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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

**HANSARD**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

Pages 5949 – 5976

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Nunakput)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, March 4, 2015****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Welcome back, colleagues. I would like to make a few remarks before we begin.

My home community of Tuktoyaktuk was hit with a major winter storm on Sunday. Mayor Darrel Nasogaluak declared a state of emergency when blizzard conditions were responsible for a power outage that affected the entire community.

I am pleased to report that power has now been restored to the community. I would like to extend my thanks to Mayor Nasogaluak and his administration for ensuring that everyone in Tuk was well cared for during the power outage. Everyone was kept safe and warm.

A big thank you also goes out to the Northwest Territories Power Corporation for their work in restoring power. Their crews worked through the night to get the community back to normal.

I am always reminded of the true power of our communities when they pull together to look after each other. Thank you to all who helped out over the past few days.

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 173-17(5):  
PROPOSED NWT ELECTRONICS  
RECYCLING PROGRAM**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, regulated electronics recycling programs are in place or under development in all Canadian provinces and the Yukon Territory and we are making good progress on an electronics recycling program in the Northwest Territories.

Recycling electronics helps prevent harmful materials from leaching into the environment when disposed in landfills, burned or left on the land. Recycling old electronics into new products also minimizes environmental impacts related to extracting raw materials through mining and other activities.

In a survey conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2008, residents identified electronics recycling as one of the top three priorities for the territorial Waste Reduction and Recovery Program.

ENR began an electronics recycling pilot project in September 2013, which has collected over 20 tonnes of electronics at bottle depots in Fort McPherson, Norman Wells, Fort Smith and Fort Providence.

Through a competitive process, e-waste collected under the NWT's program will be sent to a recycler in Alberta on a three-year contract. Recyclers will be required to be registered under the Government of Alberta electronics recycling program. This will ensure important environmental standards and employee health and safety standards are met, and will make sure no electronics are sent to countries where minimum standards are not in place to protect the environment and employee health and safety.

There is a cost to recycling the e-waste but these will be covered through the environmental handling fees charged on each new electronics product purchased in the NWT or purchased online. These fees range from \$3 for a portable computer to \$100 for large industrial printers.

ENR is currently drafting new electronics recycling regulations under the Waste Reduction and Recovery Act.

The program has been designed to ensure a level playing field for retailers. Proposed fees are comparable to program start-up fees in other jurisdictions and are no higher than the top end of fees in other Canadian jurisdictions. Measures will also be put in place to make sure all electronics suppliers are compliant with the regulations, including online electronics distributors.

From January 6 to February 16, 2015, stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the proposed NWT electronics recycling program. These included industry associations representing electronics suppliers, NWT and local Chamber of Commerce offices, Arctic Co-op, Northwest Company, NWT Association of Communities, mines, Government of the Northwest Territories, Public Works and Services and the waste management service industry.

Most of the feedback received was from national and multinational electronics manufacturers, distributors and retailers. There was generally support for the program and no feedback was received expressing broad opposition to an electronics recycling program in NWT.

Comments from stakeholders included ensuring that environmental handling fees are set appropriately, delaying the program launch to avoid busy times for retailers, engaging industry in refining the product list and harmonizing the NWT program with other jurisdictions as much as possible.

The program will be funded by environmental handling fees charged to electronic suppliers on all new designated electronics sold in or into the NWT. Refunds will not be provided for electronics returned for recycling.

The draft regulations will be complete in spring 2015 and a territory-wide electronics recycling program is targeted to launch in fall 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 174-17(5):  
ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES PROGRAMS  
AND PROGRESS

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

Mr. Speaker, Aboriginal Languages Month is an opportune time to reflect on past successes and the work that lies ahead in continuing to promote, revitalize and preserve our nine official Aboriginal languages. We are all burdened by the truth that some of our Aboriginal languages are struggling, not because we are not doing enough to support them but because the challenges they face are complex.

Residential school and colonialism have left some deep scars behind and are largely responsible for Aboriginal people struggling to keep their languages alive. Adding to this reality is the fact that English has taken over as the predominant language of our society. This history can never be forgotten nor can its impact be reversed quickly.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is, however, that the Government of the Northwest Territories is partnering with Aboriginal governments, schools and the federal government to make a difference and reverse this trend. This collaboration is vital as success can only be achieved by working together, each doing our part. This is not about duplicating efforts and creating bureaucracy. It is about sharing in the responsibility and helping build one another's capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the NWT invests \$15 million each year to support and promote Aboriginal languages through:

- building the capacity of Aboriginal governments to implement their five-year regional language plans;
- funding culture and language programs in schools;
- funding language nest programs in daycares;
- supporting Aboriginal broadcasting;
- funding programs that increase the number of Aboriginal language instructors;
- developing Aboriginal language terminology;
- supporting specific Aboriginal language initiatives; and
- providing government services in Aboriginal languages where possible.

Mr. Speaker, these are the highlights of our actions, providing evidence that we are firing on all cylinders. Key to all of our efforts, however, is parents speaking their Aboriginal language at home with their children, and children embracing the learning of that language. Without that key ingredient our efforts can only go so far.

Mr. Speaker, administering support for Aboriginal languages is complex. To simplify our approach and provide the funding in the most straightforward way, as of April 1, 2014, all Aboriginal governments now have the control and flexibility to decide where best to allocate their funding. They have done their homework and have developed very rich regional language plans. Our job is now to support them in their efforts to implement them and give them time to assess what has worked best and where improvements can be made.

We are helping them in developing monitoring and evaluation plans for their accountability and measuring their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the advice of the Aboriginal governments and our elders; they are the ones on the ground in the communities. They see the decline happening before their eyes. But they also see pockets of progress: there are the children working with elders to create a dictionary; there are youth teaching others what they've learned; there are children sitting with community elders and learning from them; and there are communities rallying from the youngest to the oldest to ensure that everyone on the ground is reaching beyond their communities to share their languages with the world. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON CORRECTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The office of the Auditor General of Canada released another excellent report yesterday. It's their usual quality of work and I thank them for it. The first line of the Auditor General's press release pretty much says it all: "The Department of Justice has not met its key responsibilities for the rehabilitation, safety and security of inmates within the correctional system."

As the office of the Auditor General consistently does, their auditors look at NWT policies, procedures and mandates for correctional services and facilities, along with generally accepted nationally used requirements for correctional facilities.

Like other Auditor General's reports on NWT programs before this one, I found it depressing reading. Depressing because we are not providing adequately for our inmates, and it is depressing because it confirms what we already know or suspected.

The report mentions two main areas as lacking: first, access to services and programs to assist inmates with rehabilitation, and second, safe and secure operation of correctional facilities.

The report is especially damning where short-stay inmates are concerned, stays of less than 120 days. One hundred percent of these inmates received no programming while they were incarcerated. If we expect to improve things in our territory, to stop the cycle of substance abuse, family violence and sexual abuse, it is imperative that we provide opportunities for rehabilitation of all inmates. The goal of incarceration should be to assess an inmate's needs in regards to programming and then provide it so they can change their behaviour. Especially concerning to me is that programs to help with the mental health of inmates are not available.

The other area highlighted by the report was safety and security, and all of our facilities were found wanting. Management of the operations of these facilities does not meet the mark. The report points out a lack of such simple but necessary things as regular fire drills.

The Justice department has responded to all of the recommendations in the report and has agreed with them all. It's good to see that agreement, but as is often said, talk is cheap. The proof of the department promises will be in their actions if, in six or 12 months' time we have concrete improvements, such as better assessment at intake, programs to address all inmates' needs –

both while they're incarcerated and on their release – and safe and secure facilities.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations will hold a public hearing on this report on May 21<sup>st</sup> with the Minister of Justice and department officials. At that time I look forward to hearing how the department will address the deficiencies in our correctional system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FORT PROVIDENCE HEALTH CENTRE

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to News/North, the Fort Providence Health Centre is on the verge of opening its doors. The keys to the new Fort Providence Health Centre were expected to be handed over to the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Donna Allen, chief executive officer of the health authority, said work on the building started in 2013 and was expected to be completed by then. At the quarterly public administrative meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Allen said they were also expecting equipment and supplies to be moved in by January 30<sup>th</sup>. She said a grand opening ceremony will be held at some point to mark the completion of the work, but a date has not yet been set.

The new facility was estimated to cost \$11 million and the size is approximately 6,800 square metres, about one-third larger than the old health centre.

The latest information I've been able to gather is that the health centre hasn't opened yet. Apparently work is still being done on the building and there is no tentative date for the opening. My constituents in Fort Providence are eagerly awaiting the opening of the health centre.

During oral questions I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERGER INQUIRY

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Forty years ago to the day yesterday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Justice Thomas Berger sat down in a community and listened to his first presentation on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, which would become better known as the Berger Inquiry.

Last night I had the opportunity and the honour to attend the packed house at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and listen to a

presentation by Mr. Berger himself. All I can say is, it was amazing.

The Berger Inquiry was way before my time, and the stories that he shared, the information that he mentioned was something that was special to me because it helped guide the history of our territory. He talked about all his travels to the communities, how he played baseball with some of the local residents in some of the small communities, went fishing, took boats up around the Delta, just really great and authentic stories. He also talked about how the Berger Inquiry actually put the North on the map for all of Canada, and there was also a very special moment when individuals who actually did a presentation at the Berger Inquiry actually stood up and got a round of applause from all the people who were in attendance last night. It was very strong and they were very special.

As we all know, the recommendations that came out of the Berger Inquiry dealt with the moratorium to deal with critical issues such as settling land claims as well as putting aside conservation areas. What his report did was helped create the Nahanni National Park and really amazing things like conservation areas before the pipeline went in. The Berger Inquiry set a standard for the Yukon as well as Alaska coming and asking Thomas Berger to come and do the same type of work in Alaska and the Yukon so they too can set aside conservation areas as well as look at how they can make things better in terms of this pipeline and the Berger Inquiry.

I'd like to encourage Members and the public to go to the Prince of Wales Museum. They have an exhibit called Thunder in Our Voices. It's amazing; it's part of our history and it's a great educational tool, not only for Members and residents but even for the schools. He did mention that he spoke to a Grade 10 classroom yesterday, and they talked for about two hours just asking questions. So it was amazing, and I encourage all Members to check it out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MAINTAINING WINTER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As everyone knows, Hay River is the hub of the North. March is a very mad time of year. We have a lot of the shipping of fuel getting up to the northern communities. Right now tends to be a time when we get a lot of questions about the road systems, about how winter roads can be extended and how we can keep those roads open for longer.

We've been hearing lots of issues about cycles, the amount of money that the GNWT puts into road

construction at the beginning and as well at the end. How do we keep these roads open? We're getting a lot of questions and concerns from constituents and companies that are operating in those areas asking why are companies telling us we only have two more cycles to do road repairs, to fix roads, to grade them, to water them. It's always about funding. It's always about money.

I know we just spent a bunch of money this year in our firefighting system and fire suppression. I think roads are critical. We have people from the communities who travel down on these roads. Road safety is a very big concern for them. We have lots of trucks on the road. If those roads are in rough shape, it's very unsafe for the general public and the travelling public.

Even this past weekend we had a truck roll over. One of the situations in that was the way the road was built. My concern is, and my question to the Minister of Transportation will be, why can we not put more money into the roads just like fire suppression if we have a rough year? If we have a tough year building roads, why can't we ask for additional money? I think most of the Members on this side would be supportive of making sure the roads are safe for the general public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FUNDING FOR DECHINTA BUSH UNIVERSITY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dechinta, with leading indigenous professors co-teaching with northern leaders, is celebrating the fifth anniversary of a pilot project to test delivery of original northern university courses designed and developed in the North. It's been a resounding success for the only land-based and independent university-accredited education provider in the Northwest Territories. It is now time to transition to an operational program in all regions.

The unique Dechinta model has no infrastructure expense. It is designed to be land-based and to use and support already built private regional lodges and camps. It focuses resources on student places and employing local First Nations people and elders as instructors, thereby supporting local and regional economies.

From their start-up in 2009, Dechinta established long-term research partnerships with the University of Alberta and McGill University, bringing hundreds of thousands of research dollars into the North. The Dechinta model works. It's cost-effective; students love it; and First Nations support it.

Courses are focused on critical northern issues and topics, including an original minor in native studies.

With equal weight on both academia and traditional land-based learning, there are now seven courses accredited by the University of Alberta and McGill University. Dechinta courses are now grossly oversubscribed with 97 applications for the 30 spots available so far this year. The fact that 100 percent of their 250 course graduates have gone on to either further post-secondary education or employment further reflects the success of their approach.

Currently, our students must travel south to get a university education, at both extra financial and social cost, but this may be changing. One prerequisite, though, is meeting the demands of the Education Act and recognizing Dechinta in legislation.

Dechinta has done the planning work needed to enable continued development and expansion into all regions of the NWT, which also makes strong economic sense. Establishing regional programs will provide six full-time and 32 part-time positions in each region comprised of elders and other community residents and meet the interests of students unable to secure a course place in the North Slave program, all while supporting existing private lodge and camp infrastructure.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BROMLEY:** The opportunity to promote development of a made-in-the-North university with a curriculum tailor-made for northern students is not to be missed. In the words of founder Dr. Erin Freeland-Ballantyne, “we need to build a new generation of leaders and researchers who can walk confidently in both worlds and be change-makers.” The pilot has clearly demonstrated how. Now let’s put the financial and legislation support in place to put this unique model to work across the NWT.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON  
AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON  
CORRECTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the NWT was witness to yet another scathing report of the Auditor General. This time it was on our corrections system. Members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly are not immune to the ever-repeating saga of these types of poor department results, and we have only to reference the past child and family services, income support and daycare reports to familiarize ourselves with what many in this room know all too well.

Shamefully, it is only under the watchful eye and the written investigative powers of the Auditor General of Canada until departments or Ministers divert their attention from inaction to action.

We know the recent failure of this department’s attempt at correction services is now in the hands of committee, and I will leave it up to this committee to do its due diligence and report back to the House. My concern today is not this legislative process before the House but, more importantly, have our own laws been breached by department’s inaction in the wake of such report findings?

If I might quote from the report, “According to the Corrections Act, the Corrections Service Regulations and Corrections Service Directives, the department, through corrections services, is responsible for the administration of correctional facilities, including their safe, secure and efficient operation.”

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice by law may “investigate and inquire into any matter connected with or affecting the administration and operation of corrections service or a correctional centre.”

When one reads terminology such as serious deficiencies, have not assessed, did not adequately deliver, did not receive, was not offered, and did not conduct, these are serious words used repeatedly in this report by the Auditor General which point to grievous contraventions in our NWT Corrections Act.

Having great powers over man must come with equal responsibility of conduct. Unfortunately, with much sadness, this Auditor General report of Canada once again shakes the very foundation of trust bestowed on a department and its leadership. Let’s hope for better days to follow for those Northerners in our care.

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

MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON  
DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS CENTRES  
OF EXCELLENCE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of great ideas, a lot of great concepts and discussions start from an idea. The Northwest Territories is no stranger to a lot of great things happening in this great country of ours. In the early ‘60s they had a sports excellence program going very strong up in Inuvik called a TEST program where a lot of world-class skiers came about. The Firth twins, the late Fred Kelly, a lot of skiers came from that area and they had a good program, they had access to resources and they did well. So we know that our small communities can do well in any sports given the opportunity. That was an excellent idea. I would like to see that program come to life again.

Also, a lot of good ideas come from a lot of good people. For example, this morning I heard the people talk about the literacy program that happened in Ontario where these students increased their literacy ability by a great percentage. The Department of Education talked about a needs assessment in the Sahtu region. The number one issue for the Sahtu people was literacy. What if we had that program come into our small communities to increase the literacy in our small communities? That would be fantastic.

Another idea that I read about was Dr. Mini Silbert from San Francisco. She worked with 16,000 inmates with no professional help. That idea over 30 years, 90 percent of the inmates that she worked with went to high school, got a degree or went to work.

I think these ideas are going to be fantastic in the North. We have people like Brendan Green, Mike Argue and Brent Betsina all because they worked hard doing what they can do with the support they had. We have a lot of good teachers in our communities who also need to be acknowledged for the sports they've contributed to and the students who are now at the Arctic Winter Games. I want to say thank you to all the good people in the small communities for helping our young people, and I hope these ideas take some planning so we can grow them. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TROUT LAKE AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The community of Trout Lake is proud of their new airport, which was fully commissioned and went into service in November of 2014. There is limited equipment in the community to take care of the 3,500-foot runway and the much larger apron. I was pleased that the Honourable Tom Beaulieu and the honourable Premier of the NWT viewed the new airport as we toured the Nahendeh communities in December.

I was also pleased that it was blowing cold as we waited outside as there was no air terminal building.

---Laughter

The Department of Transportation had wanted an official opening ceremony when the Minister of Transportation was there. The chief and council declined and wanted to have an official opening when all official pieces of infrastructure are in place. In fact, they said if we have a grand opening, then the department will just forget about our need for an airport terminal building and an airport snow blower.

An airport snow blower will be more efficient in removing snow build-up and reduce damage to runway light holders. The main advantages of such

a snow blower are high clearing capacity, long casting distance, economical operation and speed of clearing. Safety considerations must also be part of a needs assessment, such as quickly removing snow in a medevac type of emergency. This is something that they cannot do with the grader that is in the community.

An air terminal building also has many benefits. The Ministers already know that keeping out of the cold is one of them. Already residents are saying that because the airport is about two kilometres away, they don't always hear a small plane land. Some people have been stranded there and others have struggled as they made their way to the community with their luggage and supplies. Not to mention the benefits to medical staff as they await a medevac plane.

The Trout Lake Airport is a brand new piece of infrastructure which we all should be proud of, and the Department of Transportation must properly equip this runway with a proper air terminal building and a proper airport snow blower.

Capital planning is upon us shortly. I will ask the Minister of Transportation, during question period, to ensure that the airport capital needs of Trout Lake are taken seriously. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FUR PRICING PROGRAM

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a concern from the community of Aklavik. Harvesters in the community would like to see an increase to the prime fur bonus for beaver, mink and also fox. I brought this issue up a couple of weeks back. You know, the populations are increasing on beavers and foxes, and also mink and otters, as well, but the advance that's given for these animals is very low; \$25 for a minimum payment under the Fur Pricing Program, which will be taken on by ENR on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The amount of work that goes into working of the animals such as a beaver, the time you spend going out, trapping the beaver, skinning the beaver, cleaning the beaver, fleshing... That cost just doesn't add up, and our harvesters would like to see that increased over the near future here in order to help manage the species.

This also has an impact on other species, whether its muskrats... You know, at the moment we have very good prices on muskrats but the populations are so low that we're not meeting the needs.

I'll have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my colleague's from Hay River North statement on the necessity of this government to invest money in upkeep on our roads and our winter roads, I would just like to say that Hay River is a place where at this time of year we see a lot of visitors from the North that do come in on the winter road. It's a very narrow window, and it is dictated a lot of times by the weather on a year-to-year basis. But it's very nice when we see people pull into town from Fort Good Hope and Tulita and Colville Lake and the people taking advantage of that winter road.

The Hay River businesses very much appreciate them not continuing south, or turning north at the junction and coming here to Yellowknife. They come to Hay River to pick up vehicles, have vehicles serviced, pick up parts for their snow machines, to get resupplied for their groceries and their goods that they need for the year, and that is a very, very important piece of infrastructure for people who for the rest of the year do not have any means of driving out of their communities, and it is a narrow window.

As Mr. Bouchard said, if we have a bad fire season, we find the money. But if we have a bad winter road season, we sometimes go, oh well, let's just close it down. I think that we need to really think about that.

This weekend we'll see lots of folks coming in on all-weather roads and winter roads to the Kamba Carnival. It's a great opportunity for families and friends to get together. March is carnival season and so we, again, will welcome many visitors to our community. Again, I just want to say how much we appreciate their support for Hay River, for Hay River businesses and for coming to our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

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

Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to recognize two of our Pages from Whati Community Mezi School. They are Caitlin Nitsiza and Rachel Simpson, along with chaperon, Louisa Nitsiza. I'd just like to say thank you for their services and all the Pages who are doing excellent work in this Assembly. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to also recognize two Pages from Deline: Faith Gaudet, whose father is Danny Gaudet – it's going to be a historical day for the Pages – and also Hanna Beyonnie, all the way back there, from Deline. Their paging today is ironic. It's a coincidence that they're paging at our Assembly this week. Also, some of the guests from the Sahtu are here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'd like to welcome everyone here in the public gallery. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

**Oral Questions**

QUESTION 739-17(5):  
DEVELOPING SPORTS CENTRES  
OF EXCELLENCE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of MACA with regards to the idea or concept for a centre of excellence for athletes. I know we talked about this just this last week, looking at if this is an idea that's floating around in his department to look at where there is raw talent in the communities in the North that can come together and start looking at what it will take to have a sports centre for these young people to come and excel, so that they can go either into the national or international arena and win some medals for the Northwest Territories.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of our sporting partners, Sport North, has put a business plan together for a proposed centre of sports excellence. We're just in the process of reviewing that plan and we'll try to work with our partners on the way forward.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I look forward to that business plan. That's good news for this side of the table here.

I also want to ask the Minister, is there any thought to inviting some of the people in our small communities to have a discussion? Some of the discussions they had this morning with the Minister, some of our teachers in our small communities really contribute to sports in the communities. Deline has survived there for hockey. In Inuvik they had Ms. Peggy Curtis for badminton. Different teachers have played a big role in the lives in the small communities.

Do we have that type of avenue where these teachers or people in the communities could also be of assistance in developing some of this business case here?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a very good point. A lot of the teachers that have gone through the communities in years past have contributed a lot to sporting development in the communities. I think we see it in the different communities around. One community might be good in basketball because they have a basketball coach there. So, they've contributed a lot.

We recently had a sport forum with many of our sporting partners, and we plan on having another gathering of our sporting partners. There are always ways through them that all those who are serving the communities can contribute to the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Part of this discussion that I'm alluding to would be the wellness of these young athletes. I just had a really good discussion up in the Explorer Hotel with a lot of really exciting people putting together some good wellness packages.

I want to ask the Minister also on the health and wellness of this concept. Is that part of the discussion of a business plan on the centre of excellence for young athletes? Are we looking at a comprehensive model such as this one here?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** This government contributes a lot to the health and well-being of our young people across the Northwest Territories. I think we have upwards of \$3.6 million that we provide to many programs that affect the communities. Again, I haven't had an opportunity to review the business plan yet. I'm just in that process right now. Once we review that and see if there's a way moving forward, it will obviously take into account a lot of things if they do have a centre of excellence for sport development, nutrition and health and well-being. But first and foremost, our goal as a government is to contribute to the health and well-being and keep our young people across the Northwest Territories active.

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

QUESTION 740-17(5):  
WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today will be for the Minister of Transportation. I know the Minister, before Christmas, got an opportunity to go on the winter roads. I'm glad that he went early, because from what I'm hearing the roads are in rougher shape now than they were back then.

My first question is does the Department of Transportation have a fixed budget on winter road construction and maintenance?

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we do. At about five-year blocks we tender the winter road construction in several zones. We have seven zones and each zone could be divided up into two zones, or sometimes it's just one zone. Then we determine right from Wrigley all the way to Colville Lake who would do what and we tender the work. We issue the work based on tender and a schedule that the contractor has to follow.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** The next question I have is how does the department know that there's going to be a set amount? If there are 10 snowstorms versus 15 snowstorms in a year or whether we have no snow in one area or lots of snow, how does the department set that as a fix? Does the department ever come back to the Assembly for additional funds to improve the maintenance on those highways?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We do a best guesstimate we can to determine how many times the passes would be needed by the equipment on the winter road. We also have a lot of historical data, and we use those recognizing that, of course, in the past we've also had some support from industry that is no longer there.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** I did hear that comment from the Minister in the media a while ago about the lack of industry support this year, but this government has been around for a long time, and I know industry is not there that much this year in the Sahtu especially, so they haven't been beating up the road as much. But the roads are in terrible shape right now.

Is the Minister looking to put more money and more cycles into the maintenance of the highways?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We are going to take a serious look at the possibility of adding more cycles. Although the industry didn't support us to the full magnitude that they've assisted us in the past, we did get some money from industry. Actually, \$140,000 to help us with some of the heavy traffic that they were hoping to bring over the winter roads. We've had a lot of complaints about the winter road from industry, people moving some fuel and so on into the communities, and from the general population and from the Sahtu, so we are actually seriously considering requesting some money for the winter road in the Sahtu.

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

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister has been getting these reports. I've been getting some of the reports on there. Industry has been keen on letting them know where the maintenance needs to be done. I know in the next little while we're going to be looking at supplementary expenditures. The roads are melting. The weather is going to be starting to warm

up here. We know there is going to be more pressure.

When will the Minister give us some indication that they're going to increase the cycles and look for money in maintenance?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We don't anticipate any issues with getting everything that we need into the Sahtu communities with the current state of the winter roads. What we would like to do is, really, use this year where we recognize that we didn't get industry support as a bit of a prototype year on what happened, what occurred and so on. Then next year look at what we think we need, how we need additional cycles and so on in the Sahtu. By additional cycles I mean the extra grading that's going to be required on the snowfalls in the Sahtu. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 741-17(5):  
TROUT LAKE AIRPORT

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. Just following up on my Member's statement I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation about the planned air terminal building that wasn't completed in the capital plan this year. When will the community of Trout Lake be getting their air terminal building? Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We completed this Trout Lake Airport with Building Canada Plan funds. We had \$7.2 million to build the road to the new airport and the apron, the airport itself and the new terminal building, but at the end we had expended all the money. We didn't have enough money left in the budget to complete the \$450,000 air terminal building, which is designed and ready to go but we didn't have the money to do it. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. They couldn't complete it this winter. So the Minister is saying it will be delivered on the winter road in December of 2015 or January of 2016. I didn't hear a clear answer there. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** As indicated, the entire project was over budget. Therefore, we do have to go back to get the money through the regular process. Our intention is to include this air terminal building in the next cycle of the capital planning process, which would be '16-17.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Well, the Minister clarified exactly what process. Where the air terminal building is, there is none. So he's got to actually request another one and that's too bad. As well, like

I indicated, the capital planning process is upon us and will be starting soon.

What steps will the Minister be taking to ensure that the community of Trout Lake gets a new airport snow blower for the new and larger airport as well? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Right now we are using equipment that exists in the community. The hamlet grader actually is doing the work at the airport. We think that is going to be sufficient, but we're going to evaluate that after this winter and see if there were any issues at all with the current equipment that's in the community. If we find that the equipment is inadequate and that we're not able to do the job and that there are any issues whatsoever with the airline companies, medevac, anything in there whatsoever, then we need to take a look at perhaps bringing more equipment in. The problem with the plow truck or snow blower basically is these are expensive pieces of equipment and they're also very expensive to maintain and repair if something goes wrong. A grader is something we find that's durable and can do the job, and we're hoping that the results of our investigation on how the past winter had gone with the airport will be good, the results will be fine and that we wouldn't need anything else at the airport. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully they do a proper and thorough investigation, because using the old community grader, they're doing a much larger surface area than they did with the smaller airport. You have 3,500 feet of runway, you've got a large apron, so I just don't believe the speed is there and the ability to clear the snow quickly. I would like to ask the Minister one more time for proper evaluation. I know there are some communities out there that have a snow blower, but they rarely use it so they also have to evaluate how snow blowers are distributed throughout the Northwest Territories. With that, I will ask the Minister to do a proper evaluation and look at the capital planning process for a snow blower for the community of Trout Lake. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We are currently monitoring the situation and we will evaluate once the season is over and see if there are issues at all. As I indicated, if there are issues and we found the grader was inadequate, especially as the Member pointed out with the lighting, some danger with the lighting on this type of plow, we will look at that, and if we think there is no way we can continue with just a grader on the airport, we will look at the capital planning process to put in proper equipment.

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

QUESTION 742-17(5):  
AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON  
CORRECTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today in my Member's statement I shared my dismay on the way our Department of Justice is handling our corrections services. Ironically, the office of the Auditor General agrees with me.

As set out in our NWT Corrections Act, there are consequences and processes clearly defined for the contravention of the act. My questions today are for the Minister-designate. Without belabouring the long list of contraventions and violations of this act in the wake of the recent Auditor General's report, can the Premier indicate if the Department of Justice reviewed its legal obligations and responsibilities for the administration of its correctional facilities as per the Corrections Act? Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice has accepted all of the recommendations of the office of the Auditor General and has made a lot of progress and introduced a lot of changes already. If the audit had been done now, it would have been a very different audit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Clause 49(1) of the NWT Corrections Act states: "The Minister may appoint persons to investigate and inquire into any matter connected or affecting the administration and operation of the corrections service or correctional centre."

Can the Premier, given the seriousness of the circumstances, indicate to the House when such an investigation will take place? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I will take that question and respond very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Clarification, Mr. Premier?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I thank the Member for the question. I will get the information and respond to him as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 52 of the act under general offences and punishment reads: "A person other than an inmate who (a) contravenes this act or the regulations, or (b) conducts himself or herself in a manner that is detrimental to the good order and discipline of a correctional centre, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or both."

Can the Premier indicate to the House, will the Minister of Justice authorize an independent investigation into whether charges should be laid under Section 52 for alleged contraventions of the act and its regulations? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We just received the Auditor General report today. It was just tabled yesterday, so I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 743-17(5):  
FORT PROVIDENCE HEALTH CENTRE

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The new Fort Providence Health Centre has been under construction for some time.

Can the Minister confirm the dates of the opening of the Fort Providence Health Centre?

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original completion date for the contractor was March 31, 2015, and we are still within that date. We were a little bit ahead of schedule through last summer and were hoping to do final construction and interior finishes through January and February. Unfortunately, we had an inspection on the 25<sup>th</sup> to determine if the building was ready to be opened and there were some deficiencies identified that the contractor is currently working on. We still have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to complete those final interior finishes. The original plan was to begin moving furniture and equipment in in March with the actual opening in early summer/late spring. That is still the plan and we are still on target. I can't confirm an official date for the opening, but I will talk to the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority. In light of this new information, I will get a date for the Member.

**MR. NADLI:** Can the Minister give the reason in terms of the delay and the nature of the deficiencies? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I am not aware of the specific deficiencies, but I understand there were some life safety-related issues with respect to the facility. The contractor is working on those and we expect them to be done shortly, well before the March 31<sup>st</sup> contract close date. But for specific details, it might be better to go to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services who is responsible for the build of this facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** Can the Minister confirm whether the cost of the building exceeded the \$11 million target? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thanks to my conversations with the Department of Public Works and Services, it is my understanding at this time that we are on time and on budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister update this House in terms of the discussions with the local community as to the fate of the old health centre? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** There have been discussions with the community ongoing, but as far as the most recent round of discussions with respect to the opening, I will have to confirm that information with the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority. I will commit to the Member to get him an update as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 744-17(5):  
ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES  
AND PROGRAMS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I would like to follow up on his statement from today about Aboriginal language programs and progress. The Minister mentioned in his statement that the GNWT invests \$15 million each year to support and promote Aboriginal languages. One of those is to build the capacity of Aboriginal governments to implement their five-year regional language plans. I support that change. It is a change in the approach from the department. It's an investment in language and it's one that's needed, so I support it.

I would like to first ask the Minister, of the \$15 million that Education puts into language programming, how much of that goes to the Aboriginal governments for their five-year language plans? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On an annual basis we provide \$15 million to Aboriginal language organizations. It does vary to various organizations within the communities and Aboriginal governments. I highlighted some of the key factors, I believe it was last week. Approximately \$15.127 million: \$8.4 million goes directly to education authorities; \$6.2

million is split between Aboriginal governments and the Aboriginal Languages Secretariat; we provide the breakdown to the DEC's that I can share with the Member, a breakdown of \$3.2 million investment captures teaching and learning centres, Aboriginal Languages Program support, Aboriginal languages culture instructor support; broadcasting, terminology and, as I stated in my Member's statement, language acquisition initiative, cultural, heritage. That is money going directly to the organizations, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Maybe I got lost in the numbers there, but I don't think I heard the Minister tell me how much of the \$15 million is going to the Aboriginal governments for their regional language plans.

This is public money. It's coming from taxpayers. It's coming from the GNWT. So I feel that the Legislative Assembly has to be accountable for this money that is going to Aboriginal governments and that we need to be accountable for all the money that we distribute.

So, I'd like to know from the Minister, is there a system in place between the GNWT, his department and Aboriginal governments to account for both the money that they are receiving and the results, in terms of language that is happening or not happening, relative to this money that we're giving them? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, indeed there is. There has to be strict accountability when we provide public funding to any organizations in the Northwest Territories, not only Aboriginal governments or Aboriginal organizations. The organizations that we deal with, we want them to be accountable, whether it be reporting mechanisms, how the money is expended. There is monitoring, evaluating and also accountability, MEA that is currently in place with Aboriginal governments and Aboriginal organizations and other organizations, as well, throughout the Northwest Territories. It is an accountability mechanism that's in play now. So, we follow through with those organizations with monitoring, evaluating and accountability reports. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. So, I'd like to know from the Minister, then, I presume monitoring and evaluation and accountability will produce a report. I think he mentioned a report at the end of his answer there. So, these reports presumably would go to the department. I'd like to know if the reports will also go to committee and to the public so that the Members and the public will know how their taxpayer money is being used. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When we received the reports, obviously it's public money so it is a public document as well. Most of the information that we receive is also on our website. Through the monitoring, evaluation and accountability we make

sure that everything's accounted for. Any time that the standing committee requests a public document, we'd be more than happy to share that with the standing committee, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I guess I would say, it would be nice if committee didn't always have to request a document, but if a document is being publicly posted, it would be nice if the Minister advised committee that it was there so we could go and look at it.

I know that this is the beginning of these regional language plans with Aboriginal governments so it's fairly new, but I'd like to know from the Minister, apart from these monitoring, evaluation and accountability reports or plans or whatever it's called, a framework, how is the Minister going to assess success of the program.

What will he be looking at to determine whether or not the money that we're spending on language is actually increasing the use of language and broadening our Aboriginal languages across the territory? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Obviously, seeing the results, strengthening our working relations with our partners at the regional level, the stakeholders that we work with, obviously the success will depend on each group. So we're doing what we can as a department to work with them. But at the end of the day, it's just the results through monitoring, evaluation and accountability that will be in play with the Aboriginal governments, with the Aboriginal organizations and other organizations in the Northwest Territories. The communities need to determine their success as well. So, we'll be monitoring that as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 745-17(5):  
FUNDING HEALTH PROMOTION  
AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I had the opportunity to go and meet with some of the participants at the Weaving our Wisdom territorial wellness gathering over at the Explorer Hotel. I had some really good discussions with past colleagues as well as with some people here who are doing some good work. One of the areas that we talked about was prevention and promotion, in terms of putting funding into our dollars.

So I'd like to ask the Minister, is there anything that currently mandates this government, or is there any legislation that we have that says that this

government needs to put money into prevention and promotion? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have legislation, as far as I'm aware of, that dictates or requires us to put money into health promotion. But as the Member knows, we have increased the number of dollars that we have put into promotion and prevention here in the Northwest Territories during the life of this Assembly significantly, and we're always looking to work with partners to find ways to create awareness and encourage healthy living for all residents in the Northwest Territories by way of prevention and promotion. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** I agree with the Minister in terms of putting more dollars into prevention and promotion, and we are slowly seeing some of the results with the health status reports and what we're hearing in the communities.

I know in Ontario, Ontario has a Health Protection and Promotion Act. Would the Minister be looking at this legislation and looking at possibly seeing if it's something that this government might want to look into and possibly put into documents going into the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I'm, unfortunately, not aware of the particular legislation that the Member is talking about, but it is an interesting idea and I'll certainly have the department take a look at the legislation and provide me with a bit of an overview of what it is and how it works within that jurisdiction.

As far as moving forward, I'll share the information I get with committee, and if it's the wish of committee, we're certainly willing to have those discussions. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** The good thing about when you talk with people in the public is they have a lot of information, and this was just brought to my attention and I think it's something that this government really needs to look at in terms of legislating, that we have to go out and educate people and it's got to be part of our mandate. So, I'm glad the Minister is going to be looking at it. I know we have a lot of legislation to get done from now until the end of this Assembly as well.

Continuing on prevention and promotion, can the Minister provide me with details on how many regional health promotion offices we have currently in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Unfortunately, I haven't memorized the number of health promotion officers that we have throughout the Northwest Territories, but I will get that information for the Member as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we've put a lot of money into prevention and promotion. Is there a percentage of those dollars that are allocated to the training and the development of our community health representatives or health promotion officers? Are there dollars that are allocated to the training and development of our employees? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Our employees are our most valuable resources and we're committed to their continued development. I know that there are dollars available for training particular activities, but as far as the number of dollars allocated to train health promotion officers, I don't have that number.

We are, as I've indicated, committed to our staff. We want them to be current. We want them to be up to date on practices and procedures, and we want them to be continually evolving so that they can be current at all times. So, I will do a little bit of digging and I'll get some specific numbers for the Member. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 746-17(5):  
FUR PRICING PROGRAM REVIEW

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Growing up, my grandparents used to tell me stories of when people were limited to the amount of beaver they could harvest in a year, and it was just a handful. The game wardens, as they called them at the time, would go around and keep an eye out on people's axes as they used them to chop open beaver houses. But since then we've had an explosion in the population of the species of beaver, also foxes and mink, but the fur advance doesn't match that. It's a minimum of a \$25 advance for these furs and people are paying \$45 to \$50 for five gallons of gas. It just doesn't match the cost of living up there with the advance, so my constituents would like to see an increase in this.

Is the Minister willing to work on making changes to the Fur Pricing Program? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The prices are set at a five-year rolling average and they're reviewed every year. However, I'd be happy to sit down and talk to the Member about specifics if he has any dollar figures that he's looking at. We have to manage the money that's available to run this program, and the beaver

prices are very low at the market values. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** As the Minister knows, we have the best fur in the world. There is a huge demand, you see it all the time, for sheared beaver, beavertail wallets. It's just like snakeskin. I had one a few years back; it was pretty nice.

But as the Minister is just taking this department back on, I think it's time that we make this review. Even changing it to \$45 or \$50 for an advance, that would help out the harvesters a great deal. Is the Minister willing to do this?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. Yes. One of the things we'll be doing is doing a review, and as the Member has requested and suggested, we'll be looking at that particular issue as well. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you. Was that a yes that he'll increase it to \$45 or \$50? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. I'd have to check Hansard. I understood the question to be that since we're taking it back over, would we look at the prices and see if we would consider moving it from \$45 to \$50 and I said yes, we would consider looking at that as we get this back into ENR's authority. Thank you.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is to do with the management of wildlife. Does the Minister have funds that they could contribute to encouraging our people to harvest more of these species? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We have funds tied up in the Community Harvesters Assistance Program. We have some money still available in the Western Harvesters Assistance Program as well. As well, we have the fur pricing advances that we do have and prime pelt fund as well. So we do have some funds available. Thank you.

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

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 211-17(5):  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSITION MATTERS –  
TERMS OF REFERENCE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the terms of reference for a Special Committee on Transition Matters.

TABLED DOCUMENT 212-17(5):  
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES  
FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 16, 2014,  
TO FEBRUARY 3, 2015

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' Absences for the Period of October 16, 2014, to February 3, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12, 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), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016; 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; and Tabled Document 207-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, with Mr. Bouchard in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Good afternoon. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'd like to deal with Bill 46 and, following that, Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016, the Department of Education.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** We'll continue after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Committee, before us today is Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act. I'd like to ask Premier McLeod if he would like to deliver his opening comments on this bill. Premier McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act.

This bill approves, gives effect to and declares valid the Deline Final Self-Government Agreement. This self-government agreement will create the Deline Got'ine Government, which is the first stand-alone community-based self-government in the history of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

This bill also gives effect to the Deline Tax Treatment Agreement, which relates to the tax treatment of the Deline Got'ine Government.

The bill provides for consequential amendments to the Waters Act. These amendments are consistent with the approach taken in the context of the Tlicho Agreement.

Finally, the bill also provides for the repeal of instruments pertaining to the establishment of the Charter Community of Deline, and for instructions on how the Deline Got'ine Government is regarded as a municipal authority in other Northwest Territories laws.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Premier McLeod. At this time I would like to ask Premier McLeod if he would like to bring witnesses in.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Yes, I would, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Premier McLeod. Is the committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

Premier McLeod, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right I have Fred Talen, senior negotiator, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. To my left I have Ken Chutskoff, legal counsel.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Premier McLeod. I'll now turn to Members and ask if they have any general comments on Bill 46. General comments? Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm also very pleased to be sitting here and speaking to the bill, Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act. Madam Chair, my comments will be short to this specific bill.

This bill, as the Premier indicated, is the first stand-alone community self-government agreement in the Northwest Territories. It's an historical moment for the people of Deline, for the team that worked on it from the Deline Got'ine, from the Northwest Territories negotiating team and also from the federal government negotiating team.

Mr. Premier talked about the effect of the Deline Tax Agreement that we will have the Deline Got'ine Government take as part of their own government. This bill also, in the history of the Northwest Territories, is setting precedence for the Mackenzie Valley. As you know, Tulita and Colville Lake and Kasho Got'ine, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells are also negotiating their own self-government agreements as per the Sahtu Comprehensive Dene-Metis Land Claim Agreement and these land claim agreements in our region, in the Sahtu region, give specific provisions for a community self-government agreement.

I want to congratulate the GNWT team members and to congratulate the good, hard work of the Deline negotiators and team and to the federal government. To make it to this point where we are today, we're making history in the Northwest Territories by bringing it through our process. I wanted to say that when we get to another part of this important document, hopefully today, later on after third reading, I will do a formal thank you through a statement to the good people up in Deline as well as the negotiators and the team.

I do want to say to the Premier it takes a lot to be a trailblazer. Trailblazers, they have a vision, they have a team working with them and they do what they have to do. I take this agreement, this self-government agreement to a time when I, along with George Cleary, who was the president of the Sahtu Tribal Council, when we first started to work on a Sahtu regional land claim. Part of the deal, part of the package was a section in there, self-government, that George Barnaby, who at that time was self-government negotiator, said to me at that time in 1992, '93, that each one of us leaders in time in history have to hold a sign. He said mine is self-government. I was young, and I'm still pretty young yet, in heart anyhow, not realizing then in 1992, '93, '94, that 20 years later we will see an agreement like this. We didn't realize that when we were negotiating. George Cleary was our president. He played a significant part in this agreement we're doing now, but there are lots of people also in around and from Deline who also played a significant role in where we're at today. It's amazing. I just want to say that.

In '93 we did not think this would come about, with the territorial government, the colleagues on the other side, they were making things happen. It takes a lot of work and it takes a lot of dedication. I want to ask the Premier, with this agreement, is this the agreement that the Deline people now will have their own stand-alone government that we would treat them as a territorial government, as a government and look at them as a government in that sense as the federal government looks at the territory as a government to be respected and talked to in a manner of government-to-government relationship. That's the question I have for Mr. Premier in regards to this bill here.

I want to say also to the people in Deline, when we settled the Sahtu Land Claim congratulations to them for taking this chapter in writing it and recreating their history. Nothing is easy and working towards an agreement like this says a lot about the people. It says a lot about the families that they come from. They come from very good people, very strong people. They come from very good leaders to make this happen.

Those are my opening comments to this agreement. I'm very pleased. I would never have thought in my wildest dreams, being a negotiator and sitting with George Cleary and the other negotiators, that I would be here today to witness the good, hard work by a lot of good people and to see that this chapter is coming full circle. To all the young people and young leaders who are coming up from Deline or any other communities, anything in life is possible if you put your mind to it and you have faith in God or the Creator or whatever. Anything is possible. Don't ever, ever, ever give up on your dreams and your vision. Anything is possible if you have good leadership, good direction. Here amongst my colleagues here, we're witnessing the creation of a new government. I never thought that, going to school in Inuvik, that we're part of this, putting a new government together. I thought always that was for outside people. But you know what? Good things come from inside.

I want to say that this bill here is a new path. I always said that in order to get to the Promised Land you always had to negotiate your way through the wilderness. I always said that. To think that people in Deline have negotiated their way to the Promised Land, that's what I think this Deline Self-Government Agreement will do for them. They're leaders, and I must take my hat off to thank them, because I know it's tougher to be the first in line and to be out of the door. Just like we have good athletes, like I said before, or a gold medalist, they know what it takes to get a gold medal. This is a gold medal deal.

That's all I want to say. Congratulations, again, to the Premier and your team and colleagues around

this table here for allowing this to happen. I really appreciate it. I really thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for allowing this day to happen in this fashion. Congratulations, Deline.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** If committee is agreed, we will not stop in between for a response from the Premier. They are general comments. I am not hearing any questions. I'll just proceed on to the next people on the list if the committee is agreed.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Next for general comments I have Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I feel very honoured to be speaking to Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act. First of all, I would just like to congratulate the people from the community of Deline for their hard work and moving forward on this bill. As the Premier and my colleague Mr. Yakeleya have said, it is a historic event and actually a very historical bill in being that it's the first stand-alone community-based self-government in the history of the Northwest Territories. I believe it will set a standard for other communities in the Northwest Territories to look at the work that Deline has done and the negotiating team and working with our government to move the process along so that more of our communities can start taking responsibility of the work that they do, and getting the decision-making powers that they need to do the best work that they can do for the people that they serve and the people that they work with.

I also know the hard work that goes into this process of self-government from our government, from the negotiating team and from the federal government. At one time I was a field worker for the Gwich'in self-government, which is still being negotiated. That just shows how long the process is taking. I just want to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, commitment and persistence from the negotiating teams on all governments. I know it's a very lengthy process to be sitting at the table. I really appreciate the hard work to get us where we are today and to get the Deline people where they are today in terms of taking on those new powers.

Not too much further to say. I think Mr. Yakeleya and the Premier captured it very well in bringing this bill before us. One thing that I do want to say is I wish the people of Deline the best of luck taking on the responsibilities for education, health, justice, and as it rolls out I'll be keeping a good eye on it because I think it's going to really show what our communities can do because a lot of our communities are very strong, very traditional, very cultural, and I think we're going to see some really strong benefits in the Sahtu region that will serve to make our NWT a better place to be and a better place to live.

I want to thank, as I said, all the negotiating teams and, with that, congratulate the people of Deline once again.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Next for general comments I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. It's an overused word today but I think it's very valid and it is historic. It reminds me of when we talked about devolution. This is a one of a kind. This group of the people from Deline are on the leading edge and they're leading the other communities in the NWT that want to follow their lead. It is an historic situation. It is an historic day and it's also very exciting. This is something which has not ever occurred before in our territory. I don't know that it's ever occurred in Canada before.

With that, I know it's been a very long process, some 19 years of work, and I want to compliment the work of all negotiators, particularly the people from Deline who have been pushing it for 19 years, but also the negotiators from the Government of Canada and the negotiators from our own GNWT who have done an excellent job in coming to the agreement that we see before us today and this bill.

I want to say that the negotiators deserve our praise, but I think the perseverance of the people of Deline is probably the main reason why we've reached this point today. Negotiations are always a bit of a long haul, but 19 years is a rather long time to pursue this one issue, and I congratulate you for pursuing it and achieving your goal.

Thank you, Madam Chair. I look forward to what other Members have to say and I look forward to third reading when it comes up later today. I am totally in support of this bill.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Next for general comments I have Mr. Dolyunny.

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to welcome the Premier's delegation and all the people in the gallery here today who made the journey to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you for joining us today.

As mentioned by my colleague, a lot of key words were used – historic – and I think I'd like to echo those same sentiments. This is very much historic data. As we say, 19 years in the making, but I think it actually occurred even before that. I think it was back in 1976 when this first got off the ground. So this has been an extremely long journey with a lot of hard work, a lot of dedicated people, a lot of government officials, and later today I will have the honour, on behalf of the elders, to make more personal thanks and I'm honoured to do that.

It goes without saying the negotiating team behind us had to endure a lot of personal sacrifice. I want to thank them for their tenacity and expedience on

keeping focused on a very important cause. I think it's important that we recognize that. To the elders, I appreciate all the elders who played a key role involving the culture and the value and, in a lot of cases, the oral tradition that's being passed from generation to generation. That's not on paper, Madam Chair, and I believe the oral tradition is embodied within the pages, the act and the bill before us. So, to the elders, thank you. You know who you are, but I will be saying thank you to them later as well.

Madam Chair, I am very supportive. I speak in a very positive tone. Like my colleagues, I wish this bill expediency in the process. I do have some general comments, though, if at some point in time the Premier could address in some form or fashion. Those general comments will be in terms of regulations that will be attached to this bill. When will the regulations be written? How will those regulations be rolled out? Is there a timeline involved with this bill? More importantly, are there other triggering mechanisms that will happen at the federal level if and when this bill gets to third reading? I know there is a triggering mechanism that has to happen at a federal level. If he could fill in those two gaps, it would make the journey complete in the mind of this MLA.

Until such time, I want to thank all parties involved. Very well done. Mahsi cho.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Next I have Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I, like my colleagues, would like to give my support to this bill. Also, congratulations to the people of Deline. It is a great day. In my many years of political career, not only as an MLA but town councillor and municipal politics, we control our own destiny. We've taken our devolution. It's an opportunity for the people of the Northwest Territories.

When I was on town council in Hay River, whenever we had an opportunity for the town to control its comings and goings, it's better that the community itself takes that control. I see that as an opportunity for Deline to their self-government.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Next on the list for general comments I have Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I too would like to express my congratulations to Deline, and congratulations from my constituency and my communities. Which, of course, means that I'll be supporting the bill that's before us, Madam Chair.

You know, in our Aboriginal communities, as we grow up, we've got chartered governments like hamlets and villages, and we always wonder why. It's because, of course, it's a government that isn't Aboriginal that instituted these institutions. But I see

that with the Deline bill here is that they amalgamate, they rightfully take back the community that is theirs, and I'm really proud to say that and I wish them the absolute best and every success as they continue to learn and grow as their own community for their own people. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Next for general comments I have Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Welcome to the Premier and his witnesses here on this occasion. Just looking at this bill and the work that's been done, I have to congratulate all involved. I know it's been a tremendous amount of work and today is an exciting day indeed.

I see an elders' council. I see a justice council. I see a beneficiary's board. I see the main council. These elements tell me that there's been a lot of focus brought to these negotiations that the people are there to serve their people here, and there's been a lot of excellent consideration gone into this.

I see an annual report at a community gathering to bring the transparency that government requires and the participation of the people.

I see a promise of efficiency. This is a new single government that will take the place of the First Nations Land Corporation and the charter community. There's some efficiency here that is attractive indeed.

Again, turning over the decision-making powers to the community itself, to me, the rubber hits the road with governance at the municipal level, at the community level, and I see this agreement as taking that head on, and I really appreciate that. Again, it can bring a new level of efficiency and transparency. So, again, that's excellent work.

I know there's a tax agreement that goes with this and there are some complexities to that. I'll look forward to the communications that the government will have, to make sure the public is aware of what's going on in this new agreement, and there's some unique aspects to that I'm sure.

The community is provided with this legislation, with this new law, the power to participate in many areas. For example, the education, early childhood education and training of their people, the delivery of health care programs in the Deline district, social housing and income support. These are big programs that have been delivered by this government, and undoubtedly there will be a transfer period. But, I guess, as a Member of this government, I will need real clarity on how these changes do occur will affect my responsibilities which previously I had and may have for some time yet. But some clarity on that would be appreciated on how that's going to transfer. Does this mean we no longer will need to worry about staffing nurses

and building nursing infrastructure and so on, or how does this change the responsibility of this government? So that sort of clarity will be needed and I'm certain will develop over time.

Finally, there's a certain attraction again to the model Deline has developed here, ensuring that one government deals with governance required at the community level. But this is different from some other visions where a self-government model is built for all communities in a land claim area, regionally, one self-government. The relevance through the GNWT as a public government dealing with one regional government versus many autonomous community governments is something I'm sure the Premier and his advisors have considered. I would appreciate some perspectives on those two different models here for the context that would be useful today.

That's all I had, Madam Chair. I just want to once again – and I know every Member here does – congratulate the people of Deline who are well-represented in the House today, and this government, the Premier, for his leadership in getting this work done. Mahsi.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I'd like to thank all the Members who gave positive comments and indicated their support for this bill. I'll address some of the questions that were posed.

With regard to whether it's a government in its own right, when this bill comes into effect it will be a self-government among the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Deline, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. So this means the Deline Got'ine Government will be a government in its own right.

With regards to questions on regulations, there are no plans to introduce regulations at this time. The Government of Canada has indicated that they will introduce federal legislation to this bill into effect as soon as possible after it is passed in this Legislative Assembly.

With regards to how this self-government government agreement and Deline will affect individual MLAs, I don't see it affecting them significantly. The Deline Got'ine Government will take on existing responsibilities, and as we go forward, they can call down further responsibilities.

With regards to Deline Got'ine Government governance, they will take over responsibilities for the Deline Land Corp and will continue to function as part of the Sahtu Dene-Metis Comprehensive Claim. But through you, Madam Chair, I'll ask the negotiator to go into more detail, Mr. Talen. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Talen.

**MR. TALEN:** The Deline Self-Government Agreement calls for the Deline government to assume the responsibilities of the Deline Land Corporation, the Charter Community of Deline and the Deline Financial Corporation. So it will continue to do the responsibilities that those existing governing structures have in the community today. .

On the effective date of the agreement, which is planned for April 1, 2016, the Deline Got'ine Government will replace those governments and continue to fulfil the responsibilities that those previous governments had. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Talen. Just before I go to the next speaker for general comments, I'd like to welcome all of the visitors in the gallery today. We have a very large delegation here of elders, leaders, negotiators and citizens of Deline here with us. I understand that our government processes and the way that we do things may not be something that you're completely familiar with, so let me just explain that we're going to continue with general comments about the bill, 46. At the end of general comments, we will go through the clauses of the bill to be approved, and then this committee will accept them as the bill as a whole. Then Committee of the Whole will continue on with a little bit of business that we have to do to conclude today, and then when the Speaker comes back and we go on to orders of the day, we will come to third reading of bills. That is where we will then vote on the third and final reading of the passage of Bill 46. I just wanted to explain that to you, that there may be a little break in the program. You're welcome to stay in the gallery. You're welcome to visit in the Great Hall or do whatever you would like to do, but I just wanted to explain a little bit about the process here.

Now we will continue on with general comments. Next I have Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a few comments. I'm honoured to be a part of this process. The community has worked very hard over the years. I would like to congratulate the community, the negotiators and leadership as you have negotiated from a common goal and as you begin down a new path of self-sufficiency.

Many times over the years I've been to a number of meetings and that's what our people want is to be self-sufficient, and today you begin down that path. Also, taking over the programs in your community and making changes where you see fit. Many times our programs are not structured around what our community needs, but through this process you'll have that power to change what will work for your community. Also, building the capacity and training

your next generation to fill the positions in your new government.

In my prior role, as I mentioned, I sat on a self-government table for four years, and during that time through our Gwich'in Tribal Government, our negotiators changed four times through those four years. On the federal government side it changed three times. The same with the GNWT. As I look through your information that was provided to us, I see that the negotiator for the Deline self-government was there for 17 years.

---Applause

Mr. Gaudet. That shows commitment for the people in the community. I would just like to thank him for that. You have my full support.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Next for general comments I have Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I too wanted to speak in support of Bill 46. I wanted to say something briefly in my language, and more than likely a lot of the elders could understand me.

[English translation not provided.]

I would like to thank you for your vision and your leadership and your commitment to your people. I will also acknowledge, of course, both governments, the federal and the GNWT officials that were parties to this agreement. It's been 19 years in the making, but we all know, as First Nations people, the struggle that we began when Europeans arrived on the North American continent. Today is a proud moment and I am extremely proud for you, the community of Deline.

Of course, I speak in support of Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act. The passage of Bill 46 enables the people of Deline to make decisions for themselves. This contrasts with the paternalistic history of government and First Nations relations. The decision-making rested with government for the longest time. Today this legacy of parents knows best relationship ends and a new dawn has arrived.

Bill 46 is the realization of past spiritual leaders and a vision fulfilled by elders that played an integral role in setting the path for the future for the Deline Got'ine Government. For that I say mahsi and congratulations.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Any further general comments? Are we ready for the clause-by-clause consideration?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. There are 20 clauses in this bill. We will stand down the preamble to the bill and we will go to clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 20 inclusive approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** To the preamble of the bill.

---Preamble approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Does the committee agree that Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Agreement Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 46 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Bill 46 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Premier and your witnesses. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he would please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the committee's wish to continue with the business before us? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to consider Tabled Document 188-17(5), Department of Education.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. We will continue with the Department of Education.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, committee. We'll go the Minister responsible. Minister Lafferty, do you have witnesses to bring into the Chamber?

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

Minister, could you please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have to my left, Deputy Minister Gabriela Eggenhofer. To my immediate right is Olin Lovely. He is assistant deputy minister of corporate services. To my far right is Dana Heide. He is associate deputy minister, Education, Culture and Employment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Committee, we're on page 61, Education, Culture and Employment, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, \$11.967 million. Mr. Dolyunny.

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The other day the Minister was very kind to walk us through, I guess, some of the dance steps in terms of some of the changes with respect to the different levels of structure under corporate management, and there has been a relatively large change in the last year or so. I guess to the question. We did get a sense

of who some of these new players were and we did get a feel for some of these new divisions.

But to the question, how is this new structure working today? We've had a chance to drive this new structure for about a year-plus and we've had some new players in terms of leadership within these so-called corporate management divisions. But maybe an overview here is how effective has this change been to the delivery that was to be expected by the department? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Since we've had some changes within the corporate sector, there's been a very positive atmosphere within my department. Obviously, the office of the Auditor General also indicated that we should have some sort of changes within our financial sector, corporate services. So that's one of the reasons why we have a new ADM within corporate services. I will get my deputy to elaborate a bit more in detail, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. EGGENHOFER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that the department has over a \$300 million budget it was very important that we have the right kind of financial accountabilities in place. Prior to the structural changes of corporate management, we had policy, legislation, communication and finance and capital planning all under one director and we have changed that to break it out to have finance and capital planning its stand-alone division.

Planning, research and evaluation was a division we also created, and that is predominantly in response to the Auditor General's reports that the department could have improved its ability to evaluate programs and to set performance targets and develop management evaluation and accountability frameworks. So this division is essentially working with all the people in the department who are designing and developing new programs, but they're also working very hard with our education partners in the development of particularly new initiatives like education renewal.

The policy, legislation and communication division is as well part of the nerve centre of the department to assist in all the Cabinet submissions and corporate communication and, as in most departments, is a stand-alone division.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that response. It's always important for us to reflect and evaluate monumental shifts or changes in leadership and, in this case here, how

we are looking after our various divisions in management.

To the question of how well this has been working, I noticed that recently the graduation rate in the last year did rise slightly. I think it increased by around 8 percent.

What would have accounted for a larger increase in graduation rates? Of course, I think it's under 65 percent, but there was something of a shift. Can we maybe get the department's explanation why we're seeing that slight increase in graduation rates? Thank you.

**MS. EGGENHOFER:** It would be wonderful if I could say it was ERI that caused the rise in the graduation rate, but that would not be truthful. I think that we are advised that there are trends over the years and this happens to be a year where the graduation rates were slightly up, but I would not want to speculate what the cause and effect relationship is of that increased trend.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Maybe it's a pre-ERI birthday gift. Again, it's just something to note and, again, trends are something, I know, that many Members here pick up on and I'm sure we'll have more questions in the future.

Mr. Chair, first when we took on this job four years ago, almost four years ago, the Auditor General report tabled information regarding the Adult Learning and Basic Education. Without getting into the details of that audit report, this is a report that, literally, it was scathing to a certain degree, but there were issues in terms of how we were evaluating this program and some of the monies around it, in the performance measures. So, to the department, if I can get an update as to where we're at now with ALBE in terms of its action plan, its performance measures and if maybe we can have an update on the accountability framework. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The ALBE, when we did the review, there's been a considerable discussion with various stakeholders and we want to get the actual feedback from the people in order to make the changes to our programming within the college, other organizations that deliver this core programming. So there's been a lot of discussion in this area. What led to that is, obviously, part of the Skills for Success is another initiative that we've undertaken to deal with adults and post-secondary education and skills training program supports and also Pathways. That also includes the ALBE programming and has a link. It's a direct integration with the Skills for Success. So those are just some of the discussions that we've been having within my department with the stakeholders across the North. So, we are currently

working with steering committee on developing the action plan. There are the 14 recommendations that we're following through. So that's just some of the up-to-date status on this ALBE review process.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I do appreciate the Minister's reply to that. I'm a little bit saddened by the fact that it's almost been four years now that we're still working on it, and I can understand that there needs to be due process for problems of this nature. If I can maybe get some indication, will we see some sort of resolution to the ALBE saga as a result of the OAG report, in terms of its finality, during the life of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Will we see these accountability framework and performance measures in place?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We are moving this as quickly as we can. ALBE has been a challenge that was brought to our attention, even as far as Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative when we did the actual forum, listening to the educators, the adult educators. They've instructed us that we need to make some changes and we have done that. Based on the recommendations, this Skills for Success obviously will play a huge role in identifying the actual needs from the communities' perspective and delivering core programs through the institutions, through the college campuses that we have. So these will be the tools that we need to work with.

The symposium that's coming up next week, it's at the initial stages and collecting data and analysis of what the real needs are. We have the Sahtu needs assessment that's part of the package we want each region to provide and then from there to deliver core programming so it meets the needs of the industry standards in the private sectors as well. We will be moving forward within the life of this Assembly and then on to the next Assembly as well.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I appreciate it. No further questions on this activity. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Committee, we're on page 61, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, \$11.967 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Agreed. Page 62, corporate management, active positions. Questions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Agreed. Page 65, education and culture, operations expenditure summary, \$244.200 million. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a big section of the department so I have a number of questions here. I just want to reiterate the comments made by Mr. Dolynny just recently about

the Adult Learning and Basic Education program review. This has been something that has been in the works for a very long time. I think we have yet to see an end to this review process. It's an area where it's very difficult for us as a committee to evaluate whether or not the money that we're spending on ALBE is well spent. There are learning centres in most of our communities. There are also programs at Aurora College at the various campuses, but when we look at the numbers as a committee, we have great difficulty in knowing whether or not the money we're spending has value. This review was supposed to be looking at that. I do feel that it's about time that we get the review finished and that committee has an opportunity to look at it before this Assembly is over. I don't have a question there. That was just a comment.

My first question has to go to the review of funding schools, funding formulas. I mentioned it in my opening comments, particularly the review of inclusive schooling which is well overdue. I'm given to understand that the department is also reviewing the overall school funding formula. When are we going to see the results of the review of the schools formula funding which apparently now includes the inclusive schooling funding? I'd like to get confirmation that the schools funding formula includes a review of inclusive schooling funding. Secondly, when are we going to see the review results? Thank you.

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

**MR. HEIDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I can clarify, the inclusive schooling is not being reviewed with the funding formula. The overall funding formula for the schools is about 75 percent of direct funding that is flexible funding to the schools, and that is what the funding formula review is looking at. The other 25 percent within the formula is inclusive schooling and Aboriginal languages funding. Those are being looked at separately from the overall funding formula.

The funding formula review, I'm happy to say, has been concluded to the point where we all are players within the review. We had three superintendents from the school boards across the North and every finance person from across the North, Mr. Lovely and our Finance department working together, and we have reached a consensus agreement around what the funding formula should accomplish, what it should do, how we meet both our interests and the interests of the new accountability structures within the FAA. Since there is some financial impact on this moving forward, once we share it with Financial Management Board and the Minister, we will be happy to share it further.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thanks, Mr. Heide. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to Mr. Heide for that. Can I get an estimate of time? Are we talking days or weeks or months? Thank you.

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

**MR. HEIDE:** Our intent is to being able to share with the board chairs which, as you know, will make it public within the next few months.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to Mr. Heide. I guess I just have a comment. I would hope that at the time you share it with board chairs, if it's going to be public, you would also share it with committee.

My other question has to do with funding, with the inclusive schooling review. The education authorities are currently funded as a percentage of their budget. Many of the authorities feel that that's not the best way to provide funding and not the best way for them to provide the services that are required to students with special needs. The other method that has been proposed is to fund per student. That may not also be the optimum way to go. It's my understanding, though, that the department has decided to stay with the percentage option. I know committee certainly discussed it. I think it was the consensus of committee that a blended model would be far better than just the absolute of one or the other. I'd like to know from the Minister and department if I'm correct in understanding that we're going to stay with the status quo in terms of inclusive schooling funding. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This obviously has got a lot of attention, how we best expend our expenditure on to the school boards directly to the most in need, the students with special needs.

We did our part with the overall review. It is on our website as well. The review also told us that we should not make any changes to the general approach of inclusive schooling. There is a need to improve the accountability, the measures, increase educator training and a standardized approach of inclusive schooling practices across the NWT. This is an area that has been brought to our attention. We do have an expert doing the overall review of the directive and also eventually dealing with the funding formula.

I just want to make it clear that I have no intention of reducing funding in inclusive schooling in any

way, but there is accountability that we must look at. Through that venue, we are developing, monitoring and evaluating accountability aspects to it.

The review is with an expert right now, the director. That will be available at the end of March. That is my understanding. If I missed out on key points, maybe my deputy can elaborate a bit more.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I will go to the deputy minister, please.

**MS. EGGENHOFER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, as the Minister said, no decision has been made as to what formula to deploy to divide up the inclusive schooling funding pie. We have hired an expert to assist us. We've had the involvement of some of the specialists that work for our schools to give us advice. Before we take it any further, we want to make sure that we're discussing any new approaches with our education authorities, and hopefully we can develop a common voice in terms of what's the best way to divide the inclusive schooling funding amongst our education authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister and the DM for that information. I want to reiterate that I think, from my understanding of what's going on with education authorities at the moment, the percentage funding is not the way to go. I appreciate the Minister's commitment that there's not going to be a reduction in inclusive schooling funding, but I think there needs to be a serious look at changing the method that we fund in order to make sure that magnet schools and magnet communities, such as Yellowknife and Hay River, and Inuvik as well, that they get the funding needed to provide the services that the special needs kids that go to the magnet communities need, and I don't think a percentage funding does that.

My question here before I run out of time has to do with the Alberta Achievement Tests. They've been mentioned a couple of times in opening comments. My question to the department is whether or not we're still using the Alberta Achievement Tests. My understanding was that we were not going to be using them. I thought they were going to be phased out. I don't know if it was last year or this year. I appreciate confirmation on whether or not we are still using Alberta Achievement Tests. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. There have been some changes within the Alberta educational system. As you know, we follow their curriculum and also the AATs. NWT has used grades 3, 6 and 9 AATs as a large-scale

assessment since 2007. Alberta is embarking on their own educational renewal process. Obviously, they're making some changes to the focus on student assessment. Because NWT is using AATs that are being phased out, we also need to decide whether we want to follow Alberta or have our own northern tool that we can use. We are still currently using AATs, I believe, in the Grade 3 area. This eventually will phase out but we need to identify what is the best tool that we can use to assist those individual students, whether it be grades 3, 6 and 9, that we've done since 2007 with the AATs, but we are currently exploring what Alberta is moving to and possibly having our own system as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Next on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to report progress.

---Carried

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

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 47, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act; and Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016, and would like to report progress and that Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act, is ready for third reading. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Do I have a seconder? Mr. Yakeleya.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 46, Deline Self-Government Agreement Act.

---Consent granted

### Third Reading of Bills

#### BILL 46: DELINE FINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT ACT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government

Agreement Act, be read for the third time, and request a recorded vote on this historic occasion.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. This is a recorded vote. Mr. Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize and congratulate the people of Deline for their success in developing an agreement that will not only serve the people of Deline but will also provide a model for other communities in the Northwest Territories and throughout Canada to consider.

This agreement is a made-in-the-Northwest Territories model for implementing the inherent right of self-government that follows the vision that the elders and leaders of Deline have held to for many years. This agreement could not have been possible without the hard work of many people, and I would like to take a few moments to recognize the Deline negotiating team.

Their team, led by chief negotiator Danny Gaudet, has worked tirelessly for years. What they have accomplished has never been done before. They had to break new ground and set a new trail over unexplored terrain. They did this with guidance from their elders and from the community.

Impressively, they worked with our government and Canada, always well prepared, explaining their community's vision, and always willing to offer and consider new ideas. We can all learn from the extraordinary commitment of this community and the dedication of its negotiation team. They worked hard to represent not just their community's interests at the negotiation table but also to reflect the strong traditions and values of the people of Deline.

This was a negotiation process notable for its atmosphere of respect and, again, is something we can all learn from. Based on this experience, we can be confident that the Deline Got'ine Government, when established, will be a solid partner as we work for the people of the Northwest Territories.

I would also like to recognize our officials who have worked on this agreement on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. There is a long list of officials from virtually every GNWT department who at various times over the last 18 years have contributed to this agreement. Many have had the good fortune to work with and build strong relationships to the community of Deline. Most recently, our chief negotiator has been Fred Talen, and previous negotiators for the GNWT have been James Fulford, Doris Eggers and Sheila Bassi-Kellett.

---Applause

These negotiators were also supported by dedicated team members. Work on the ratification and implementation of this agreement has also been supported by the efforts of officials led most recently by Sue Bowie and her team. We must also extend our gratitude to these officials and to those from the Government of Canada who have also invested considerable time and effort to help fulfill the promise of self-government for the people of Deline.

Today is a historic day not just because so many have worked so hard for so long to see it happen, today is historic because passage of this bill will mark the ratification of the Deline Final Self-Government Agreement by the Government of the Northwest Territories, taking us a critical step closer to the establishment of the Deline Got'ine Government in 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief. I did not speak to this bill at first or second reading, and being chair today of Committee of the Whole, I did not speak to it when the bill was before Committee of the Whole. So, as I said, I would like to take a brief opportunity at this moment to add my congratulations to the people of Deline, to all the people who worked on this.

I'm one of the Members who have been here since this all started. Not that I can take any credit whatsoever for the work that's been done, but I do want to recognize this history in the making. I think only in the Northwest Territories we can still, as legislators, be involved in such significant things that are history in the making. Historic, unique in Canada, not just the Northwest Territories.

I also wanted to say that we've talked a lot about looking back from this day to all the work that's gone into this agreement, that I think the real significance of this agreement will be in the years, the decades and the generations ahead that will look back and see this and will be amazed at what has been accomplished.

We wish you all the best with your new self-government mandate and everything you will do with it. Thank you.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to have been asked by the leaders and the elders of Deline to ensure that government negotiating teams and their officials who worked on this agreement are recognized on this historic day.

I share Deline's appreciation for the hard work of so many government officials, particularly efforts of the

negotiating teams who spent a great deal of time over the years travelling and away from their own families, making personal sacrifices required to complete this agreement.

In particular I have been asked to convey the thanks of Deline elders to these individuals. The elders would like to thank them for working with the community to understand the culture, the values and the oral traditions which informed the vision of this agreement. For them, the leaders and the Deline negotiating team, it has been an honour and a pleasure to be able to work with these government officials on behalf of Deline.

Many dedicated employees of both Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories contributed to this agreement. The leaders and elders would like me to recognize, on their behalf, former Premiers, including Stephen Kakfwi, Joe Handley, Floyd Roland and Premier Bob McLeod, who assisted in moving this agreement forward.

They would also like to recognize the efforts of Norman Yakeleya, Sahtu MLA, for supporting their efforts on this agreement.

They would also like to express their appreciation to Mr. Gary Bohnet and Mr. Martin Goldney for their recent efforts with this legislation.

The Government of the Northwest Territories negotiating team was led in the last several years by chief negotiator Fred Talen, affectionately known as "Keo" by the elders of Deline who appreciated Fred's focus and determination. Fred was ably assisted at various times by a team that included Ian Blackstock, Conna Brown, Lorraine Whiteman, Tannis McNabb, Isabelle Gauthier, John T'Seleie, Peter Teetchie, Noon Trin, Sue Bowie, Carolyn Dunhill and Buddy Williams.

Early in the negotiating process, other GNWT officials served in various capacities as negotiators, including Sheila Bassi-Kellett and Doris Eggers.

Canada's negotiating team was led during the last several years by Ian Hamilton, assisted by Laura Hudson-Grant, Mary Jane Rolando and Mike Granalouie. Prior to Ian Hamilton taking the helm, Darryl McLeod served as chief negotiator, preceded by Kevin Floyd, who spent a great deal of time in Deline learning about the community, particularly from the elders.

Other officials of the federal government who contributed significantly to making this agreement a reality include Annie Carriere, Sarah Gill, Kim Thompson, James Lawrence, Jennifer Whittaker, Sylvain Betsina, Tina Bohnet, Jeanine Flood, Lesley Marefield, Lesonne Glouie, Eric Pourier, Patrick Barthold, Lawrence Pearce, Sean Summers, and Michael Naddler.

Finally, the elders, leaders and Deline negotiating team extend their heartfelt gratitude to all Members

of this House for their unwavering support in its final critical stage of a process that has spanned almost 20 years and that will last for generations to come. To all in the House: mahsi cho.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to have some congratulatory words to the people in Deline.

Thomas Edison once observed that the reason most folks don't recognize opportunity when it comes along is because it's often dressed in coveralls and looks like work. Often opportunity involves a great deal of work and a willingness to take a chance on something, the outcome of which may be uncertain. Eventually you reach a point when you must either accept an opportunity with all its unknowns or else turn your back on it. No one can tell you when you have reached that point. You will know when it's time to make your move. You have to have the courage to take a chance.

Deline has taken the chance. It's taken a chance to become a government on its own, as Mr. Premier said. A stand-alone, first time ever in Canada. The birthplace of not only ice hockey but the birthplace of self-government in Canada belongs to Deline.

---Applause

That's what the North is so good about. People in the North, no matter who we are, sometimes we get a little bit controlling and want our own. But when we really think about it, we're very unique in this territory. Even in this Assembly sometimes we don't agree, but we somehow come out together. That's the way it is. We don't know what's going to happen.

As the elders said, tomorrow, we don't know. We're not the boss. We know that when we got back to our people and our communities, there are some really good people from all the North not sitting with us in our communities: family members, cousins, grandmas, whatever. Only God knows. You listen to the elders and you know they will help you along the trail.

I have to say some words on behalf of the Deline people, and I want to say even Chief Sitting Bull said, "Let's put our minds and our hearts together so that we know what kind of future we can make for our children." I'm very proud to know that the young Pages are here to witness their community becoming their own government. Maybe one day those two young girls, Hannah Beyonnie and Faith Gaudet, will be in the government of Deline along with lots of young leaders up here. That is my only prayer.

Nineteen years ago the Deline First Nation and Deline Land Corporation began negotiating this self-government agreement. The community was

guided by a desire to ensure their language, culture and way of life would stay strong into the future. They were guided by the desire to do away with three separate organizations that kept the people apart, and create one government for the community that would help them work together.

One of the Dene laws is sharing. We must all share respectfully with each other if we are to survive and thrive. That was also a guiding principle for this community while negotiating and it's reflected in the agreement, which includes a welcome place for elected public representatives in the government. For Deline, self-government does not mean they will go off into their own corner. It means that they will take their place as a self-governing partner of the GNWT and Canada to govern in ways that better the lives of Deline Got'ine. They are strong in their purpose that this agreement will make sure that their children for generations to come will have the opportunity to stay strong in their Dene identity as a basis for overcoming the challenges, staying in school, contributing to the well-being of the community and territory and succeeding where their hopes and dreams take them.

With the passage of this bill, we are one step closer to a stronger territory, strong land claim and self-government, making the lives of all our NWT citizens better, because strength creates opportunity.

Deline was guided by a team of elders for the entire 19-year process, who are committed to continue their involvement as the community prepares to set up the Deline Got'ine Government. Those elders are the late Paul Baton, Alfred Taniton and Leon Modeste. These men attended virtually every single negotiation session and meeting of this process to guide the negotiating team – beautiful – and continued to bring all parties back to the focus on their vision of one strong government in Deline in accordance with the vision of the prophet ?ehtseo Ayha.

Andrew John Kenny, Frederick Kenny, Dolphus Baton, Morris Neyelle and Charlie Neyelle also supported the negotiating team, staying involved as advisors along with the elders. They were always on hand in the community to give advice to the negotiating team and to explain the agreement and issues to the people.

Over the years strong leaders in Deline made sure their community was informed and involved in this process and were always there with support for the negotiating team. Presidents of the Land Corporation: Peter Menacho, Leroy Andre, Raymond Taniton, the late John Tetso, John Tutcho, Gina Dolphus, and Ekwatide Raymond Tutcho and Ekwatide Leonard Kenny.

Throughout the negotiating process many community members worked on the agreement. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, a good friend of mine.

Throughout the negotiating process many community members worked on the agreement in various ways, and as a result the negotiating team itself helped to build capacity in the community and ensure that residents were informed. These included Shaun Doherty, Jane Modeste, Fibbie Tatti, Stephanie Carter, Walter Bayha, Michael Neyelle, Ruby Takazo, Dolphus Tutcho, Nicole Tutcho, Reanna Taniton and Clarence Tutcho.

The negotiating team had been led for the past 19 years by Danny Gaudet, who was asked by the elders to take on the role of chief negotiator, which he expected would only take two years. I know you'll agree with me when I say not only the community but all of us are glad that he stuck it out for 17 years longer than he expected. Thank you, Danny. That is the kind of commitment needed to get things done and to keep communities moving forward. In his role he was supported by staff in the community and by technical staff. These individuals at different times included Stephen Mills, the late John Bailey, Alex Ker, Tony Maxwell, Max Faille, Mark Siegel, Shannon Ward, David Boote and Jessica Iveson. In the community, Paulina Roche, Phebie Kenny, Kristina Gaudet, Christine Allen, Diane Andre and Kirk Dolphus worked as members of the community's transition team.

Now, Mr. Speaker, sometimes these things are unexpected, you know, when we have... I just want to say the late John Tetso and I had some pretty good times when we were young leaders, and I didn't know this was going to happen. Thank you, colleagues.

The community transition team was responsible for thinking through how they will transition their organizations to one Deline Got'ine Government. George Cleary, Mary Kodakin, Ron Cleary and Anne Bayha also contributed greatly by being a presence here in Yellowknife to support the negotiations and provide a link with the large number of Deline beneficiaries who live in this wonderful city called Yellowknife.

Throughout the negotiations, Danny had a core team who supported him. For the first seven years, the late Gary Juniper and also the late Geoffrey Grenville Wood worked tirelessly in that role. For the past 12 years, Patricia Modeste, Brian Crane of Gowlings, Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, together with the community-based advisors worked with Danny to complete the agreement.

During the ratification stage, Roxane Poulin and her team at Tait Communications worked around the clock to develop an award-winning information strategy that ensured every Deline beneficiary could make an informed decision when voting on this agreement. I would like to congratulate all these individuals who have worked so hard on this agreement on behalf of the community of Deline.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this agreement took 19 years. This is the birth of 19 years. It's like a mother giving birth after nine months. We take our time, we go a little slow with the creation, the birth, your prophet, and the people of Deline, good government, all the Members, the team up there, you are witnessing history. God bless you all. God bless the government. Stay strong. Continue working with your elders and your prophet. Young people, stay in school. Stay off alcohol and drugs and we'll have a really, really strong government, I'll tell you that. The future is yours. Take the opportunity and run with it. Mr. Speaker, thank you so much.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Before we move on, I'd like to welcome back into the House, Mr. Jim Antoine.

---Applause

To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The honourable Premier asked for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Blake, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise. In favour, 16; opposed, zero; abstentions, zero. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Bill 46 has had third reading. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

#### Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** Orders of the day for Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
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 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
  - 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 205-17(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
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

