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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, February 26, 2015****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 164-17(5):
MED-RESPONSE**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to announce the official launch of the Med-Response call centre. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs joined me earlier today at Stanton Territorial Hospital to celebrate this milestone.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is breaking new ground in Canada with this single window approach to clinical consultation and air ambulance triage and dispatch. Med-Response will improve access to services and quality of care for people across the Northwest Territories, by providing immediate clinical support to health care practitioners in all communities via a simple toll-free number.

Med-Response is not a service directly available to the public, Mr. Speaker, but our patients and their families will experience immediate benefit. Previously, when faced with a potentially critical situation, a community health nurse had to make multiple calls to access physician advice, order an air ambulance, provide updates and coordinate information flow. He or she would do this while trying to support and stabilize an ill or injured patient and assess whether an air ambulance was required.

From now on one phone call to Med-Response will give our community health care providers access to all the clinical support they need. The call centre, located in Yellowknife, is manned by emergency medical dispatchers and emergency medical coordinators who are registered nurses. They are on the line immediately with the community health practitioner, allowing several things to happen at

once. The Dispatcher can immediately contact our air ambulance provider, while the coordinator can assess the situation and get the appropriate physician or specialist on the line. Coordinating the whole process on one multi-party phone line replaces numerous calls, repeating the same information to various parties.

Reducing the time a community health practitioner has to spend on the phone allows them to focus on the patient. In urgent situations an air ambulance can be dispatched earlier and eliminate situations when medevac flights are delayed because of telephone reception issues in remote locations.

In addition to improved communication, faster response times and a reduced risk of error, all calls to Med-Response are recorded, providing a higher level of quality assurance.

Mr. Speaker, although the call centre officially opened today, staff have been testing scenarios and introducing the service since November 2014. While cost savings is not the primary goal of Med-Response, we are already seeing potential for efficiencies. In some situations immediate access to physician support has confirmed an air ambulance was not required. In other situations the call centre has been able to deploy air ambulance flights that are already en route to pick up another patient, thereby reducing the number of flights and turnaround time.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services and Stanton Territorial Hospital have put in place an evaluation framework so that we can monitor how Med-Response is improving the system and our services. In the future we see potential for broader application of this service. For example, the call centre may play a key role in supporting first responders or health practitioners in communities without resident nurses.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude with a quote from a community health nurse who has already had the opportunity to use the Med-Response service. She says, "When it's after hours and you're all by yourself, Med-Response gives you more time to focus on the patient instead of stopping all the time to pick up the phone. It's pretty efficient. You feel like the team is right there for you."

I am proud of the work that has been done to make Med-Response a reality and of the exceptional

service the team at Stanton is already providing. Med-Response is one example of how working as a single system across the territory can help realize our vision of best health, best care, for a better future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 165-17(5):
CANADA'S OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS –
LEA LAMOUREUX

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. Lea Lamoureux, principal of Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah, on being recognized as one of Canada's outstanding principals for 2015.

She is the most recent in a long list of Northwest Territories recipients who have been recognized for their dedication and passion for teaching our students in the Northwest Territories.

The Learning Partnership recently announced Ms. Lamoureux as one of 40 exceptional educators from across Canada. Through her leadership, Kaw Tay Whee School is now a vibrant learning environment, connecting families and the community of Detah.

Ms. Lamoureux and her staff have built an active, inclusive environment in their school, where everyone strives to do their best. Ms. Lamoureux's leadership, with the dedicated support of her staff and community, has resulted in library and classroom resources to support a balanced literacy program, and a new computer lab to help students develop reading, inquiry and writing skills, with 80 percent of students now reading at or above grade level.

They have brought a community elder into the school to work with students in the Weledeh language and to teach skills in traditional activities like beading, sewing, working with hide and drying fish. They established an Aboriginal Role Model Program that brings in authors, singers, naturopathic doctors and other professionals to promote career pathways and the importance of education. With her guidance, her students created a story in clay and turned it into a book called "Walking in Dettah," in English and Weledeh. You can find this book at the Yellowknife Book Cellar.

She has gone beyond the walls of her school and reached out to her students' families, and every family now has alarm clocks to support the "On Time by 9" initiative. There is a family literacy initiative in place, and every family with children under 12 has a family library based on the children's ages, interests and reading levels.

She also reached out to the community and forged key partnerships, which raised over \$400,000 for

resources and programming that focus on literacy, science and technology, active living and nutrition programming. She and her staff were successful in securing funding for a community playground.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Ms. Lamoureux's school this past October. I saw a passionate educator, engaged students and an environment full of activity and energy. Lea Lamoureux personifies everything we are working on in the Education Renewal Initiative. Through this initiative, principals have critical roles in creating inspirational and healthy learning environments and they are key connections in the school-community relationship. Ms. Lamoureux intuitively understands that this is the way to create the best school and learning experiences for her students.

Ms. Lamoureux now has the opportunity to attend a five-day Executive Leadership Training Program delivered by the internationally renowned Rotman School of Management later this month. Once complete, she will join some 500 exceptional educators that comprise the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Lea Lamoureux and her dedication to her students, community, and excellence in education. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Deputy Premier, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 166-17(5):
MINISTERS ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Bob McLeod and the Honourable David Ramsay will be absent from the House today to attend the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women National Round Table in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CHILD APPREHENSIONS AND THE
ROLE OF EXTENDED FAMILY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to raise an issue where grandparents have been denied caregiver status when their grandchildren have been apprehended by Social Services.

When this happens in our small communities, our children are sent to another community like Fort Simpson and fostered to homes there. They are usually never fostered in the home community with

which they are familiar, where they have close extended family and childhood friends.

Throughout Canada it is increasingly common that grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Here in the Northwest Territories when our Aboriginal children are apprehended, grandparents and extended family are never seen as a first choice in placement of the children. Our jurisdiction has the highest rate of child apprehensions in the country, and approximately 90 percent of the children who are in the child and family services system are Aboriginal.

For years the Social Programs committee of the Legislative Assembly has been calling for a less adversarial approach. The committee has called on the government to put into practice what the act already stipulates, the use of the least intrusive measures whenever possible. The committee has likewise been calling on the department to use a more collaborative approach in specific cases, like in a small community, social workers and courts might engage in non-adversarial outreach by meeting with the grandparents instead of apprehending the children and sending them to foster care in a larger centre. Social workers might then have discovered that the grandparents were accustomed to caring for their grandkids and, further, that grandparents were willing and able to serve as foster parents. Considerable upheaval and distress to the children could be prevented.

On another note, our child care legislation provides for and recognizes the Aboriginal custom adoption practices, a less legalistic procedure where parents give up their child to a family to love and care for as their own, even verbally. We should also design our child apprehension laws to the same effect, recognizing Aboriginal custom and involve grandparents and extended families a role in caring for their children in their communities, not apprehending them and carrying them off to another community, which is so reminiscent of the residential schooling system.

I will have questions for the Minister of Social Services during question period. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE ANTI-BULLYING EVENT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank you and all my colleagues in the House for the pinkness yesterday. Anything we as Members can do to raise awareness of bullying is a good thing.

There was significant activity in the Great Hall at noon yesterday. Some 120 students from four Yellowknife schools were here for an anti-bullying

event sponsored by the northern chapter of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Thank you to Jack Bourassa, Lorraine Hewlett, Mark Populous and other PSAC staff for once again organizing this event, and a huge thank you to the students and teachers from William McDonald, Weledeh, St. Joseph's and J.H. Sissons schools for taking part in the event. Not like the flash mob that we had a couple of years ago, but well worth seeing and hearing.

Ecole St. Joseph's School did a skit about bullying and introduced us to the Anti-Bully League. William McDonald School brought two classes. The grade sevens shared their thoughts and comments on bullying. The grade sixes shared personal stories about bullying. J.H. Sissons School spoke en Francais and asked questions to make us think about bullying. They also did a skit to illustrate bullying and an intervention. Weledeh School brought their Think Pink Gang. They added members to the gang by inducting three people at the rally. It was my honour and privilege to be one of those three who were inducted into the Pink Shirt Gang as an honorary member, along with Steve Daniels from Education, Culture and Employment and Constable Maury Sparvier of the RCMP.

Bullying gets more awareness than it used to, but it's still a major problem in our schools, our workplaces, our sports arenas, our playgrounds and our seniors homes. As the kids said yesterday, more than once, it's up to each one of us, no matter our age, to fight against bullying when we see it. Recognize it, speak about it, stop it.

Mr. Speaker, we as leaders must ensure we don't model the slightest action that could be conceived as bullying. Think before you speak or act, and remember that each of us reacts differently to words or actions. We must not assume that what is okay for us is not bullying for someone else.

In closing I want to again thank the wonderful, creative, committed students who highlighted bullying yesterday and also thank the Public Service Alliance of Canada for organizing the event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORTING YOUTH SPORTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I would like to give encouragement and support to the young athletes in our small communities. Last weekend girls under 15 from Deline won the basketball championship in the Northwest Territories, and previous to that they won first place in Grande Prairie.

In the North we have some really great athletes, even in the large centres such as Yellowknife and

Hay River and in our small communities of Deline, Norman Wells and Colville Lake. However, I want to say how much we appreciate the young kids coming out in whatever type of conditions to do their best for the North and for their community. Even with Colville Lake, no school gym, but they come out and they come into Norman Wells or Tulita.

The young kids from Colville Lake marvel at the school gym in those small communities as much as the young kids coming from Deline come to Yellowknife and look at the facilities they have here and they marvel at that. Yet they try hard. A big thanks goes out to the teachers who put out the extra hours for activities to make it happen for their young students. That's what we want to support.

I think the parents need to be congratulated for raising money to take kids outside our communities. It takes thousands and thousands of dollars to bring kids from the Sahtu to Yellowknife for soccer, basketball or volleyball. We have to say thank you to the parents and encourage them to continue on with this and to look at ways that we can continue to support our young students going to school and playing the sports so that one day they may be recognized. We have students now in the Canada Winter Games and slowly up to the level of the Olympics and professionals. We have done it and I'd like to continue to support the families and the schools in the small communities and make sure that our students get the best type of training ever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ABORIGINAL YOUTH GAMES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend about 130 athletes plus coaches and chaperones from 15 communities across the Northwest Territories, representing all regions, will be coming to Yellowknife and participating in the 3rd Annual Traditional Games championships.

The importance of these games goes beyond just the physical nature. It creates a social intelligence within these young athletes but also spiritual and cultural revitalization in terms of these students participating in games that their ancestors did for survival.

There's going to be 80 events over at William McDonald this weekend, and I encourage all Members to go and show your support to your constituents and these young athletes who are coming in and participating in these games.

As I said, these games have helped in the revitalization of Arctic sports and Dene games throughout the Northwest Territories, but it goes beyond that. It shows that we're sharing our

cultures, we're bringing games from the Beaufort-Delta, sharing with people in the Deh Cho, in the South Slave and we're taking games from the South Slave and sharing with people in all other regions. It's just a really great time and it shows our traditions, our northern hospitality and our northern way of life.

I'd also like to take this opportunity just to thank the elders who carry these games and traditions and pass them on to our young coaches and young athletes so that they can continue to show these games and show our traditions and cultures to our next generation.

As I've always said, events like these could not be done without support. So I'd like to take this opportunity to give a sincere thank you and acknowledge the hard work, dedication and commitment of all the volunteers, coaches, officials and, most importantly, the Aboriginal Sport Circle that has been engaging our communities, who have been taking these games to all 33 communities, taking equipment in there and leaving the equipment in the communities so that the students can continue to practice these games.

Just before I finish here, I'd like to give a quick message to the athletes. This weekend just play fair, try your hardest, show sportsmanship, which is embodied in the games that you're playing, but most of all I want the athletes and the young this weekend just to have fun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT GOVERNANCE MODEL

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In business when one is faced with limited cash flow and facing tough expense control, you look at your balance sheet to find ways to leverage your assets. In all cases, whether you're in government or in business, you strive to isolate financial risk and look at the balance sheet of self-financing your paid service models.

One such asset and paid service model is our Yellowknife Airport, to which the current governance is in dire need of a shake-up. Mr. Speaker, let me explain.

The Yellowknife Airport is under the care and regulations of the GNWT. This entity is at financial risk to taxpayers and is not self-financing. In reality, it is bleeding money to the tune of over \$2 million a year and this shortfall is picked up by the taxpayer. In this age of financial stewardship this is unacceptable, even for a government, and especially a government teetering on the edge of a financial cliff.

What is the solution? To turn this around one would have to consider the success of some key metrics of financial performance, customer service, safety and a longer term vision. One would have to consider maximizing the value for the shareholder and for the community in terms of its socio-economic returns. There needs to be the right balance, the right governance, the right owners, the right efficiency motivation and the right economic objectives, which today are severely lacking.

It goes without saying, no two airports are alike, and similarly, no two communities have identical objectives for their airport assets. But without a clear vision for the role of the Yellowknife Airport and our government's inability to continue at the helm, the stakeholders suffer, the community suffers and the taxpayers suffer as well. This is not a winning combination.

I will have questions later today for the Minister of Transportation.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FORT MCPHERSON ARENA

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The former mayor and council in Fort McPherson were in the process of planning for a new arena for the community. Since then, a public administrator has been put in place to administer the services for the next three years. I am concerned that this major piece of infrastructure will be put on hold during this time.

A new arena is much needed in Fort McPherson, and I would like to propose that the public administrator begin consultation with the community to design a new arena for Fort McPherson.

I will have questions for the Minister later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had planned to talk about a health issue today and I think one just sort of overpowered me and I felt that I had to address it.

Overwhelmingly, I feel troubled with the way and the approach the Mental Health Act is presently taking today. Although I certainly, like every single one of my colleagues here both on this side of the House and the other side of the House, will welcome a new act to help address the problems that we all see today, there are ways we can help today.

The other day I was asking the Health Minister about trying to find another way. There is another

way. I've been doing research with support from our advice here and we can find a way to help people right now. There are options that are available. There are tools in our tool kit of legislative power to change the lives of others.

In speaking to the loved ones who have family members who are good people, but sometimes they get off their meds because they decide that they know what's best. Even though all the medical advice and all the facts prove otherwise, they decide what they want to do. It leaves the hospitals and loved ones paralyzed while we watch the continued downward spiral of these people. The RCMP will say there's nothing they can do because unless they break the law, cause a crime or hurt themselves, they must stand by. The system itself is part of the problem. The system is the Mental Health Act that we are dealing with today.

We've heard the Minister with the anticipation that maybe if everything lines up it may come in May, but we also know that this is very unlikely. We've heard the Health Minister say that he will probably be in a position to table the new Mental Health Act late in this Assembly, sometime in the fall. That means the new Assembly will be choosing the destiny, the direction the new Mental Health Act will be taking. It will be up to the 18th Assembly to get immediately up to speed on these initiatives and to take some action. I can't speak for the 18th Assembly. No one can until it's in place to make its decisions going forward.

But as I said, there is another way. Through hard work and a bit of research provided to me, there has been inspiration and we've come up with a solution. We've come up with a small change to the present Mental Health Act to provide much respite needed by families.

We've seen a recent case where someone was not criminally responsible. Why? There are so many reasons why, but the fact is things can be done. All I want to say as my time runs out is there are options before us and I'll be bringing this issue back up in the near future. There are ways we can help make a difference to these families and save lives today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CANADIAN SCREEN AWARD FOR ICE PILOTS NWT

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pride that I rise again today to announce that Buffalo Airways recently was awarded the best factual program or series at the Canadian Screen Awards.

As Mikey McBryan says, "Eighty-seven thousand fans can't be wrong."

I'd like to give a big shout out to Mikey McBryan for his hard work on the Ice Pilots series. We're obviously disappointed that that series has come to an end, but we appreciate all of the exposure that the Northwest Territories got under that program.

We need to continue to support the film industry in the Northwest Territories. It's a good economic driver; it's a good tourism promotion thing for the Northwest Territories. We look forward to seeing some more awards coming, maybe through Mr. Andrew Stanley and Fur Harvesters of the Northwest Territories and many of the productions that are happening in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RECOGNITION OF ARTISAN
HELEN KINNISON

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all can speak of our elders here in this House and today I'd like to send a hello out to Mrs. Helen Kinnison in Hay River. I think of her today as I was thinking of something that I could wear to match my jacket and I found the necklace and earrings that she made for me about 20 years ago, which are made out of fish bones from fish out of Great Slave Lake that are dyed and were put together in jewelry.

So I'd like to say hello to Helen today, and I'd also like to thank all of the amazing, talented artisans in the Northwest Territories who create so many beautiful things for us. Thank you

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NWT MONTESSORI SOCIETY
40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the NWT Montessori Society on their 40th anniversary. The society has been part of the Great Slave riding for many years, delivering a high quality Montessori Casa preschool program from the society's location on 52nd Street.

Yesterday the society celebrated their 40th anniversary with festivities at their downtown and N.J. MacPherson locations. Students were treated to a surprise visit from a mock Maria Montessori, founder of the Montessori method, collected material from a time capsule and enjoyed a reception with cake and fruit.

The Montessori approach provides a carefully planned, stimulated learning environment that helps children develop a foundational habit, attitudes and

skills that are essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning. Since the original preschool program started in 1975 with only 24 preschool-aged students, the program has seen a lot of change.

Today the society has grown to 83 school-aged students at five Casa classes spread out between the downtown Yellowknife Montessori School and N.J. MacPherson School. As well, through a partnership with the Yellowknife Education District No. 1, Yellowknife families have the option of a free Montessori elementary program. This unique partnership provides families with an option not available in many other Canadian cities.

Forty years ago a group of dedicated parents, committed to the principles and philosophies of Dr. Marie Montessori, founded the NWT Montessori Society. The work of those first parents has been carried forward through the years by countless parents, volunteers and teachers.

I congratulate all of those involved, parents and staff for their many years of commitment to the education of the Yellowknife community. The NWT Montessori Society occupies an important place in the educational landscape of our community and I hope the society continues to serve Yellowknife families for at least another 40 years. Thank you.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a few members of the Department of Health and Social Services here today with us in the gallery and I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize them: Yves Panneton, who is the manager of our primary community and acute care services and a chief nursing officer; Erin Currie, the senior nurse practitioner consultant; Carolan Bennett, the senior nursing consultant; as well as Peter Workman, the health emergency planner.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize the chair of the Montessori Society here in Yellowknife, Dave Wasylciw, as well as the executive director of the Montessori Society, Denise Araya. Thank you so much for being here today.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a couple of Pages from Inuvik Twin Lakes that have been working here all week: Dustin Smith and Chantel Schab, and they've been chaperoned by my constituency assistant, who I recognized the other day without

saying her name. My constituency assistant is Leah Ipana, who's chaperoning them. We appreciate all the work that the Pages do during our time in session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two Pages from Hay River who have been working with us all week: Jeffrey Lamoureux, "JJ"; and Lily Gail Warrington. I'd also like to recognize my constituency assistant, Myrtle Graham, who's been their chaperon all week. Thank you very much. Welcome to the House.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a former resident of Deline, Erin Currie, also a great nurse practitioner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'd like to welcome everybody in the public gallery here today. Welcome to the House and thank you for taking interest in our proceedings.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

Questions

QUESTIONS 709-17(5):

YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT GOVERNANCE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in 1996-97 Main Estimates the government said publicly about the Yellowknife Airport, "The department will explore, for the privatization of regulations, pursue privatization opportunities." According to my research, it never happened. In 2002 the government is quoted in the Yellowknife Airport governance review, "We also suggested option seven, private sector third party, is not a practical option or alternative." Again very little rationale was offered. In 2003 in a Yellowknife Airport Stakeholders Panel report to the Minister the quote was: "goal: to explore the viability at a macro level of alternative governance models for Yellowknife Airport." Its recommendation was a task force to be formed, and even though the devolution of airports in Canada from government to independent authorities resulted in many success stories across Canada, nothing ever transpired for the NWT legal largest airport.

My question today is for the Minister of Transportation. In my preface for today's oral questions I referenced only a handful of reports, reviews and consultant papers.

Mr. Speaker, if one was to go back 20 years on the governance and the operational review of the Yellowknife Airport, can the Minister inform the House how many of these reports, reviews and

consultant papers has his department undertaken? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. There have been several reports. There was an indication that there may have been seven reports done on airport governance but there may be more than that. There have been a few reports done since then. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: The Minister is actually correct. In fact, dialogues behind the scenes reveal that there were at least seven reports in the 20 years in terms of trying to find a solution to this problem. Which leads me to ask: On February 10, 2015, in a series of oral questions from the Member for Range Lake, the Minister made a number of statements that the Yellowknife Airport governance was identified to be reviewed yet again by this government. Can the Minister elaborate? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The latest report was completed in March 2014. It looked at five similar types of airports as far as landings and passenger volumes go and because of their varying governance systems. We've looked at those five reports. We've now put an RFP out, which will close on March 2nd, to examine the various alternatives in those five different airports to determine which governance structure we feel would be the best to move forward with the Yellowknife Airport. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Again, on February 10, 2015, the Minister was quoted as saying, "We're going to look at management options at the airport so we can review all the options." Again I ask the Minister, can he clarify what specifically is going to be uncovered that has not already been done, at minimum, seven times before? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: There would mainly be three options, alternatives that we would look at. We would look at a Crown corporation; we're going to look at airport authority and even possibly using a GNWT revolving fund similar to the way we administer petroleum products.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, there's a lot of foolishness in all the delaying and deferring that the Department of Transportation has undertaken in the last 20 years on this subject. Again, the Minister made reference to a report. He claims that was on March of 2014. A report that has never been tabled in this House, a report that is buried in the website of the Department of Transportation to which I haven't been able to find, but I did get a copy from the department.

We also heard on February 20, 2014, the Minister saying, "We've hired a consultant to specifically look at these for consideration, probably by the next government."

Can the Minister indicate why this government is sloughing this responsibility onto the backs of the 18th Assembly? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the volume at the Yellowknife Airport changes fairly regularly. Right now we have approximately 500,000 passengers moving through Yellowknife Airport on an annual basis. We are looking at that now. We are hoping to... The RFP will close. We're going to do an evaluation. What I'm seeing, just by drawing a timeline from March 2nd for the evaluation, hiring the actual consultant that's going to be doing the work, I'm seeing that the results of that would likely be sitting on the desks of the 18th Assembly. We're not sloughing the responsibility, but we're looking at the timeline.

I realize that right now it's costing us about \$2 million to run the airport annually. If we were to do one simple math to determine how we're going to recover that, we'd just be passing that \$2 million on to the passengers who are flying through Yellowknife Airport. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 710-17(5):
PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health. We haven't had an update lately on doctor recruitment and how that's going. I'm wondering if the department has any additional information to add on to how we are progressing with getting doctors in the North and into the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recruitment and retention of physicians continues to be a challenge, but I think at this point in time we are actually doing fairly well. We have moved to a system where all the physicians are actually employees of one body rather than multiple bodies. This has actually given us some opportunities, because individuals can now have rights and access to Stanton even if they don't happen to live in Yellowknife.

When we originally went to this one model, the expectation was that we'd be having physicians in Yellowknife who can actually provide services in other communities like Fort Smith or Hay River or any of the communities in the Sahtu and up the valley. What we have found is by having one system where all the doctors were part of one

system, we've actually been able to recruit doctors in places like Fort Smith and Inuvik because they are part of the system rather than independent bodies. So that was a happy surprise.

We continue to recruit on a regular basis, but at this point in Yellowknife we are pretty close to having a full complement of doctors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BOUCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I have questions specific to Hay River and I'm wondering, because of Hay River's special consideration of not being part of GNWT employees, if we're having any difficulties in putting those doctors into Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Unless anything has changed in the last little while, my last update was that we actually did manage to get a permanent physician into Hay River. I will check with the department to confirm that. But the reality of being outside of the public service hasn't interfered with this medical process in obtaining physicians.

MR. BOUCHARD: My next question about the doctors is: Are we getting them to move to the Northwest Territories? Are they staying in the Northwest Territories? Are we still using a lot of the locums to come into the Northwest Territories and then go back to their home communities in southern Canada?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We actually have filled a large number of the physician positions on a permanent basis. But given that we do have a contract here in the Northwest Territories, those physicians who are resident here are entitled to education time and sick time as well as annual time. We want to make sure that we are continuing to provide services, so there is still a use of locums. But for the most part, in Yellowknife, in Hay River, in the Beaufort-Delta we've been able to get physicians in on a permanent basis. But until all positions are filled that way, we will continue to use some locums.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess the other question that I have about health and professionals is are there other positions that we are having difficulties filling, whether it's any specialists in any of the communities or in Yellowknife that we're having troubles filling?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I guess that would depend on the definition of trouble. Health professionals are a hard-to-recruit position. We continue to recruit on a regular basis, but for many of the allied health professions there is high turnover. We're actually putting into force a strategic plan, a Health Human Resource Strategic Plan that is going to put in a number of mechanisms and tools to help us recruit and retain

health professionals across the Northwest Territories. But we keep at it, we keep staffing, we keep filling, but turnover is a reality that we do have to work with.

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

QUESTION 711-17(5):
CHILD APPREHENSIONS AND THE
ROLE OF EXTENDED FAMILY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement when I spoke about grandparents having difficulty taking care of their grandchildren after a social services apprehension. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Our legislation recognizes our Aboriginal culture and customs with custom adoptions. Why can't we do the same and recognize the rights of our grandparents and extended families who want to become involved when there is an apprehension?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A significant amount of work has been done around child and family services. The 16th Legislative Assembly did a comprehensive review where this exact question came up on a number of occasions. Also, the Auditor General recently brought forward a fairly scathing report of child and family services here in the Northwest Territories, and committee has been very, very, very active in articulating their concerns and their desire for significant change. As a result, we are moving forward with Building Stronger Families, an action plan to transform the child and family services system here in the Northwest Territories, and this is a fundamental change in how we do business here in the Northwest Territories.

Currently, we already have the ability to work with families in a case of apprehension, and our goal is not to take children away. If a child needs to be apprehended as a result of abuse-type situations, we would like to work with the families to keep them in the community. If we can't keep them in the community, we want to work with the regions to keep them in the region; and if we can't keep them in the region, obviously we will have to look at other locations possibly.

But in a foster family situation we do have the ability to work with elders to go through a foster application so that we can put children with their grandparents or other family members. It doesn't need to just be their grandparents. There are some challenges with that because we still need people to pass the application process in order to legally ensure the security and safety of those children.

We are working on this. We are fundamentally changing the way we provide child and family services here in the Northwest Territories, and I am regularly keeping committee up to date on the important work that is being done in this area.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly, I can appreciate some of the complications around being a foster home, but I think what the grandparents are telling me is that they are not a foster home, they are the actual grandparents and extended family. Having police record checks is kind of demeaning to them. That's difficult to grapple with. I know that the Social Programs committee has done some good work the last term, but apparently it seems like the culture about apprehensions has not changed in Social Services to recognize the Aboriginal culture. I think the committee uses the least intrusive measures whenever possible.

So, I'd just like to ask the Minister, internally, what kind of direction is being given to social service workers when they're considering apprehensions? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Research has shown that in the Northwest Territories the vast majority of apprehensions that have existed to date have resulted as a result of neglect, as opposed to abuse, which is one of the reasons we're going to a completely differential response of dealing with children in those abuse situations.

The new approach is supporting families, finding ways to support families so that we can actually keep the children with the families. If they do need counseling, if they need all these other types of supports, we're going to be there to work with them to find solutions.

When it's abuse, we still may need to be in a situation where we have to apprehend, which is where foster family comes in. I hear the Member's concerns about families wanting to go through the process, but we do have an obligation to ensure that these children are protected once we've taken them away as a result of abuse.

Many of these changes are taking place as we speak and some of them may take a little longer than others. The differential response is going to take three to five years to fully roll out and test and make sure that it's meeting the needs, but at the immediate time we are doing a number of things to ensure that the direction is being passed down to our staff.

As the Member knows, the assistant directors have been delegated in all seven authorities as associate directors under the act. We've updated our manuals. Those are going live right away. Later today I will actually be doing a notice of motion for first reading of bills on the Child and Family Services Act where we're going to be making significant improvements to the act.

One of the changes that we're making to the act is requiring that notification of applicable Aboriginal organizations of an apprehension order in respect to an Aboriginal child and providing for Aboriginal organizations to be party of an apprehension hearing, a child protection hearing and youth protection hearing.

We want to involve the people, we want to involve the communities and we want to involve the appropriate regional Aboriginal governments when we are faced with an actual apprehension.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. When apprehensions occur, usually it's not the first time. They're usually repeated events. I call upon the Minister to assess the procedures that ensure that grandparents and extended family members are involved in the process because usually there's a plan of care indicated after the first apprehension.

Now, as well, perhaps the Minister can expand on the concepts of voluntary support services agreement as well as the extended family foster placement concepts as well as why it seems that this is not in place right now. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There are 43 minutes on the clock and I'm pretty sure you don't want me to use the entire 43 minutes. So what I'll do is I'll actually commit to get the Member a little bit of detail, because the question did actually contain a significant amount of detail. Needless to say, as we move forward with this differential response, we are about supporting families and putting mechanisms in to help families who are in a situation where their children may be in a neglect situation. Abuse situations will be different, but I'm happy to get all of that information, the binders, the information as well as a full briefing on that detail. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. No, I didn't want to precede the Minister's Child and Family Services Act that's going to also be taken on the road by our Social Programs committee. But at the same time, will the reassessment of this act also consider grandparents and extended families as we had discussed during question period here? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The act may not focus specifically on grandparents and elders or other family members, but the actual application of building stronger families moving forward is focused on the families. It is focused on providing supports to the families in situations of neglect to help those families find the solutions to the root causes of that neglect. Therefore, we'll be able to keep the children in our communities, in our regions and in their homes for as long as possible, hopefully, until they're ready to go off to college or university.

This is the direction we're taking, and like I said, I'm happy to share that information and have further discussions with committee as well as the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 712-17(5):
FORT MCPHERSON ARENA

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke of the need for a new arena in Fort McPherson. As we have a public administrator in the community for the next three years, I can see this project being held back for up to five years.

Will the Minister direct the public administrator to begin consultation with the community to design a new arena that will meet the needs of the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that they just met recently in the community, the administrator and officials, on the capital plan. I haven't had an update on that yet. This may be part of the capital plan, because I know it was in the works before the public administrator was put in place and they may continue to do the work. But I would have to confirm that and relay that information back to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: With the process, it needs to be known that if it's the wish of the community, they can make adjustments to the capital budget in that process.

Once the new arena is developed, will the Minister ensure that the next step of construction is underway?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Obviously, we want to work with the community and bring some of the wishes of the community forward, but this was a plan that was already in the works, and we will continue to see if we can carry out the plan. Once we do that, our officials at the regional level would work with them on the design, best practices, efficiency and the whole thing of financing. We will work with them on that, then the decision will be made whether to bring this forward or not, or begin the actual construction. There are some issues with the existing one, so that would almost cause this one to be a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 713-17(5):
RECREATIONAL LAND LEASE POLICY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions today for the Minister of Lands. There is currently work being done to develop a Recreational Land Lease Framework or policy, I think both at this point. It's been ongoing for a while. I would like to ask some questions to the Minister about that policy.

First of all, I would like to know what this particular work is concentrating on. What is the focus on the work that's being done? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Lands, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back when MACA had Commissioner's land, we had started the work on a recreational policy framework on the area that we had covered or that was under our jurisdiction. Since devolution we've become responsible for 940,000 square kilometres, I keep reminding everybody. So we had to expand on the work that we're actually doing. We've completed work through the MACA rec lease and policy, but we've had to expand on the work. Again, it's building on the work that we were already doing through the Recreational Leasing Policy Framework that we were doing through MACA. I'm going on a little too long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll sit down.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I understand that we are doing this work, but I don't understand the actual focus of the work. In developing this Recreational Land Lease Policy, what is the department focusing in on or what particular kind of use is the department focusing in on? As part of that, I'd like to ask the Minister what his definition of recreational use is. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Recreational is one of the highest demands here in and around the city. We have a focus area that we have withdrawn from any further potential leases until we do all the work to be sure that these areas sustain further development. We don't want to be crowding these recreational areas. A lot of folks put up a small cabin and then they want to go out there for quiet enjoyment. That's my definition of recreational, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for the answer. From what I am hearing from the Minister and in general as people talk about the development of this policy, I'm hearing that it's intended to regulate cabin use. It's not living dwellings, but dwellings that are used on an irregular basis.

I'd like to know from the Minister, if land is required for a use other than cabin use or an itinerant dwelling, let's say for a motocross track, and I have some constituents who are interested in doing that,

I'd like to know from the Minister if they were already using an already established site but it's within this corridor we've identified or withdrawn down the Ingraham Trail, is that the same as what the Minister has described as a recreational use? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: In this particular case that area is withdrawn and we have made it known that we are not entertaining any leases on any of the areas that are withdrawn. This would, I suppose, qualify as a recreational area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It goes to the desire of this group to establish an area where people can go and use motocross-type vehicles to get them out of going into the bush, so they aren't destroying land which we don't want them to destroy. The land in question has previously been used as a track. There are not going to be any dwellings on there, so it's not going to be near any water. There are no lakes close to that and it's unlikely that it's going to be a prime site for any kind of a cabin.

So, if the use of this particular site is agreed to by the Yellowknives Dene or the Akaitcho Government, the Aboriginal government within which area it occurs, would the Minister consider entertaining a land lease for this particular site? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We will do our consultation with the Aboriginal governments and get their views known. Again, the particular piece of property that we're discussing, once the interim withdrawal expires, then we would consider taking leases on this particular piece of property. The issue we're facing is we have had a lot of concern from folks around the capital that they find that too many of the areas are overpopulated and that's one of the reasons we are doing this work, is we want to identify, through the rec leasing framework that MACA did... There was a lake that we had identified that had some potential cabin sites on it. The public told us no, that wasn't a good idea, so we backed away from that and didn't earmark any of them for cabins. Once we do our consultations, then we will determine our next steps and keep all Members of the House informed of our progress going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 714-17(5):
DEVELOPING NORTHERN ATHLETES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of MACA. The athletes in the small communities are really doing well.

Based on the early TEST Olympic skiers program they had up in Inuvik, is there any type of pilot project considered within the department, along with a partnership, to look at a program that once worked well and developed Olympic athletes? Is there something like that within his department for the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to see all of our young people in the small communities, or in all of the Northwest Territories pick up physical activities, sport being a good one. Through this government in the 16th and 15th Assemblies we've dedicated a lot of funds to that effect, and we're starting to see the results of it now. I talked about the Arctic Winter Games a couple years ago when we had 27 of the 33 communities represented by athletes, and I think that indicates a lot of the good work that some of our sporting partners are doing. The Aboriginal Sport Circle, Sport North, the Rec and Park Council, they're delivering a lot of programs out to the communities with some financial support of this government. So, we're starting to see the results of that now and we continue to try and build on that because we could potentially have the 2023 Canada Winter Games here in the capital and we're looking forward to having our athletes compete and do well in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'm not too sure if I'm suggesting that we're pulling away from the good work that the communities and the people in the North are doing. What I'm looking at is a concept, an idea that we focus on a group of athletes in the community that would measure them in the results of the home life, the school life, the athletic abilities, you know, moving them through the stages of their growth and their ability. Like TEST did one time, we could look at this one program. Whether it be volleyball or hand games or basketball or martial arts, that we have a group and we measure them and say this is a good program. It can be equivalent to the TEST program that we have something here to develop these students through grades 6, 7, 8, 9 to Grade 12. That's what I'm looking at. I'm not too sure if the Minister is looking at something like that. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: It's not something that we are looking at right now. I know one of our sporting partners might be looking at something along those lines. But our sporting partners do provide a lot of workshops and that in the communities. They identify potential up-and-comers. We have a number of programs within the department that supports. Once they get to a higher level we have the Elite Athlete Performance Grant and we've had a lot of uptake on that. We have a

lot of athletes competing and doing well. So, there are a number of programs that we offer.

Again, the concept is very good. One of the challenges that we may face with a lot of these potential high performance athletes is having to move them all into one centre, and there may be some opposition to that. But these are things that we can identify as we go forward. Because, as I said before, we do have the Canada Games potentially coming to the NWT in 2023 and we want to make sure our athletes are ready to compete in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always thought this would be a good concept to consider given that the limitations of some of our small communities and that we have to do without facilities such as the larger centres, that would help our athletes move into another level of category of their sporting abilities. I thought that something like this would be good for our small communities. For example, even with the youth hand games, the kids get really excited going to other schools to play hand games, and this way you keep them in school and keep them moving forward.

So, I just want to ask the Minister, is that something that could be considered and maybe flushed out over the couple months that we have here?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We need to take all these into consideration because, at the end of the day, getting our kids active is most important first of all. We have a number of active after-school programs that we support. We have, as Member Moses spoke to today, the Traditional Games championships going on here in the capital for the next couple days and it's a great opportunity for, as the Member said, a lot of kids from communities getting together, trying out the games of other cultures. I've had the opportunity to go there a couple times and they enjoy that. They're actually quite competitive.

Getting our kids active is the first step. Identifying potential athletes that might want to move on to the next level would be another step. Again, our sporting partners work very closely in identifying a lot of those young athletes that have potential, and we try to develop them. Again, I mean, this is something that we need to take into consideration going forward because, I think, as we've seen from the Yukon model, they have some great training opportunities over there. We've seen it in the Canada Games. I think they got a couple of gold medals, silver and two bronze medals. Actually, one of the golds was won, as Mr. Blake said, by somebody from Fort McPherson, so we'll take some of the credit for that.

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

QUESTION 715-17(5):
NET METERING PROGRAM

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know there's a high cost when we're paying some of our utilities within our residences as well as commercial with the businesses. Today I have questions for the Minister of Finance in terms of our Net Metering Program. I know I've brought it up before. We hear Members' and Ministers' statements about we want to diversify our economy, support small business, support people in the communities.

I want to ask the Minister of Finance, with our five kilowatt cap that we currently have within our Net Metering Program, has that been reviewed and looked at so it allows people an incentive, such as businesses who would like to install solar panels into their communities to cut down on the costs that they incur over the winter months and be able to utilize it during the summer?

Can I ask the Minister, will that policy be reviewed so the kilowatt cap actually increases?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That cap has been removed.

MR. MOSES: If the cap has been removed, how has that been made aware to the people, residents and commercial businesses in the Northwest Territories that that cap has, in fact, been removed so that they can go ahead and move forward into looking at creating some solar?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That program is handled through the Power Corporation, and they've been taking care of the communications. If there are specific concerns from the Member, then I would be happy to talk to them about what may be needed to be done extra to ensure that those concerns could be addressed.

MR. MOSES: In terms of this initiative and the kilowatt cap and that being removed, we also have this Energy Efficiency Incentive Program. I was wondering if the Minister would look at seeing if there are any dollars that can go into that program to create more incentives for businesses and residents to take this initiative and this program into their own dwellings and businesses.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The energy programs have been consolidated in Public Works and Services including those incentive programs. Those incentive programs are funded. There are different types of programs for energy-efficient appliances, for assistance with installation of solar and other alternative energy sources, so that opportunity currently exists in those programs and

will now be handled by Public Works and Services and the Minister of Public Works and Services.

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

QUESTION 716-17(5):
FUEL BARREL RECOVERY
AND RECYCLING

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in Committee of the Whole it was discussed about the fuel barrels left throughout the Northwest Territories. I'd like to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, does the department know how many barrels there are? I'm not speaking to every single barrel, but I'm speaking to the large volume of how barrels we estimate are out there and the general location of the larger cache of barrels. I mean, we can always understand there will be one or two here and there, and those are difficult to track unless you stumble upon them.

I guess the question is: How many barrels do we estimate are out there and do we have the rough location as to where these environmental liabilities are out there?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thousands, Mr. Speaker, and they would be invariably in areas where there were old abandoned sites either for exploration or some type of small mining venture from the days of yore, but a lot of it tied to exploration sites.

MR. HAWKINS: What is the plan of Environment and Natural Resources to address this environmental liability that has been left on the people of the Northwest Territories to carry this burden and to be financially responsible for it? In other words, does the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have any type of plan in place or plan for the future to address this liability of these fuel barrels sitting there on the land?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The issue has been flagged. It's on our to-do list. We've been using the resources and capacity that we do have to look at the full rollout of our electronic waste recycling in addition to all of the other recycling programs that we've come into in the last few years. The barrel one, one raised in the House, as well, by the Member for Sahtu, for example, for the vehicles that have been abandoned are all things on our list that we intend to get to but not any time in the life of this government.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, that's okay if the government doesn't intend to get to it because they're either not interested or too busy, but I'm not

uninterested, and I'm certainly not too busy to bring up good ideas for the department to get to work on.

As such, would it not make sense for the government to consider putting a bit of fee, a reward or a bit of bounty on every one of these barrels?

By way of example, and I know the Minister likes examples, so for example, if we put a \$100 fee or reward or return price on every one of those barrels, we could fund that out of our environmental recycling fund. That way we could help clean up some of this environmental liability and at that same time we get Northerners involved in this process cleaning up the land. It would be a way to do this with the department not having any plan at this point.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I would be happy to concur with the Member that he is a fountain of good ideas. We are 270 days left until the next election. We have our to-do lists, work lists that are fully subscribed to. We are working to implement all those plus some others that have been added on over the course of the last year or so.

The Member raises a very legitimate, good issue. The issue of putting a fee, a recovery fee on each barrel is there. It's a question of the resources and the time. We have an Environment Fund that is being used and managed carefully to do all the things that currently are in place. To start taking out significant sums of money at this point without a clearly thought out plan would not be the wise use of those funds.

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

MR. HAWKINS: First off I want to say, I dare not argue with the Minister's keen eye and good observation of the assessment of the work being done here. I certainly like to agree when he's right.

My final question is: Would the Minister be willing to devote a bit of time and policy development in his department to take some assessment of this particular potential? We have people travelling on the land in different forms, be it on the lakes and rivers through their boats, be it on skidoos and other modes of transportation, and what a great way to reward people on their long trips out on the land by putting a little money in their pocket. Say, \$100 a barrel. They could be bringing them back and we could be doing a good thing. All I'm asking for is a little policy development.

Would the Minister task the department to at least flesh out the idea to see the merits behind it?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I was making the comments about the Member being a fountain of good ideas because we all know he tends to hide his light under a bushel and he's very self-

deprecating and humble, so I wanted to give him that little bit of promotion to help with his battered self-image.

So I will add that to the list that I have as I meet regularly with ENR and we will give it the consideration it deserves. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 717-17(5):
YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT GOVERNANCE

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to continue my questions with the Minister of Transportation on my topic today, which is the Yellowknife Airport.

Clearly today, we've heard 20 years of a government of complacency. We've heard about a government of perpetual planning where the guiding principles of "delay, defer and defuse" I believe are alive and well in this government and a government that is much okay with losing \$2 million a year.

Given that the Yellowknife Airport is bleeding, as I said, to the tune of \$2 million annually, can the Minister inform the house what are the short- and long-term strategies to financially balance the shortfall so that it's not on the backs of the taxpayer? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This evaluation of this RFP is going to get us to look at some options that would address the cost of operating the airport. As I indicated, and as the Member also indicated, this is costing us about \$2 million. So, the option could be if we want to address this immediately, it would be to raise the price of the tickets of the travelling public, or we could raise the cost to the companies that are operating out of the airport. Again, they would probably likely just pass the costs on to the tickets. So, I would say that if we wanted to raise the \$2 million, it would cost the travelling public about \$10 a ticket because, even though there are 500,000 passengers travelling through the Yellowknife Airport, that's usually 250,000 tickets. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. I'm disappointed that the Minister would use scare tactics such as let's just raise the price of tickets for passengers, let's raise the prices for the airlines themselves. This is preposterous. These scare tactics are just being used to camouflage what I consider poor management, bottom line. We as a government have a responsibility to be better managers and not use scare tactics.

Can the Minister indicate to the House in the wake of almost every other airport of similar volume and size in Canada developing independent authorities,

why is the Yellowknife Airport being held back for maximizing its benefit for its community? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The fact is it costs \$7 million a year to operate the airport and our revenues at this time are \$5 million. So in order to make the numbers match, we'd have to raise revenues by \$2 million. So that could be an airport improvement fund on the tickets, like I indicated, or we reduce the operating costs or maybe reduce service at the airport to reduce the costs, but those are the costs now. So the government is now looking at those three different options that I indicated: an airport authority that is in place in many airports; a Crown corporation, which would be similar to the Housing Corporation; or a revolving fund similar to the petroleum products division. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: When a Minister is answering a question of how we can do things better, rather than using scare tactics maybe we should maybe run things a bit better. That might be the main solution to a lot of the problem we have here.

In its final report to the Minister in 2003, the report called it "the analysis of en route alternative airport facility and requirement of associate issues." It states and recommends that a number of improvements for extended range twin-engine operation, or ETOPS, and a capital requirement of \$19.4 million to extend runway 15-33 to a 10,000-foot runway.

Can the Minister indicate why 12 years later we are still waiting for this national and international emergency provision? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The fact is it is the money. If we're going add a fair chunk of capital on to the already large amount of infrastructure that's at the airport that we are paying for, then it would be a matter of having to increase the costs of the airport again. If money was no object, we would have probably extended that airport quite some time ago. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Department of Transportation should take notice on how to run a business rather than government sometimes.

Finally, 11 years ago in the 2004 Final Report of the Yellowknife Airport Development Plan, it called for the reconfiguration of the existing passenger terminal building and development of a new west side terminal complex, emergency response service, de-icing facility and other major retrofits. The entire cost of the proposal, estimated in the order of \$100 million, was to be spread over the next 20 years.

Can the Minister give us an update to this progress? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Change is a difficult thing when you're operating at the airport. We have tried to initiate some of those changes that were not too intrusive and it was difficult to do. So we are still looking at those things and it has taken some time, but the airport is operational. We are expending more money than we are taking in at this time, so we're looking at some options now that would not pass too much of the costs on to the travelling public. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 718-17(5):
RECREATIONAL LAND LEASE POLICY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a few more questions to the Minister of Lands and follow up on some of my previous questions about the Recreational Land Lease Policy. The Minister advised that there is a moratorium, that there is land withdrawal and I'd like to first off ask the Minister, when did this moratorium and land withdrawal first start and when is it expected to be done? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Lands, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we had the focus area, the moratorium on the focus area now I think has been in place for about two or three years. We had initially put a lot of it in place when we were doing the rec leasing from the MACA side of it on Commissioner's land.

As to the actual timetable, I will find that information here as soon as I sit down and relay it to the Member when I stand up again for the next question. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I look forward to the answer with bated breath.

My next question goes to the difficulties the group that I'm talking about, the motocross group, are having in trying to advance their project. So I'd like to ask the Minister what's the rationale for the department saying we won't take any applications for a land lease now, we will not take absolutely any applications until this moratorium is over.

Why would the Minister not allow the department to take applications for people who indicate an interest and then not process them, but simply take an application? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The intent of not taking any applications at all is so we can concentrate on the focus area and what it can sustain. I take the Member's point, though, about just taking applications and not processing them and I take her

point and I'll have a discussion with officials. We need to make sure that we're able to concentrate on the work at hand, get the rec policy framework done and then we can move forward in trying to identify potential spots in the focus area for possible lease opportunities. This is a huge issue right in the focus area because that's where the greatest demand is. Across the rest of the Northwest Territories it's not such a huge issue. That's why there's no interim withdrawal there. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks. I didn't hear an answer to my first question, but I imagine the Minister is still working on that.

The Minister, again, is referring to a huge demand for cabin lots or for hunting and fishing licences. I want to say again that this organization is asking for a piece of land that is not going to be used for cabin-type activities. It's going to take motocross, dirt bikes, et cetera, out of the woods and onto a track which is where they need to be. They are planning on education. They are planning on youth. They are planning on highlighting safety and all that.

I would like to ask the Minister, since this area is not going to be used for cabin-type recreational space, would he reconsider an application from the motocross group to let that land be leased? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: A decision was made not to entertain any applications in a focused area. This falls within the focused area. If we were to entertain any applications for this particular piece, then we would have other folks coming forward saying you need to entertain an application for this or for that. I think we need to treat all groups and those interested in leasing opportunities equally. The answer to the first question is mid-2016 our plan is to have all the work done.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. That's a long time. That's 18 months from now. The work might be done by then, but I guess it seems to me that this land withdrawal has been in place a lot longer than just six months.

When did this land withdrawal first start? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I believe I said it's been in place for about three years now while we're doing the work for the first part of it through Municipal and Community Affairs, as we're doing the rec leasing policy framework. So we are anticipating that we'll be done by mid-2016.

We have to identify a lot of areas within the focus area. We are looking at opportunities to possibly release some lots for leasing because these lots are developed and are within developed areas. We

are looking at that possibility. We are expecting to make an announcement very soon on whether that's going to go ahead or not. So, there will be opportunities there.

I commend the patience of the people who are looking for recreational areas. They've been very patient with the Department of MACA and now Lands through the last three years. We thought this was a way we could possibly get some out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 719-17(5): SAFE SCHOOLS LEGISLATION

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 31, 2013, our Minister of Education indicated to us that legislation alone to deal with bullying was not enough. He indicated then: "...we will finalize our Territorial Safe Schools Action Plan to address bullying and develop regulations, policies and procedures that will create safe learning environments." So my questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

On October of that year, the Standing Committee on Social Programs on Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, recommended that a territorial code of conduct for safe schools guidelines and regulations be provided by the standing committee and other stakeholders in education for review and feedback in advance of their enactment.

Can the Minister indicate if this reasonable request from standing committee was ever acted on in good faith by the department? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When we first talked about the safe and caring school legislation, there was discussion about a territorial school code of conduct being established in all schools. So those are just some of the discussions and engagements we've had with the school boards. They are moving forward to developing their own code of conduct within the school establishment. That has been in place.

There has been a lot of discussion happening at the school level. We are hoping in the beginning of the 2015-16 school year an overall code of conduct will be established. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: So from what I'm gathering, we are still working on that program. A further action of this report by standing committee was that a territorial code of conduct, safe school guidelines and school practices should empower bystanders to report bullying and ensure protective measures are taken afterwards.

Can the Minister indicate how is it today monitored, measured and reported to this department and to Members of this House? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Each school is provided with the tools and supports to develop and implement the most effective and relevant safe school plan for their school and also the community, and there's also an evaluation monitoring mechanism. With every program that we've established, we've initiated, there's a MEA, monitoring evaluating accountability aspect to it because it's very important that we evaluate how our program is operating. So, this is one area that we continue to push forward with the school boards on an annual basis. Mahsi.

MR. DOLYNNY: Another action of the standing committee is to provide schools with the option of adopting mandatory counselling to bullies and provide adequate resources to schools choosing this course of action.

Can the Minister indicate is this being done in our schools and can he elaborate on the results? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There's a variety of stakeholders involved with these types of discussion. One of the areas that the Member is alluding to, mandatory counselling, has been brought up. We're fully aware of that, and even the superintendents of school boards are aware of it, as well, and how can we mitigate that into our current code of conduct measures.

So, these are ongoing discussions that we are currently having with the school boards. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response on the last one.

Standing committee again recommended that ECE should stay abreast of the website developments that pose a risk to students and that ECE provide an updated list to education authorities of those websites that should be blocked on school communication systems.

Can the Minister indicate if this is indeed in place and how is it working? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There are all kinds of websites that have been established within my department. We're working with the school boards. There are some websites that may not be suitable for various reasons and it's been highlighted. What the Member is referring to is gearing towards that as well.

So, we are, again, working with the DEC's and DEAs to capture that, and if it's a concern, then we need to address it. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 205-17(5):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2014-2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 206-17(5):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2014-2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 207-17(5):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following three documents, entitled "Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015;" "Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures) No. 3, 2014-2015;" and "Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 208-17(5):
CORRESPONDENCE FROM DELINE FIRST
NATION TO MINISTER MILTENBERGER
REGARDING SAHTU GATHERING
FOR THE CARIBOU CONSENSUS

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document referred to yesterday in questions in Committee of the Whole on the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

BILL 47:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 2, 2015, I will move that Bill 47, An Act to Amend the

Child and Family Services Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

BILL 48:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MENTAL HEALTH ACT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 2, 2015, I will move that Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions

MOTION 37-17(5):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO MARCH 2, 2015,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, February 26, 2015, it shall be adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2015;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to March 2, 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. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act; Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act; Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act; Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act; Committee Report 10-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; and Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Good afternoon, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to consider Bill 38 and Bill 41. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We will commence after a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will call committee back to order. As I indicated prior to the break, we will be doing Bill 38 and Bill 41 today. With that, I'd like to go to the Minister responsible for the bill, or at least pinch hitting for the bill today, Mr. Abernethy, to see if he has any opening comments on Bill 38. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act.

The main focus of the amendments to the Jury Act is to permit the Department of Justice to develop regulations that will allow French-speaking residents of Yellowknife to be effectively identified for inclusion on a specialized French jury list. There are also a number of minor amendments, including one that will add Public Prosecution Service of Canada employees to the list of persons exempted from jury service. Another amendment will repeal the provision of the act that references fees being specified in the Rules of the Supreme Court, as the Jury Fees Regulations now fulfill this requirement.

The need to amend the act became apparent in 2013, when a mistrial resulted from an inability to establish a French jury in Yellowknife, despite an extensive process that saw the sheriff summons four times the usual number of potential jurors. The Criminal Code provides for the right of an individual to be tried in either of Canada's official languages in respect of a criminal matter heard anywhere in Canada. It is our obligation to ensure that we can facilitate that here in the Northwest Territories.

The selection of an NWT jury must proceed strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Jury Act. Currently, the sheriff is only allowed to collect information derived from health care registrations that show the name and address of persons who are 18 years of age or older. There is no present authority to seek information about the languages used or understood by health care registrants. Without the changes included in this legislation, it

will be difficult to empanel a French or bilingual jury in the Northwest Territories.

This legislation results from a very careful review of the government's legal obligations. The Department of Justice has kept the Supreme Court fully informed of its plans, including sharing this proposed legislation. Departmental officials have met with representatives of the Yellowknife and Northwest Territories' francophone communities to explore mechanisms that would permit the effective identification of a French-speaking jury pool. This engagement will continue as regulations are developed under the amended Jury Act. We know that we will need the continuing assistance of the French community, and I am confident that we will receive that support.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of Bill 38, and would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have regarding this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. I will now go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs that reviewed Bill 38 for committee comments on the bill. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has completed its review of Bill 38, An Act to amend the Jury Act. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill permits the sheriff to obtain names of prospective jurors for a French or bilingual trial from a jury list compiled in accordance with the regulations. It also exempts from jury duty employees of the Public Prosecution Services of Canada and the Department of Justice of the Government of Canada.

The public hearing on the bill was held on February 2, 2015. The committee heard from the executive director of the Federation Franco-Tenoise, who indicated general support for the bill. The committee's clause-by-clause review was also held on February 2, 2015. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 38 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 38. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. I'd like to turn our attention to Minister Abernethy if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring into the House. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I do, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House.

Minister Abernethy, if you'd be so kind as to introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today are Emily Ingarfield, the manager of policy and planning on my left; and Kelly McLaughlin, director of legislation on my right.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Ladies, thank you for joining us here today. Committee, we'll open up Bill 38 with general comments. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of comments here. At committee we did have considerable discussion about whether or not the changes in the Jury Act would mean that French-speaking residents would be required for jury duty more often than any other resident and there was a concern, which I think at committee we were comfortable with it at the end. But I just wanted to express that concern to say that it is out there, and I encourage the Minister and the department to make sure in the implementation of these changes to the Jury Act that there are safeguards in there that someone who is French-speaking and also English-speaking would not be required to be on twice as many juries, for instance, as someone who is unilingual. I think the department is considering that, but I wanted to give voice to it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This was actually discussed in committee with the Minister of Justice. Just for the record, this type of jury trial, the requirement for a French jury is incredibly rare here in the Northwest Territories. In fact, there's been one. That's not saying it won't happen, but it is incredibly rare here and the department is obviously interested in continuing to work with the French community, who have been active in this process, to make sure that we can provide jury trials in French here in the Northwest Territories. We also obviously want to be cautious that we're not overburdening some of our residents, but I do want to be clear that this is an incredibly rare occurrence here in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Continuing on with general comments, I have Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to thank the Minister responsible for bringing this bill forward in terms of making sure that we actually uphold and protect the rights and the laws of our residents of the Northwest Territories. I think this really strengthens the bill as we have it right now in terms of the bill before us, the Jury Act, so that

there are no loopholes that result in mistrials and we protect the rights of residents, possible victims and the general public.

I just want to say that I'm glad to see this and we are unique in the Northwest Territories in that we do have a small population, but then you go further and our French-speaking population is even smaller. We don't want to put a burden on the amount of times that our French-speaking population would be called to jury. I think that we've gone through that and we've worked out all the issues there, and I think that this bill is going to reflect that and ensure that our French-speaking population is not being called more times than not.

Also, I just want to make the comment from the executive director for the Federation Franco-Tenoise. He made a really good comment when he was presenting to committee in that he did say that not only for this bill or this department that they'd want to give input into but all departments within the government should go and seek the advice and support from the French-speaking community in terms of these kinds of things. I think that went well and I think committee heard him and want to utilize all our resources when we're trying to make legislation.

I do agree with the Minister that such jury requests for a French-speaking jury for any trial are very rare, and I think that moving forward we've really strengthened the Jury Act and that's going to be something that's going to help protect our residents.

I want to thank committee, as well, who asked a lot of questions as we were pushing this forward. I'm glad to see it here in Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. I appreciate the comment, and we're working with our partners, including the different French associations here in the Northwest Territories as we move forward.

Should this legislation be passed, it will take a bit of time, six to 12 months to roll it out. But to ensure that we are still able to provide French juries here in the Northwest Territories, we have agreements with three different provinces that will allow us to hold French jury trials in their jurisdictions until such time as we get our stuff in place in six to 12 months.

Now, as I've indicated, it is rare that this happens, but we have set up with I believe it's Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec should we be required to provide a French trial in the next six to 12 months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. General comments. Is committee prepared to do clause-by-clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Okay, there are only nine clauses. So if committee is okay, we're going to go a clause at a time. Committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Committee, Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 9 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 38 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 38 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to thank Minister Abernethy, Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Ingarfield for joining us today. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you.

Committee, on committee's wishes, we're going to continue on Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act. Again, we're going to go to the Minister responsible for introducing the bill for opening comments. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act.

The Partnership Act governs the relationship between partners in a business partnership, including limited partnerships and limited liability partnerships, as well as the relationships between a partnership and those they deal with.

The primary focus of the proposed amendments is to improve the outdated registration requirements of the act. The bill includes amendments that require, in almost all cases, partnerships and business names be registered before the entity operates in the Northwest Territories and that the registration be renewed every four years. It will also add restrictions to the names that may be registered and amend administrative provisions of the act to correspond more closely with similar provisions in the Business Corporations Act.

The department consulted in respect of the proposed amendments with the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, which in turn made consultation materials accessible to all of its members, and also with the Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce. A consultation paper, including the provisions of a draft act, was also posted on the department's website, inviting public input. In addition, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment provided constructive suggestions that are reflected in the bill before you today.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of Bill 41 and would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have regarding this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. At this time I'll go to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, the committee that reviewed Bill 41, for comments on the bill. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has completed its review of Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill clarifies registration requirements, sets restrictions on the registration of new names, aligns administrative procedures with the Business Corporations Act and allows for judicial review of a registrar's decision. The bill also specifies offences, sets new maximum fine amounts and makes minor amendments to improve readability.

The public hearing on the bill was held on February 2, 2015. The committee's clause-by-clause review was held the same day. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 41 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

During the hearing a member asked for clarification on the clause pertaining to judicial review of a registrar's decision. After the hearing and review had concluded, the Minister indicated his agreement with the member's concern and prepared an amendment to improve the wording of the clause. A motion in support of that amendment will be brought before Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 41. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister Abernethy, do you have witnesses you'd like to bring into the House?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I do.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can please escort the witnesses into the House.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me on my left is Gary MacDougall, who is the director of legal registries and, on my right, Ian Rennie, who is legislative counsel responsible for this piece of legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. MacDougall, Mr. Rennie, welcome to the House again. Nice to see you folks.

Committee, we're going to open up Bill 41 to general comments. Is committee prepared to do clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 32 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Clause 33. Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 100-17(5):
BILL 41, AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PARTNERSHIP ACT – AMEND CLAUSE 33,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a motion. I move that Bill 41 be amended by deleting proposed subsection 106.1(1) in Clause 33 and substituting the following:

106.1(1) Subject to this section, a decision by the registrar under this act is final.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We're just going to circulate this motion. One second.

Committee, the motion is on the floor and the motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Mr. Moses mentioned in his opening comments, we did have a discussion at committee on this particular clause. The original wording in Clause 33 on Section 106.1(1) stated that a decision by the registrar under this act is final. Then further on under the same section it talks about that a decision by the registrar could be reviewed. It seemed to me at the time when we were discussing it that the one section was contradicting the other. We discussed it at committee, and as was stated, committee went away and thought that things were done, but in their wisdom the Department of Justice looked at this and determined that for better clarification there's a few words added to subsection 106.1(1) and it simply says, "subject to this section." So a decision by the registrar is final, but it then allows for a review of the decision by the court through a judicial review.

That's why this motion is coming forward. I just want to say thank you to the Department of Justice for reconsidering and for making this clarification. I think it makes the act a little bit better. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Clause 33 as amended.

---Clause 33 as amended approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Clause 34.

---Clauses 34 to 40 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 41 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Bill 41 is now ready for third reading as amended. Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank Minister Abernethy, Mr. Rennie and Mr. MacDougall. Thank you for joining us today. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

What is the wish of committee? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Dolynny.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act, and Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, and would like to report progress and that Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act, is ready for third reading and that Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, is also ready for third reading as amended. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do I have a seconder? Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Monday, March 2, 2015, 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 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act
 - Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act
 - Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act
 - Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act
 - Committee Report 10-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
 - Tabled Document 188-17(5), NWT Main Estimates 2015-2016
 - Tabled Document 205, Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015
 - Tabled Document 206, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015
 - Tabled Document 207, Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act

- Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 2nd, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

