knowledge and certainly his ability.

An inquiry in its own way is a challenging endeavor and it's for that we are asking for the federal government to lead on that. I personally believe it's best suited with the federal government and developed through a vision through the roundtable on their work, but that is yet to be developed.

Families deserve answers. I am no fool; this is a very complex issue, but I boil this down to respect, honesty and dignity. This is very important. This motion is about closure and it's about forward thinking. It's about making sure we can all collectively do better. We could not do better without the strength of the Sisters in Spirit, the Native Women's Association, the NWT Status of Women, and certainly, for every one of those people in this Assembly and those who provided us words of wisdom and support outside of it.

I want you to know I believe this is something important, but I want to know that we are doing everything we can. I think that our collective rise here to support our Premier, to support this motion will do much. We must be relentless in any way to stop violence. There is just no two ways about it. Violence is a terrible thing and people do not deserve it. The numbers tell the true story, and I am hopeful that the next chapter can be written with all of us trying to find a solution.

In closing, I want to say again, thank you to all of those, and I appreciate their perspectives and certainly their support. I will be asking for a recorded vote on this particular issue. Thank you very much, and thank you to everyone.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Blake, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mrs. Groenewegen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The results of the recorded vote: in favour, 17; opposed, zero; abstentions, one. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

Second Reading of Bills

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 second time.

This bill provides for the regulation of designated health and social services professions in the Northwest Territories. It authorizes the designation of health and social services professions by the Commissioner in Executive Council and sets out the process for doing so.

This bill sets out requirements for registration as a member of a designated profession and provides for application procedures.

This bill also establishes a process for the review and conduct of registered members, including a complaints mechanism, an option for alternative dispute resolution, where necessary, investigation into hearing process for an inquiry panel, and an appeal to the Supreme Court for the decision of an inquiry panel.

The bill contains a number of administrative provisions such as the appointment of officials, offense provisions, a limitation period for offences and the authority to seek injunctions to stop contraventions.

Finally, the bill contains broad regulation-making powers to regulate the practice of designated professions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. 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 36 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 37:
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 37, Financial Administration Act, be read for the second time.

This bill replaces the Financial Administration Act. It establishes a framework for improved accountability, transparency and fiscal responsibility in respect to public money and other money administered by government and public agencies. Consequential amendments are made to a number of other acts.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried.

Bill 37 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

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 second time.

This bill amends the Jury Act to permit the sheriff to obtain names and addresses of prospective jurors for a French or bilingual trial from a jury list compiled in accordance with the regulations.

In addition, employees of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada are exempted from service as jurors.

The bill also includes a number of non-substantive amendments.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 38 has had second reading and is referred to committee.

Item 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; and Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic

Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the Chair.

**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 numerous things before committee today. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to consider Bill 29 and Bill 32.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. We will resume with that after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We have two small bills in front of us today. Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act. I would like to call on Minister Abernethy, the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, if he would please do his opening remarks on Bill 29. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I am pleased to be here today to discuss Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act.

I would like to acknowledge the role that both past and present MLAs have played in spurring this legislation forward. I would like to thank them for their dedication to bringing organ and tissue donation into the limelight and for their support as we continue to move forward on this important initiative.

This bill will replace the existing Human Tissue Act.

We heard Members' concerns about the current act. We want to ensure that a comprehensive process is in place for NWT residents who wish to donate organs and tissues.

The new act will clarify and modernize definitions and processes for human tissue donation and transplantation and provide the framework for NWT residents to consent to donating organs and tissues.

Unlike the current act, the new act will allow for transplants between living bodies and outlines how residents can consent to the donation of their organs and tissues both during life and after death.

We recognize that donation can be a difficult decision for an individual or for a family to make and that the body should be treated with care, respect and dignity throughout the donation process. The new act also sets out fines and jail

time for individuals guilty of selling body parts or benefitting from the donation of organs or tissues.

Although this act will not establish an organ and tissue donation program, it will allow for residents to register their consent to donate tissues and organs after death through an online registry once one has been established.

The department continues to work with the Government of Alberta to make this online consent to donate registry a reality for NWT residents. We believe that having an online consent to donate registry is important in assisting residents to make their wishes to donate known.

However, it's also important that residents speak with their family and loved ones about their wishes and ask for their support in case they are in a position to donate but are unable to speak for themselves.

We believe that the new act is a much needed step forward for organ and tissue donation here in the Northwest Territories and we want to keep this momentum going.

As we move forward with this legislation and our work with the Government of Alberta to partner on their online registry, the department will be rolling out an awareness campaign to support and promote organ donation by NWT residents.

I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I will now call on Mr. Moses, the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs to please deliver the remarks that came about as the result of the review of Bill 29. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act, on September 16, 2014.

A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

Bill 29 is intended to replace the Human Tissue Act. It establishes the rules by which consent can be given to use human tissue for transplants, therapeutic purposes, medical education or research. In certain cases the bill requires approval from an independent assessment committee. The bill prohibits medical practitioners from determining death of a donor if they have any association with the proposed transplant recipient. It also prohibits commercial activity in human tissue and facilitates the establishment of inter-jurisdictional agreements.

The committee considered a late submission from Canadian Blood Services. The organization requested that Bill 29 provide the legal framework for the disclosure of personal health information to

an organization which maintains a registry for the donation of body parts or substances. The committee reviewed this matter and can offer assurance that the new Health Information Act will provide the appropriate legal framework. The committee would like to thank Canadian Blood Services for its comments on Bill 29.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 29 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 29, and individual Members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Moses. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber for consideration of this bill.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the table.

Minister Abernethy, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. On my left is legislative counsel, Ms. Thomas-Druyan, and on my right is the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, Debbie DeLancey.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation. General comments. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Let me start off by thanking the Minister and the department today for listening to Members like myself and those who brought forward and supported a motion for change. Before I begin my general comments, I wish to remind everyone of the importance of what we are trying to accomplish today by recalling some startling facts.

A single organ donor can save up to eight lives and their tissue can help up to 50 people. With more than 5,000 Canadians on waiting lists for organ transplants, supply definitely cannot meet such demand. This is why, during my time as a legislator of the House, I strongly encouraged my colleagues and the department that we needed to improve this much dated act of 1988 and embarked on a mission of change, change that would modernize our approach to improving our Human Tissue Act with a comprehensive process, a framework and a proper consent process, all the while with the end goal of having all NWT residents having the ability of joining an online consent to donate registry.

Before I go further, it goes without saying, this journey did not start with me but is a continuance of many visionary Members who laid the groundwork for today. Members such as MLA Tony Whitford who, in 1994, tried to persuade Transportation Minister John Todd, who replied then, "It's impractical." Then it was Madam Chair herself, MLA Jane Groenewegen, in 1998 with Minister Calvin Ng with a response of, "We're looking into the possibility of including an organ donation on the back of NWT health cards." Of course, we know that this never occurred. Then in 2001 MLA Charles Dent raised the issue again with then Health Minister Michael Miltenberger, who announced a task force on organ and tissue donation. It was reported back in the House in August of 2002. Unfortunately, there was no legislative or public record of this task force report or action plan. In 2009, my other colleague MLA Mr. Robert Hawkins raised the issue with Health Minister Sandy Lee with a wavering reply of, "Organ donors or transplants are done in southern jurisdictions." Finally, in 2013, my colleague MLA Norman Yakeleya, who currently seconded a motion I moved on the subject, who said, "It shows that we're ready to move forward with a new organ donation plan. Indeed, he was right."

It takes vision, faith and wisdom to support the necessary steps in improving our systems. My sincere thanks and admiration goes out to these former and current legislative Members who are paving the way for organ donation.

It is important to note that organ donation is, in itself, a difficult decision for any individual or family to make. As we move forward, I encourage all residents to have that important discussion with loved ones.

It goes without saying that I am equally appreciative that, in speaking with many elders throughout the Northwest Territories, we were able to enshrine and respect the cultural sensitivity around this legislation.

I know the department and the Minister share my interest on this legislation. I have utmost confidence they will continue the work needed in conjunction with the Government of Alberta to make this online consent to donate registry a smooth transition for all NWT residents. I know when this time happens, I will be one of the first in line to make that consent a reality.

The experience and preparation for today has been very humbling and extremely emotional for me personally. Amazingly, what started as a journey of bringing forward a private Members' bill was soon marked with 100 percent support from all Regular Members in a motion of this House and then, finally, a welcoming legislative proposal from Cabinet.

It is interesting how things work out sometimes. Again, in support of this bill today, my many thanks reaches out to every Member of the Legislative Assembly and to the people they represent.

A journey usually starts with a purpose. In my case it started with a promise, a promise to a special northern family and to a very determined little Viking who is able to teach us many lessons. Promise fulfilled. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, MLA Dolynny. General comments. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to start by thanking MLA Dolynny for bringing this issue forward in the way he has done. Knowing him for some time, sometimes it does feel longer than just the 15 or 20 years, but he is relentless. The typical spirit he has when he has something in mind and when it's important, it's almost one of those things just to stay out of his way. He's going to get it done. I'm grateful. He really picked up this issue and I can tell you today, we wouldn't be talking about it without his spirit.

I remember the little Viking he's talking about and what a situation that was. It was very heart-wrenching for everyone. It's his family, but it's also other families that need this opportunity, this gift of life, this gift of hope. This wasn't won easily, and as MLA Dolynny has said, there are many people who have tried to break ground or make tracks on this issue. I think there's also a situation maybe as Member Yakeleya said, we were right as in we're at the right time for it. Like anything, we're always enthusiastic and want to do things as soon as possible, but sometimes it just takes a while to get there. I want to deeply and sincerely thank MLA Dolynny for being the guy who's been willing to carry the weight of this journey to now where we are today.

I want to thank the department for coming through and following through on this. This is an important initiative that will bring hope for many Northerners. It's difficult to say who, because you just never know. You may be the one who needs this assistance. I can tell you the family knowing that mechanisms like this are coming into place, it's difficult how to qualify how grateful and appreciative they will be. Sometimes just getting an extra month, a year, maybe five or 10 years out of somebody who may be lost before their time is amazing. Like anything, it's what you do with it.

I'm just going to say this has been a challenging issue. I'm thankful for Mr. Dolynny's relentlessness on this issue. If it hadn't been led by him in the support of everyone – because it does take everyone at large – we may not be here today. It was great work. It was fantastic work. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. General comments. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would also like to echo my colleague's comments and thank Mr. Dolynny for his work to bring this to fruition. I'd also like to thank the departments of Justice and Health for doing the work required to get the act to this point. I do agree with the Minister's comments that Members have been listened to, their concerns have been listened to.

I think the main issue has been to get a comprehensive process in place for those who wish to donate organs and tissues. I'm appreciative of the Minister's remarks that, although we don't have our own program for organ and tissue donation, it will allow for residents to register their consent to donate tissues and organs after death through an online registry once one has been established.

I would just like to ask a question on where we are at with that. Is this through Alberta? Are we developing a relationship with Alberta? I know we have some earlier correspondence. Is there an update that the Minister can provide on this as we contemplate this bill? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to first start off by thanking all of the Members once again. This is something that was important to me as well as so many of the Members. I am honoured to have been able to carry this across the finish line on behalf of the Members.

We don't have the ability to develop an online registry here in the Northwest Territories, but given that the majority of the individuals, or actually all of the individuals who will be donating tissues tend to go through Alberta, we've been working very closely with Alberta about joining into their online registry. Before the bill was even before the House, I did send the Minister in Alberta a letter outlining our desire to work together and be partners on this. The response back was in the positive that, yes, once we get ours up and running, we would be happy to work with you. They now have their online registry up and running. We've been working very closely with them to identify what our needs and expectations are as well as what their needs and expectations are. We have started moving forward to the point where we are actually at the point of costing it, figuring out what the cost will be so that we can move forward quickly in order to get that tool available to residents of the Northwest Territories. At the same time, we're getting ready to go live with a bit of a marketing campaign to identify, once it's up and running, what the program is, how you go about registering, how important it is for you to donate, recognizing that it is hard for some people to take that step and actually sign the

registry. We're hoping, through dialogue and discussion and the types of things that are being brought up by Member Dolynny, Member Hawkins and yourself, as well as MLA Yakeleya, that individuals who start to show an interest and want to learn more about this and then go and get registered online.

So we are making good progress. I don't have a date at this point in time. It depends on Alberta, but negotiations are going well. Like I said, we're at a point where we're getting down to the brass tacks and getting ready to figure out what the costs will be for us to be partners.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, I'll leave at that, Madam Chair, and I will be monitoring how fast we can get this into force and get some of these other mechanisms up and running. I appreciate the Minister's commitment to get that done. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. General comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Detail. Does committee agree that we should consider the 25 clauses of this bill in groups of five?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act, clauses 1 to 5.

---Clauses 1 through 5 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clauses 6 to 10.

---Clauses 6 through 10 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clauses 11 to 15.

---Clauses 11 through 15 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clauses 16 to 20.

---Clauses 16 through 20 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clauses 21 to 25.

---Clauses 21 through 25 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that Bill 29 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 29 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Thank you, witnesses.

Committee, the next item on our agenda is Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act, and I would like to ask Minister Abernethy, responsible for Health and Social Services, if he would please deliver his opening comments on the bill. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to be here today to discuss Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act.

The bill is straightforward. Through the amendment to the Pharmacy Act, the bill will allow for the establishment of a prescription monitoring program.

The bill will permit the provisions of the Pharmacy Act that establish a prescription monitoring program to prevail over the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

A prescription monitoring program is a program established to allow the sharing of a patient's medical information among prescribers, pharmacists and the person with the third-party oversight role, to promote optimal prescribing and dispensing practices for legitimate medical uses.

The program will allow for tracking to monitor if patients are being over-prescribed by receiving multiple prescriptions, or if certain health care professionals are over-prescribing.

The program will assist in early identification of patients at risk for addiction and lead to a reduction in the misuse and abuse of drugs.

I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. I'll now refer to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses, to bring us the committee's comments in review of the bill. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act, on September 16, 2014. A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill amends the Pharmacy Act to ensure that a provision of the act relating to the establishment, administration and operation of a prescription monitoring program applies notwithstanding the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 32 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 32. Individual Members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Moses. I'll now ask Minister Abernethy if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber for the consideration of this bill. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes please, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Does committee agree.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the table.

Minister Abernethy, for our records, could you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: On my left is Dr. Jim Corkal, the chief clinical advisor within the Department of Health and Social Services. On my right, Ken Chutskoff, legislative counsel. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. General comments on the bill. First I will go to Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is a very simple bill, it's only got two clauses in it, but I just have a couple of questions with regard to clarification. This is going to allow the establishment of a prescription monitoring program and yet that's not referenced in the bill at all. It talks about the ATIPP Act. So I'm presuming that the details around the establishment of the monitoring program are going to be either in regulation or in policy or something. So I'd appreciate an explanation as to how the prescription monitoring program is going to be described, where it will be described and where it's going to be recorded.

My other question has to do with basically the safeguarding of info. So the department will be collecting a lot of information about prescribing of drugs and the use of drugs by various patients and clients and so on. How is the department going to safeguard that information and make sure that with a prescription monitoring program those that are monitoring the program are not going to be using the information they're monitoring in the wrong way? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Currently the Pharmacy Act is subject to the privacy and information sharing rules under the act, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and ATIPP doesn't currently allow for sharing of information for secondary use, and because ATIPP prevails, a prescription monitoring program could not be established under the legislation that we have today. But we heard clearly from Members that this is something that's important, it's something we needed to do. The new Health

Information Act would have actually allowed us to do this exact thing, but it doesn't go live until 2015 and prescription drug abuse is something that's a problem today.

So we felt it was important, based on suggestions and discussions with Members, that we move on this as quickly as we can so that we can begin developing a prescription monitoring program. This legislation simply changes the rules around that particular aspect and gives us the freedom to actually develop a prescription monitoring program that would not breach the different acts that are out there.

So the prescription monitoring program itself will be done and put together by a steering committee that has been developed in the department led by Dr. Corkal and it will engage pharmacists, it will engage other providers who are currently involved in providing prescriptions as well as dispensing medications. We will use different pieces of legislation to ensure that the information is not shared and the rules around the program itself, we'll make sure that information is not shared beyond the individuals who actually need to access the information. That will include a new position that will be created, a program administrator as well.

So the information will continue to be private and protected and only identified and useable by the individuals who are involved in prescription monitoring program. For some additional details I'd like to go to Dr. Corkal.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Dr. Corkal.

DR. CORKAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. In response to the Member's question, I think the privacy of the information here will be very, very sensitive and the information will be very sensitive and the privacy is paramount to that information.

We will need to create many checks and balances about who has access to that information and when and even if that is available on what we call a non-nominal basis. So when it's first looked at as screening data, you do not even know the name of the person that's attached to it. The finer details of this we will definitely have to work out as we go to how the prescription monitoring program will work, but privacy of patients is certainly paramount to the success of this.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Dr. Corkal. General comments. Next I have Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Although what we have today appears to be a straightforward amendment to finally allow for the establishment of a prescription monitoring program, it is important to fundamentally understand exactly why we are doing this, what we intend to do with the monitoring program, what will be intended

oversight, what is our role nationally, and finally, what changes should we expect with prescribing and dispensing practices throughout the Northwest Territories.

Now, admittedly, if one was following the evolution of this bill, it could be argued, and I believe it was presented clearly in this House, that the Minister already had the power under the Pharmacy Act in conjunction with provisions under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act of the Northwest Territories and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act of Canada to legally direct, use, disclose personal information to this government for statistical purposes just as long as this information did not relate to an identifiable person. For a complete summation of this defence, I would reference replies to the opening address on February 26, 2014, in support.

My purpose today is not to split hairs with the Minister or the department or have any debate on privacy laws in general. What is of importance is that we finally welcome this amendment to the Pharmacy Act so we can bring what is of territorial and national importance, which is responding to the prescription drug abuse in the Northwest Territories or what I've referred on many occasions as a sleeping giant of all addictions.

This amendment will finally allow this government a more enhanced legislative framework in addressing prescription drug abuse in general and share in its responsibility when nationally called into action. It is paramount when dealing with addictions the government must be armed with the right information in order to understand the issues and, in turn, positively impact its victims.

This amendment today will finally set the stage of a proper baseline analysis and empirically lead us into the direction of prevention and treatment, monitoring and collective actions.

It is of importance now more than ever we must protect all Northerners from the potential misuse of prescription medications and we must tackle head-on this sleeping giant of addiction and its destructive and fatal power.

Lastly, it is of national importance that we also translate the momentum generated today into action and support our National Anti-Drug Strategy in responding to Canada's prescription drug crisis.

Again, congratulations to the Minister and the department for listening to the concern of Members, the coroner's office and the many Northerners in our health field.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the end of the day, we want the same

thing, which is to have a prescription monitoring program. Regardless of the fact that we have a difference of opinion on what it takes to get there, at the end of the day we're there, and this will give us the tools we need to develop the prescription monitoring program that will benefit the people of the Northwest Territories and will be consistent with other provinces and other jurisdictions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. General comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I've also been very supportive and inquisitive of this Pharmacy Act, because I'm looking at the small communities like Colville Lake. We have what's called a nursing station with a person that's been trained to work in the communities and administer pharmacy medication from time to time to the elderly people. Is this system then hooked up to somewhere in Colville Lake, like, if they're trying to prevent any further use of pills that could be seen as harming the person more than helping them? For example, in Colville Lake, is this through the pharmacy shops here or the health centres in the larger centres like Good Hope and Norman Wells? I guess I'm just trying to figure out the crux of it.

Maybe that could be discussed later on, but ensuring that some of the challenges to operate a nursing station in the small communities is not quite as in the larger centres. I just want to ask that, the monitoring of these medications. Do we have enough technology infrastructures in Colville Lake to say Mr. Joe is taking a little too much here, what's going on. Or is that from the medical field or the pharmacists? Is there some kind of red light that goes on, saying that this is too much here? What's happening? What's going on? I just wanted to ensure that people in Colville Lake could also be assured and secure that this monitoring and tracking of prescription drugs could be also beneficial to them. Some of the older people, they don't question, they just take the pills and sometimes they sit there all day with numbness because they don't know the effects of some of their pills. That's all I want to ask. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The monitoring program itself will monitor drugs listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. It doesn't include all medications and it doesn't include across-the-counter non-prescription medications.

We will be working with pharmacies to develop the program. We will be working with other professionals to help us develop the program, and it will monitor those particular controlled substances. Those controlled substances, for the most part, come out of pharmacies, but there are hospitals

that do dispense some and there are health centres across the Northwest Territories that do dispense some based on a very prescribed formulary that exists in each of the health centres. The intent is to track the dispensation of those controlled substances.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Yakeleya, you are good? General comments. Any further general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Detail. Okay, thank you. I will refer our colleagues to Bill 32. An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act. Clause 1. Agreed?

---Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. To the bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that Bill 32 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 23 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Bill 32 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Thank you Dr. Corkal and Mr. Chutskoff. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, committee.

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, Mrs. Groenewegen?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act; and Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act, and would like to report progress and that Bills 29 and 32 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

---Carried

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

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 25:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
EDUCATION ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 27:
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT, 2014

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 30:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

BILL 34:
2015 POLLING DAY ACT

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 34, 2015 Polling Day Act, 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 Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act
 - Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act
- Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until
Wednesday, November 5th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:36 p.m.