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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, March 12, 2015****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 188-17(5):
RELEASE OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FILM STRATEGY**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute the members of our local film and television industry. This industry is built on the dedicated efforts of businesses and individuals in the NWT who are committed to telling our stories to the world and contribute nearly \$10 million to the NWT's Gross Domestic Product annually.

In order to strengthen the economic viability of the Northwest Territories' film and media arts industry and increase opportunities for investment, we need a comprehensive plan.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling a new strategy, titled "Take One: Northwest Territories Film Strategy and Action Plan." This strategy will guide the planning and implementation of policies, investments and actions by our government to realize the economic potential of the NWT's film and media arts sector, to achieve greater recognition for our local productions and to market our territory as a destination of choice for future out-of-territory productions.

The NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy identified the potential for strengthening the economic viability of the film and media arts industry and increasing opportunities for investment in the NWT.

It highlighted the need for a definitive NWT Film Strategy to guide government investment, support business opportunities and stimulate economic growth.

Film and television productions do more than generate employment and spending for actors,

technical staff and suppliers of goods and services. They also provide significant social benefits involving traditional knowledge, cultural preservation, youth empowerment, community pride and storytelling.

Furthermore, film tourism is a growing phenomenon internationally, and one we want to nurture in the Northwest Territories. It will help us to showcase our incredible landscapes, cultures, traditions and iconic landmarks to the world.

The NWT Film Strategy focuses on five key areas. These include: strengthening government and industry roles and partnerships; enhancing funding and financial support; developing the skills and competencies of NWT film producers; assisting in building infrastructure; and developing efficient and effective marketing and communications.

Some of these actions are already underway. Through the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development, SEED, policy, the GNWT provides \$100,000 annually to support NWT filmmakers. An improvement was made to the funding categories last year to better reflect the stages through which a film is developed. Last month we also announced up to \$200,000 in 2015-16 for the NWT Film Rebate Program, a new pilot program aimed at increasing film production activity throughout the NWT. It introduces, for the first time in the NWT, incentives to film on location in our territory, and an increased incentive for productions filming outside of Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the NWT Professional Media Association, NWT Tourism and Western Arctic Moving Pictures for their ongoing assistance, and the individuals, businesses, associations, governments, film commissions, production companies, guest producers and industry stakeholders who provided valuable input and perspectives during the consultation phase of the NWT Film Strategy.

I would also like to recognize the partnership and funding support of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Mr. Speaker, we have a vision of a strong and prosperous territory with a diversified economy, and the film industry has an important role to play in that. We look forward to putting the Film Strategy's

recommendations in place over the next five years, in a manner that supports the integrity of the Northwest Territories' unique film and media arts industry, and creates the environment needed for it to flourish locally and participate globally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 189-17(5):
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to openness and transparency in conducting its business on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. In support of this, I am publishing a list of all meetings and teleconferences I have had with external parties, including my participation at intergovernmental meetings and conferences as well as public events.

These reports will provide more information than would typically be on a lobbyist registry. They identify all meetings with external parties not just those with paid lobbyists, of which there are very few in the Northwest Territories.

As I have said before, Mr. Speaker, all of this information was available upon request. However, we recognize that an active offer of information can sometimes not meet the needs or resources of those interested in finding out information. Publishing these reports is an important step in demonstrating our commitment to transparency and to serving the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, as Premier, I am proud to work for the people of the Northwest Territories, not only with Members of this House but with our many Aboriginal government partners, business and industry, non-governmental organizations, provinces and territories, the federal government and many more. I believe this listing shows how important partnerships are to the future of the Northwest Territories.

Beginning April 1, 2015, information on Cabinet Ministers' external meetings will be published on a quarterly basis to promote continued transparency. While I have provided a retrospective report on all my external meetings, the first report of all Cabinet Ministers' meetings for the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year will be published in July.

Later today I will be tabling a complete list of all meetings I have had with external parties from January 2014 to February 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 190-17(5):
SUPPORT FOR MANUFACTURERS

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, the NWT is home to a small, but vibrant manufacturing sector. We manufacture a range of products in the Northwest Territories, from signs and steel girders, to roof trusses, windows and fibreglass tanks. As other industrial sectors such as mining, oil and gas, and construction expand, there are opportunities for expansion within the manufacturing sector.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy identified the potential for strengthening the economic viability of the manufacturing industry and increasing opportunities for investment in the NWT. Today I would like to update Members on the efforts we are making to strengthen, revitalize and grow this important segment of our economy.

Manufacturing in the NWT is supported primarily by allowances in the GNWT's procurement process, which recognize higher production costs for made-in-the-NWT products.

The GNWT's Business Incentive Policy and NWT Manufactured Products Policy are designed to help ensure government purchases are made through NWT-owned businesses, thereby leveraging this investment into the business and manufacturing sector.

In addition, improved procurement services have been introduced by PWS under their new centralized procurement function, which provides a more streamlined and transparent procurement experience in support of the manufacturing sector.

Mr. Speaker, we are also developing new promotional materials to increase industry and public awareness of existing manufacturers and their products and for the NWT Manufactured Products Policy. We will continue to expand the presence and profile of our manufacturing industry on our website, in the media and in our economy.

We have also taken steps to re-establish the NWT Manufacturers' Association as a voice for this sector and a forum through which we can seek guidance and input for future planning and investment in support of this sector.

I am pleased to say we are meeting manufacturers on their own turf. In January in Hay River, and most recently this past Friday in Yellowknife, the department heads from our primary procurement departments toured local manufacturing facilities.

This gave us the opportunity to share information and we were able to learn from the business owners about their challenges and successes and how we can work together to expand the support network to the manufacturing sector, which in turn will lead to business development and economic growth.

In the coming months we will be identifying and taking actions to connect potential users of made-in-the-NWT products with the NWT manufacturing community. We will be reaching into the business community to identify new and potential manufacturing opportunities.

Manufacturing in the NWT has significant potential for growth, Mr. Speaker, and the GNWT is very committed to supporting this industry in order to realize its full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 191-17(5):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, Northerners have long been known for their generosity, and each year the Government of the Northwest Territories employees continue to show their commitment to building stronger, healthier communities by supporting the United Way NWT.

I am very pleased to announce that this year the Government of the Northwest Territories Workplace Campaign raised just over \$102,000.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 12th year of the campaign and the most successful. The number of Government of the Northwest Territories staff generosity has doubled and their campaign pledges commit to donating nearly \$100,000 in 2015 through payroll deductions. This is up over \$40,000 dollars from the previous campaign. This makes the Government of the Northwest Territories the biggest corporate donor to United Way NWT, and I am certain we will do even better in the next campaign.

As the honorary chair, I am very pleased with this year's results. I would like to point out that in 2014 the United Way NWT invested over \$57,000 in 16 different projects in the NWT. This year, due to the generosity of so many, they were able to increase the amount of grants to 21 organizations across the Northwest Territories in the amount of \$91,500. This increase has allowed them to fund projects in Fort Smith, Fort Providence, Hay River, the Sahtu, as well as Inuvik and Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Northwest Territories departmental coordinators, who were added this year to assist senior management with organizing information and fundraising events during the month-long campaign. Their enthusiasm for organizing fundraising events and encouraging employees to donate is at the heart of this success.

I would also like to express my appreciation to our colleagues, Tracy St. Denis, the chair of the United Way NWT; and Deborah Ross, the Government of

the Northwest Territories campaign coordinator, for their dedication and tireless efforts. They have done much to ensure a promising future for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, there are many others within our public service and communities who have also donated their time, including our payroll and benefits staff who are essential in making the Government of the Northwest Territories campaign a success. Together the voluntary efforts of all these people are great examples of our northern spirit, colleagues helping colleagues, neighbours supporting neighbours, and all of reaching out to provide a helping hand.

We know that every dollar counts. So, thank you to the Members of this Assembly and the many donors who have generously supported the United Way NWT.

Change starts right here and together we are making a difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN ARTISTS
PRODUCING WEARABLE ART

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is about just one of the reasons why I love the North. I wanted to wear this jacket in the Assembly today because the next time we're back here it's going to be summertime and it's going to be way too hot. As Darcy Moses, my friend, delivered this jacket to catch the Buffalo flight this morning, blowing snow slowed his arrival at the airport from his studio suite in Enterprise. Buffalo was already taxiing towards the runway, but Cathy McBryan ran out, waving the coat, and Joe turned back and picked it up. I mean, where else but in the North, Mr. Speaker?

Back to the jackets. Each jacket I've collected over the years is comprised of materials collected all with their own interest and their own story. When I'm retired someday I'm going to record all of the components and stories of the artists and how I came to acquire these jackets.

I want to remember and mention some of the people who shared their traditional skills and artistic talents, which are hard, impossible to place a monetary value on. For example, the jacket I'm wearing today was originally sewn by a respected elder, Sara Lamalice, from the K'atlodeeche First Nation. It was a man's jacket, so I asked my friend Darcy Moses to remodel it for me. I loved Sara's unique beadwork.

The extra moosehide that went into it is a story. A respected hunter from Fort Good Hope, named Alexie Chinna, well-known as a great hunter, carefully skinned out a moose. He rolled up the hide, he packed it in a box and he shipped it to Hay River to me on an airplane. I then put it in my truck, drove it to Fort Providence and delivered it to the home of Angelique Nadli, the late mother of my colleague here from the Deh Cho. Mrs. Nadli took the hide on her toboggan to her spring camp and tanned the hide for me. I remember very well the day that she brought it and delivered it in Hay River. It was just during Mackenzie Days, and how excited I was as I unfolded that beautiful smelling and looking hide.

Mr. Speaker, each style of beadwork in the North is unique and beautiful. The first jacket that I commissioned had the beadwork of Jessie Amos from Inuvik, the caribou hide is from Judith Charlo from Weledeh here, wolverine from Charlie Apples from the Tlicho, who walked in the front door one day with an untanned wolverine hide and wanted to know who'd like to buy it and, of course, I put up my hand, the same way that I acquired a beautiful moose hide from Angelique Loman from Trout Lake.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Of course, this could have the potential of being a long statement, but I'm talking about this coat collection. But, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention by name just a few of the other beaders and people who sew who have contributed to the collection of garments that I am proud and honoured to own:

- beaver mittens from the late Sarah Simon;
- a wolverine-trimmed parka with Delta braid made by the late Florence Peterson from the Mackenzie Delta;
- a moosehide jacket crafted by Bernadette Williah from Behchoko;
- beaded gauntlet gloves, the last pair sewn and beaded by the late Anne Buggins from the K'atloodeeche First Nation;
- baby belts, dolls, moccasins, mukluks, beadworks from the Sahtu;
- jackets from Alice Abel and Kathy Dahl;
- a stroud jacket, I'm very proud of, with the beadwork done by Mary Louise Sangris.

These are just to mention a few, Mr. Speaker, and I won't go on any longer. But someday I hope this collection will be in a museum someplace and I hope that I will have a chance to record all the stories of the wonderful artists, and a shout out to all of them today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON BUDGET SESSION

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we draw to a close another Legislative session, through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to thank all the dedicated people who work behind the scenes at the Legislative Assembly who support the Members and the Ministers to do our day-to-day jobs. Without them democracy would be definitely crippled.

I'd like to thank all the Pages here and all the Pages during this session. Thank you for keeping us hydrated. Without you these days and nights would have been a bit longer and a bit more thirsty. So, thank you very much and good job passing those notes around.

To my colleagues who will be departing shortly for their respective ridings, I wish you safe passage and also good wishes to you, your families and to your communities.

To my constituents of Range Lake, and all Yellowknifers, please enjoy your spring break and hopefully the warmer temperatures that will follow. May we see one another at the long-awaited Long John Jamboree later this month.

To you, Mr. Speaker, again, our heartfelt thanks to you for humbly presiding over us and the Chamber and for your guidance. We wish you well with your family and your community as well. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS POLICY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It being the last day, I thought I'd take a simple project, but actually not that simple. I'd like to talk about the Business Incentive Policy and manufacturing policy. The Minister just spoke about supporting manufacturing.

The policy requires that people who are on the list have to do 25 percent of value-added and their pricing has to be within 20 to 25 percent of the cost of the product as compared to other areas.

We have a list of manufacturers. We've had this list since 1996. As a Member here for the last three and a half years, I've been fighting constantly to get this manufacturing policy recognized. Most of the people on this list are fighting on a constant basis to get their business and their products recognized by the GNWT. The Minister and the government say they represent and support northern business, but yet we have to continue to fight every process, every way, and every difficulty.

We have people who are manufacturing things in the Northwest Territories, employing people in the Northwest Territories, but we continue to have to fight every tender. We have to keep an eye on the tender process to make sure that tender process is being followed, and to make sure that these people who are on the manufacturing policy list are not even supposed to have to tender. The product is supposed to be brought to them. We've been fighting constantly for this.

This policy is so convoluted that we actually have manufacturers in the Northwest Territories – we have one in Enterprise – that manufactures cabinets in the Northwest Territories, but he's not on this list. They haven't been on this list since the company started over a decade ago.

The manufacturing policy needs to be enforced and every department that buys products and services needs to know about this.

I see the Minister talked about advertising. The advertising doesn't need to be done in the Northwest Territories; it needs to be done in our own bureaucracy. It's very convoluted, it's not being followed, and we need to continue, we need to support northern manufacturing so we can create more jobs in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOMEOWNERSHIP

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to address the social divide between public housing and homeownership. Young people in my Deh Cho riding dream of owning their own home, but they need a lot of help getting there.

Becoming a homeowner is anything but simple. It requires a sophisticated level of financial literacy, something that young people haven't necessarily grasped. A young person or a young couple have to decide on a type of home they hope to purchase. Then based on their income, they have to determine how much they can afford. After that a whole slew of characters get involved, including staff at the local housing office, a real estate agent, and then there are people at the bank as well as lawyers, appraisers, home inspectors and insurance brokers.

Buying a home is basically an obstacle course. Even after a home has been purchased, the cost of heating, maintaining and repairing it can be totally overwhelming.

I understand the Housing Corporation has made a number of substantial improvements to its homeownership programs, but I'm not convinced that young people in small communities are getting the right kind of support. The Housing Corporation

has indicated that a number of eligible individuals are having a hard time completing the transition to homeownership. That tells me more supports are required.

As well, it's not clear why the standard mortgage rates are being used to determine payment plans in small communities. The problem is that homes in places like Fort Providence and Enterprise don't appreciate in value the same way homes appreciate in a place like Yellowknife. I don't believe it's fair to apply standard mortgage rates to home payment plans in small communities.

I would like to address one additional matter pertaining to housing in the Deh Cho. High quality housing is crucial to making small communities appealing places to live. If you're going to attract professionals and convince people to settle in our small communities, we need a better supply of high quality homes that are available for purchase.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON AURORA COLLEGE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, March is Aboriginal Languages Month, and as such, I want to show a little respect. [English translation not provided.]

[Translation] The social service workers need more money. [Translation ends]

The budding Social Work Program in the Northwest Territories has been showing great promise, and as such, our two-year program is starting to ask itself, why are we not a four-year program?

In my opinion, the Aurora College program has been doing fantastic work here. It has reached an incredible success, so successful the students want more, the community wants more.

When I talk to the students and I talk to the instructors, you can see and feel the enthusiasm they have for the Social Work Program. They talk about the things they can do, how they can reach their community. You see their eyes shine with the great excitement. You see that they want a bright future for their community.

The excitement is infectious. But we have a two-year program, a program that continues to only offer the diploma program even though the students and the community call for more. It's time we reach in and grab a hold of that enthusiasm and ask ourselves are we doing enough for our community, are we tapping into the enthusiasm of the social workers, are we grabbing this great opportunity. Let us not let it slip by and go unnoticed.

The students are calling upon us and saying they'd like the extension of the Social Work Program so we can offer the degree here in the Northwest Territories, much in the same way we found a way for teachers to be taught here in the Northwest Territories and nurses to be taught here in the Northwest Territories. The students know they can take their two-year program and they know that they would have to go to Regina to finish their program, but they'd like to do it here. They'd like to do it in their home; they would like to do it in their community. In some cases, they want to come to Yellowknife because it isn't offered in the small communities, but they want to be able to finish this programming here in the North for the people with whom they're working.

I have great respect for those who are in the Social Work Program and in the field. It is certainly a special calling, because we all know the numerous days are long and hard, but the rewards are great. They go to work each day trying to make a difference in people's lives and they can feel the change. It may be small but it's important. Let us not let that go by easily and let us ask ourselves this one question, which is, how can we make this happen?

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SPORT AND RECREATION FORUM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About two months ago I had the opportunity to attend a sport forum sponsored by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. It was a gathering of representatives of recreation and sport organization partners from across the NWT with the MACA Minister and staff. It was billed as a meeting to seek input from the sport and recreation sector, input being sought to advise both the 18th Assembly and MACA on priorities and plans for the future of sport and recreation in the NWT.

There were representatives from each of the hardworking territorial organizations that manage sport and recreation in the NWT: the Sport and Recreation Council, Sport North, Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic, NWT Recreation and Parks Association, Mackenzie Recreation Association and the Beaufort-Delta Sahtu Recreation Association. All were volunteers happily giving up a Saturday because they believe passionately in their volunteer work, because they want better sport and recreation programs in our territory.

It was an all-day meeting; the participants broke into two groups. We had some great discussions, some navel gazing and some crystal ball gazing on a number of questions about improving the future of recreation and sport. The conversations were

thought-provoking, wide-ranging, thoughtful and comprehensive. The atmosphere in the room was collegial, respectful and very serious about how to improve and advance sport and recreation in the NWT.

It was no surprise to me that the results of the discussions from the two different groups were very similar. Some key messages I heard were:

1. a recognition that if all organizations work together it will produce better results.
2. a recognition that efforts and programs are sometimes duplicated and those inefficiencies can and should be eliminated.
3. a stated desire for the partners to work together to increase the health of NWT residents.
4. a recognition that each partner has expertise that they bring to the table, expertise that should be better used to the advantage of all partners.

I was privileged to attend, along with MLA Moses, and my thanks to the Minister of MACA for the invitation to take part in the forum. It was an enervating day, one that left me feeling very confident that sport and recreation in the NWT is in good hands. We have committed minds and hearts, leaders who only want to better sport and rec for our residents, and I look forward to the follow-up meeting in a few months' time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SKILLS FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVE

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about the Skills for Success Initiative whose focus is to improve employment success for NWT residents, close skill gaps for in-demand jobs and respond to employer needs. This initiative is driven by labour market evidence, best practice research and information, and stakeholder input and feedback. Just with that last little statement there, that leads to this last couple days where there is actually a symposium going on as we speak.

We have territorial, Aboriginal and municipal governments, education and training partners, industry, business, NGOs, students and apprentices all meeting and finding out how we can create an action plan to increase the employment in the Northwest Territories, as well as the training and education for residents to take these jobs when the economy picks back up in some of the areas.

Actually, I've had the opportunity to speak with some participants over the last couple of days who are attending this forum. Especially after yesterday, the first forum, everyone is saying it's a really good symposium with a lot of good information and some very strong statements from our own Minister and

our leaders within the communities and within government. However, when we get into those discussions, we have to talk about the realities. It's all good and fine to say things are going to be good in a symposium or a conference, but we've got to look at the realities of what's actually out there throughout the Northwest Territories in our regions, in our communities.

I just wanted to highlight some of the discussions that I've had. We continue to have high unemployment rates, especially in the small communities. We have a slow economy and it's not only in the Northwest Territories, it's across Canada and globally. So, we have other jurisdictions who are looking to get some of the jobs up here, while our own residents need the training to fill those positions.

Housing was brought up as an issue for some organizations, and I had a good discussion with some members from back home saying we have jobs and we can't fill them because we can't house them. In Inuvik you can buy a house because the economy is so slow, but housing is an issue as well as looking at office space. As stated and addressed in the 2014 NWT survey of mining employees, one of the big barriers that is affecting us right now is the high cost of living.

I will have questions for the appropriate Ministers when I get the opportunity later. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The world, including we in the NWT, has come to a fork in the road. We must all choose. The choice will affect what kind of world we live in and leave for our children and grandchildren. We can choose to ignore the science telling us that continued fossil fuel extraction beyond 20 percent of known conventional reserves must stay in the ground. We can ignore the respected voices telling us that economies based on fossil fuels are not sustainable morally, financially or ecologically from Pope Francis to Mark Carney to the Rockefellers. We can ignore the mounting evidence of damage caused by fracking and other fossil fuel extraction leading to adverse health impacts and disastrous climate change, contaminated lakes and rivers, poisoned aquifers and earthquakes, or we can choose a path less travelled. One million dollars invested in renewable energy creates three to four times as many jobs as does oil and gas.

Renewable energy production is hitting its stride worldwide. Denmark broke a world record for wind production by getting almost 40 percent of its overall electricity from wind in 2014, breaking UK's

record of 25 percent of total production. On a day in December 2014, Germany reached 50 percent of energy demand from solar and wind.

The Globe and Mail reported in December that Canada's green energy sector had grown so quickly and is so vital to the economy that it now employs more people than the tar sands; good, sustainable jobs immune to the cycles of boom and bust associated with fossil fuel extraction. Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia have seen their capacity to produce pollution-free electricity increase by eight gigawatts in the past five years, allowing one more Canadian household a minute to be powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

In that same period, investors have moved \$25 billion into the sectors, spurring a 37 percent employment increase in renewable energy industries. Wind, solar, river and biomass capacity nearly doubled. This is momentum.

An economy based on renewable energy focuses benefits locally, as opposed to giving them to shareholders from afar. It provides equitable benefits, as opposed to a few big winners and many losers. A renewable energy approach creates self-sufficiency, addresses the cost of living, improves our health and engages families and their communities and their land.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: In the words of an economist, "The solution to both climate and economy is worldwide conversion from fossil fuels to renewables." This massive conversion program will lead to powerful economic growth, less economic drag from energy costs, higher revenue for treasuries and strong employment drivers.

So, here we are at the fork in the road, choosing between a path that continues to destroy our planet and offers only a few local boom and bust jobs in return, and a renewable energy future that holds a promise of healthy, lasting jobs and a sustainable economy. Which do we choose? Our people, our children, our communities await our decision with bated breath.

I will have questions for the Premier. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BEAUFORT-DELTA SPRING JAMBOREES

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As spring is in the air, our communities in the Beaufort-Delta are preparing for the annual spring jamborees. On March 27th Inuvik will be hosting their jamboree, followed by Aklavik on April 3rd, Fort McPherson on

April 10th, Tuk on April 17th and then Tsiigehtchic on the 24th of April.

This is a time when everyone in the delta gathers in each community, touring around the communities of the Beaufort-Delta. Good times, dancing, activities – people are active and enjoying the spring weather. I encourage everyone in the Legislative Assembly to come and join us this spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON BUDGET SESSION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a tradition of putting my final Member's statement of the budget session to song. I know my colleagues look forward to it every year with great anticipation, as you do too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, early in this session, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced the traditional names for the great Mackenzie River that flows north majestically through our beautiful land. We're all familiar with the South Slavey name for the river, Deh Cho. In my language, the North Slavey language, the name is a little different. The great Harry Bellafonte paid homage to the ancient one's way in my language. Here it goes, Mr. Speaker.

Deh! Me say day-ay-ay-o.

Deh cho go north to my Sahtu home.

Deh! Me say day-ay-ay-o.

Springtime come and me wanna go home.

Got to get home before the springtime come.

There's usually a choir but we can't do it, Mr. Speaker, so...

Springtime come and me wanna go home.

Six weeks of session and my brain is done!

Springtime come and me wanna go home.

Come, Mr. Speakerman, speak to me adjournment.

Springtime come and me wanna go home.

Work all day and not one change to the budget, man.

Springtime come and me wanna go home.

Deh! Me say day-ay-ay-o.

In one month's time we'll be back to isolation.

Springtime come and no way to get home.

I guess all-weather road is now a transition item.

Winter road melt and me gotta fly home.

Me say Deh! Me say deh. Me say day-ay-ay-o.

Me say Deh!

Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Happy Easter to all.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I think we're going to make a CD of all your songs, Norman. Good job. Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON APPRECIATION FOR THEBACHA PAGES

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to take a few moments of the House's time to thank two Pages, Krizzia Concepcion and Kezia McDonald, and their chaperon and mother to Krizzia, and thank all the Pages for their work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 10TH ANNUAL ABORIGINAL MEN'S HAND GAME TOURNAMENT IN BEHCHOKO

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] Mr. Speaker, this weekend there's going to be hand games in Behchoko. This is going to be an annual game. There are going to be 19 communities in the hand games: Behchoko, Whati, Gameti, Detah, Ndilo, Lutselk'e, Deline, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Norman Wells, Hay River Reserve, Fort Smith, Wrigley, Fort Simpson, Bushie River, Alberta; Chateh, Alberta; Meander, Alberta; Ross River, Yukon. Those are the teams that are going to be competing in the hand games in Behchoko tomorrow.

I know there are other teams that still have to register, but there is still time for them to register. There might be a few more teams that are still going to be registering.

Each year we have hand games at this time of the year. At that time they all compete for top prizes, a top prize of \$50,000. Six to eight teams are to walk away with a cash prize.

Everybody is welcome to attend and enjoy the games. There are always beautiful arts and crafts available for sale. We have a lot of beautiful arts and crafts that are going to be available.

When there is an event like this, there are always raffle tickets. Maybe there will be a vehicle to raffle off.

So, that starts tomorrow. On Saturday night there will be a huge drum dance that everyone can participate in. That's what we do every year and we call it the Dene Boogie.

I want to wish safe travels to all those coming in from afar, to enjoy the games with us and to travel home safely.

I would also like to say good luck to all the teams that will be competing this weekend, and safe travels home.

Finally, I would also like to say thank you to all the organizers who work hard for this annual event. I hope that everyone has a fun and safe time in Behchoko this weekend. I know there will be a lot of people, so good luck to all the teams. Thank you.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize today some members involved with the United Way. Tracy St. Denis is the chair; David Connelly, the past chair; Deb Ross, board member and GNWT campaign coordinator; and Craig Yeo, board member representing labour on the United Way NWT Campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my husband in the gallery today. There was one of those silly little things on Facebook and it said the 10 names of the best husbands. Richard wasn't on there, but William was. I'd like to recognize William Richard Groenewegen today.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Rick Groenewegen, one of my constituents and a hardworking businessman in Hay River. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize people from the United Way board and thank them for all their considerable efforts, very successful efforts, as we heard earlier today from the Premier. The Weledeh constituents, of course, Tracey St. Denis, Mr. David Connelly and Craig Yeo. I know my colleagues will recognize Craig Yeo, a hardworking CA for four years in the building here. Welcome to them and all the other board members and people working on the United Way campaign.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Today I'd like to welcome my two Pages here from Nunakput, all the way from Paulatuk, Mr. James Wolki and Ms. Gloria Ruben. Also, I'd like to

welcome Mr. Cam Innes and Tyler Pitzer who are some of my good friends who I worked up in Tuk with before coming here. Welcome to the House.

Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize all the visitors that we have in the gallery today. Specifically, I'd like to recognize a constituent of mine, Ms. Deborah Ross, and all of her hard work she puts into the United Way, as well as Mr. David Connelly, Mr. Craig Yeo, and the chairperson, Ms. Tracy St. Denis. Welcome to the House and thank you very much for, again, all the hard work you put into the United Way. I also want to recognize the gentleman from the Reach Group. Welcome to the House, also, to my friend Rick Groenewegen from Hay River.

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

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 801-17(5): SAHTU EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MINING SECTOR

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of ITI. It has been noted that the Sahtu received, to date, \$13 million from the royalties from the diamond mines here. There are mining opportunities in this area here and I want to look at opportunities for jobs, especially outside the Yellowknife region.

I want to ask the Minister, what ways are you helping to ensure Sahtu residents are prepared for opportunities in the mining sector, either in this area here or in the Sahtu region?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for the question. We have had some success in holding the Mining 101 course. We've had a number of these meetings in the Sahtu. Specifically, we've been in Fort Good Hope, Deline, Colville Lake, Tulita. We've also been to the community of Nahanni Butte and also into Norman Wells. We have to continue to promote mining as a means to economic success here in the Northwest Territories. In the Member's riding we've had some success recently with Selwyn Chihong on the border with the Yukon. We've had discussions with those folks recently. That ore body does extend into the Northwest Territories and there is hope that that will be mined in the near future. We also have had some really good results

from a stream sedimentary sampling program also on the border with the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, a high incidence of tungsten and gold. There are some real possibilities in the Member's riding for mining. Our hope is that we get that education component in the communities started right now so that people can look to mining as a career choice.

MR. YAKELEYA: I want to ask the Minister of ITI in regard to the Sahtu region. I'd like to look at some of the areas that we can explore with the Minister's engagement with the communities to prepare community workers for training in the mining sector either in Selwyn, Howard's Pass, MacTung or the DEMCO around Great Bear Lake.

Is the Minister looking at any type of training to prepare for these mining operations?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mine training would be through Education, Culture and Employment. But what I can say is, unequivocally, any company we've talked to is really interested in a northern workforce and finding community members who are interested in working on their projects, and that's what we've heard from companies. So there's a real willingness of behalf of the companies to employ local people. We've heard that from everybody we've talked to. So, trying to identify people at the community level that are interested in getting the training and then getting them the training so that when the jobs come they are ready for them is the key to all of this. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The people in the Northwest Territories, when they looked at the economic development, such as oil and gas, mining, traditional economy, the fishery industry, anywhere around the North they look at the projects with their eyes wide open and they look at the possibilities.

In regard to the mining sector in the Sahtu, is there a willingness on behalf of his department to look at a mining conference so we can look at the whole buffet sort of thing of what is involved with mining, getting our people ready, getting the region ready if we are to ever, ever get a road into those mines so we can start producing those mines like they do down south? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The region has had a history of mining in the past. We certainly have favourable geology in the Member's riding. If you get out into the mountains, again, near Selwyn Chihong and on the border near Tungsten and also further north, North American Tungsten has the MacTung Project as well. So there's great opportunity there.

If the Member and the communities in the Sahtu would like us to look at having whether it's a workshop or a program, I mentioned earlier the Mining 101 that we've put on in communities. We could try to ramp that up, and if there's interest

there in the Sahtu, we certainly would like to be there promoting the opportunities when it comes to the mining potential in the Sahtu. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is correct. In the research I have done, there's world-class, high-grade potential mineral in the Sahtu. The challenge for us is we don't have the infrastructure to extract it and develop the jobs. Out of interest in the 2013 youth report, the number one issue for the youth is they want jobs and that's what I'm looking for.

So, with the Minister's department, the Sahtu and the Chamber of Commerce, can we look at, within the life of this government, a mining conference that is proposed through his department? Would the Minister look at tabling it to see if we can get a mining conference so we can have more discussions on this type of area? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We have to look at the availability of time. I think we've got six or seven months left here in the life of this government. I'd certainly like to see something happen in the Sahtu, and if it doesn't happen during the life of this government it's something we could include in the transition.

Again, I want to thank the Member for his interest in this. I'm a big believer in what the potential is in the Sahtu, not just in oil and gas but also in mining. Certainly, we could look at having something like a conference or a workshop in the Sahtu at some point in time and I think that is a good idea. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 802-17(5):
DEMOLITION OF THE INUVIK
"BLUEBERRY PATCH" HOUSING UNITS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a long budget process and, as I mentioned, one of the concerns that were brought up, talking to some people at the Skills for Success conference symposium that's going on, were some of the barriers. One of them is housing. In Inuvik we do have a Blueberry Patch and I know it's getting demolished, possibly this summer. I understand that that responsibility has shifted to the Housing Corporation from Public Works and Services.

I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation when he expects the demolition of the Blueberry Patch to start and finish. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan is to put a tender out and have the Blueberry Patch demolished this summer. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I also understand that the Housing Corp will be taking over the responsibility for the land that the Blueberry Patch currently sits on. Has the Minister's department decided or proposed what to build on that land?

As I mentioned, housing is a concern across all communities across the Northwest Territories, and if we are going to decentralize and start creating jobs and oil and gas kicks back up, we need some houses for residents and people who move up there.

I would like to ask the Minister what he is proposing to put on that land once the Blueberry Patch is demolished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is a fairly significant amount of land. As far as what the plans are for it, I don't think there are any concrete plans right now. Just the option of having that land available to us as we plan for future development will be huge. So there are no concrete plans in place right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: I know, in the Housing Corporation, it's always hard to house people who are single. That might be an option, is to have a single-unit facility or also multi-family units that can be built. Moving forward, I know there is a long list of people on the housing list, people who are in market rental units.

Would the Minister be open to having a community consultation with key stakeholders as well as concerned residents on what we should be putting on that land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As always, we will have discussions with stakeholders. Again, we'll come up with a plan of what we might like to see on that and then we'll have some discussion with stakeholders, get input from them as well as some committee. Then we will determine the next steps after that. It's a very significant amount of land and I think it will go a long way in helping us address some of our needs in Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everybody knows the Blueberry Patch was used for family housing units for the Aurora College.

Has the Minister been speaking with the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment on creating family units to replace these ones being demolished? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is another one of the discussions that we have had. There is some common ground here to house students who attend

Aurora College in Inuvik. Many of them were living in the Blueberry Patch when it was determined that it was going to be demolished. They are all over town now in private market rentals. That's another discussion that we will have. Again, once we formulate a plan, we will be sharing it with all stakeholders involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 803-17(5):
INVESTING IN RENEWABLE
ENERGY SOURCES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my Member's statement with questions for the Premier. The current low price of oil gives us an opportunity to develop alternatives. Money we are saving through lower fossil fuel prices must be invested to implement environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and responsible energy solutions.

I'm wondering, as lead on energy, what extra money from our fuel savings from reduced oil prices is the Premier allocating to exploring and implementing renewable energy solutions for our people and, thus, for our planet. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has pre-empted us. As we indicated at the second Energy Charrette, that is exactly what our intentions are – to invest in renewable and alternative forms of energy – and we will be rolling that out when our government responds to the recommendations of the second Energy Charrette. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: That was four months ago, so we are anxiously awaiting that report. Fossil fuel companies and governments and, in fact, investors are confronted by the risk that many of the still-in-the-ground petrochemical reserves that count on balance sheets may never be recovered or realized. Burning more hydrocarbons is destroying the planet, as we know, and renewable energy is becoming more economically feasible daily, as we know.

Given the increasing likelihood that our fossil fuel reserves will be stranded because of economy and ecology, does this government have a plan B for our economy? If so, what is it? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have a number of plans. We have laid out our Economic Opportunities Strategy. Certainly part of the plan will be, as I said, investing in alternative and renewable forms of energy, as was pointed out at the Energy Charrette. Unfortunately, we will have to continue to rely on diesel at least as backup or to provide for redundancy. Certainly, we are promoting

development of our local economies and that was quite welcome, but we expect we will have to take more aggressive action to develop what the Member refers to as a plan B. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Minister's comments. Unfortunately, he didn't mention where most of our dollars are going and that's plan A, which is the pursuit of fossil fuels, a very, very risky investment, getting riskier every day. The International Monetary Fund found that between directly lowered prices, tax breaks and uncompensated environmental damage, fossil fuel subsidies worldwide were over \$1.9 trillion in 2011 or 8 percent of global government revenues, a huge drag on economy. The IMF's solution to both economic and climate risk is simple: End fossil fuel subsidies and tax carbon. They add the recognition of the necessity for worldwide conversion to renewable.

What is the Premier doing to transfer subsidies – and, believe me, we are subsidizing our fossil fuel industries to the tune of many millions of dollars – from a dying energy sector to one with a future? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I believe there is some exaggeration there. I look around the Northwest Territories and I don't see any drilling, I don't see any oil and gas activities. I'm not sure what the Member is referring to when he's talking about millions of dollars being invested in plan A. As a government, we have to keep the buildings heated, we have to make sure the lights stay on, and we will continue to do so while, at the same time, investing in alternative and renewable forms of energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the subsidies, simply look at our infrastructure budget, as the public does, of course. Let me sum up here, Mr. Speaker. The use of fossil fuels threatens the basic systems that make our planet livable. Fossil fuel assets are rapidly becoming liabilities as renewables are becoming too competitive and carbon levels become too dangerous. Our economies can no longer bear the subsidies for fossil fuel extraction, and there is a growing local and international belief that rapid transition to renewable solves the problems of both the climate and economy.

My question is: When will the Premier join the progressive jurisdictions across the world and seriously begin our transition to sustainability and away from the destructive fossil fuel-based energy and economic policy track we're on?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I don't mind repeating myself many times. As I've said, we're on track,

we're on schedule. The plan was for the government to respond to the Energy Charrette recommendations in May, at the same time we would identify investment in alternative and renewable forms of energy. At the same time, we are doing a tremendous amount in developing alternative sources of energy. We are the leaders in the country when it comes to biomass and other forms of renewable energy. I don't think that should be discounted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 804-17(5):
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND
PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
LEGISLATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I want to thank the Minister at the outset for the response to my oral question which he tabled yesterday, read into Hansard yesterday.

It doesn't go all the way to answering some of the questions that I wanted to ask him last month, so I want to ask a few more.

One of the recommendations from the Information and Privacy Commissioner, in regards to access to information and protection of privacy legislation for municipalities, was that the government ought to consider a phased-in approach to implementing this particular legislation, that tax-based communities are probably better able to respond than non-tax-based communities.

I'd like to task the Minister, first of all, is that an option for the department? Will he and the department consider a phased-in approach to the implementation of legislation for municipalities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take that question. I will respond to the Member's question. That could be an option, and it's a discussion that we have to have with NWTAC because they are huge stakeholders in this. We can have that discussion with them and see if there's an appetite from them to have a phased-in approach or have it phased in at all. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for considering that. That's great. I appreciate that commitment.

One of the things in the fall MACA update, there was a little blurb on municipal access to information and protection of privacy legislation, and that was my initial reason for asking some questions. It states in the MACA fall update that it is expected

that this report will be completed during the life of the 17th Assembly. In the response yesterday, the Minister said that they're working on it, they're talking to senior staff at communities, but I didn't really get a sense of when the report is going to be completed.

So I'd like to know from him, if he can tell me, is it going to be done in the life of the 17th Assembly? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The report will be done during the life of the 17th Assembly. As to exact time, I'm not quite sure; I'd have to get that information. But it will be done during the life of the 17th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 805-17(5):
PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
HOMEOWNERSHIP

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Buying and owning a home is the largest decision a person can make in their lives, and towards that goal a person has to really understand just the personal financial management of ensuring that they understand the value of money. So my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Can the Minister describe any programs that are in place to teach residents about financial literacy and the whole homeowner obstacle course? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister of Housing, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe it's a homeownership obstacle course. There may be a time when it was, but I think we've streamlined the programs where it makes it fairly easy to navigate through.

There is a course, once somebody puts an application in, Solutions to Educate People. We call it the STEP course. During that course they would have some courses or some information on finances and how to budget and things like that. So, we try and assist them through the systems so they know exactly what they're getting into and what's required of them once they become homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for his reply. There is a forgivable loan option under the PATH program.

Can the Minister describe what measures are taken to inform NWT residents about this option? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We make every effort to inform the public of some of the programs we offer. The forgivable part of it is just one component of the course, or one component of some of the services that we offer. So, we have it on our

website, and once people put an application in and if they find out they qualify for X amount and that's forgivable, then we explain to them how the forgivable portion of it works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: The Housing Corporation has a number of homeownership programs geared to low- and modest-income residents.

Can the Minister describe what type of monitoring and evaluation are being done to find out what's working, what's not working, and why? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: It's an ongoing evaluation, and one of the ways we find out if it's working or not working is the number of houses that have been quitclaimed back to the NWT Housing Corporation. We put people into units, thinking that they have the ability to maintain these units. In some cases, many of them succeed, but for the ones who don't, they quitclaim their units. They go back to the NWT Housing Corporation, and they realize they may be better suited as public housing clients.

We also have the HELP program, a two-year program that transitions them into homeownership. They're responsible for all the upkeep of the unit for two years, and they make a determination after that whether homeownership is for them or not, then they go on to the next phase.

I could also point out that if they move on to the next phase, there's also a bit of an incentive that we offer them to go from the HELP units into homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Can the Minister describe what's being done in small communities to build up the stock of private market homes for sale? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We don't put any more units in communities on speculation unless we know we have clients for them. One of the things the Member asked was what we had learned before. One of the things we did learn was, when we had the Affordable Housing Initiative, we put many units on the ground, assuming that we had people in the communities who would qualify for these units. Unfortunately, we didn't get as much uptake as we thought. Many people didn't qualify. We converted a lot of them over to public housing units, which was well received by most communities.

Our position now is we would like to make sure that we have clients who are qualified first, before we put the units in the community, because we've faced the issue in the past of too many vacant units in the community. I think we heard it from Members at the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th,

so we're taking steps to address that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 806-17(5):
NORTHERN MANUFACTURED
PRODUCTS POLICY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of ITI made a statement about manufacturing and the GNWT's support of manufacturing in the Northwest Territories. I guess one of the problems I have is that I'm not seeing that in real life. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation today.

In October the Department of Transportation issued a tender to have a plow truck manufactured in the South. It was given to a northern contractor, but all the work is being done in the South.

Can the Minister of Transportation indicate why this tender was issued? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the Northern Manufacturer Policy has certain items that are under the Northern Manufacturer Policy and a plow truck is not one of the items under the northern manufacturer product, even though they can be made in the Territories. In that case, the individuals constructing plow trucks in the territory would then compete with other bidders and they would have Business Incentive Policy numbers apply. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: I don't understand the concept, because the Department of Transportation had plow trucks built in the North by northern manufacturers before, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: It is likely that they have the plow trucks assembled here in the Northwest Territories. I guess my point is that the plow truck itself is not approved as an NWT-manufactured product. It's not registered as an NWT-manufactured product. So when they build a plow truck, they go through a regular tender process and then they compete. Wherever it is considered to be northern, then they would get the Business Incentive Policy applied, which would benefit them and give them that advantage in that category, but not necessarily getting the job just outright as a northern manufacturer. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess the manufacturing policy, if there's a 25 percent value-added is the indication, and the information I've been given is that the value of this tender was 70 percent of manufacturing and the truck was only 30 percent of the cost.

The department has bought plow trucks from a northern manufacturer before. How does this company not get on a manufacturing list? How does the Department of Transportation not support northern manufacturing?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The company that put the plow truck together, manufactured the plow truck, is a registered northern manufacturer, but they're registered to provide steel tanks, bridges, steel plate girders and so on. In order for them to become a northern manufacturer of plow trucks, then they'd have to go through the process of going through ITI and getting registered as a northern manufacturer. I don't think there's anything preventing that from happening, however. If they're recognized as a northern manufacturer and the added value is there and they're approved, then in the future when DOT buys plow trucks we would just go directly to our approved northern manufacturer of products. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It baffles me that the GNWT doesn't... A product they've already bought, a product they've already been given several times, they still don't respect that. Even if the manufacturing wasn't respected, on a bid of \$216,000 or \$217,000, even if BIP was applied at 10 percent, the bid prices were \$8,400 apart. Even 10 percent on a \$200,000 bid price, that's \$20,000. A northern company should have got it. A value-added would have been in the Northwest Territories.

Can the Minister explain why this company was not given the tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have the BIP evaluations here with me today; however, I have confidence that the individuals who are tendering and the procurement are doing appropriate BIP evaluation. I'm assuming after the BIP was applied that the company that got the job had the lowest number. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 807-17(5):
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
FOSTER FAMILIES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After a review of yesterday's Hansard, I'd like to continue where my colleague from Yellowknife Centre left off yesterday during questions on foster families. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Referencing the 2014 Report of the Auditor General on Child and Family Services, it was stated by the Auditor, and subsequently noted by committee, that there was no standardized approach for foster care.

Beyond the standard rates of pay for foster parents, there were no territory-wide standards of delivering foster care.

Can the Minister indicate if these disparities in rates of pay and standards across regional authorities and Yellowknife have been resolved? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, yesterday there was an indication that rates have not changed for foster care since I believe it was 1996. This is in fact not correct.

In 2007 there was a review of foster rates done here in the Northwest Territories, and from the results of that review, the rates increased in most of the communities in the Northwest Territories based on an assessment of food costs, including baby formula, operation of automobiles and trucks, household cleaning supplies and other paper goods, personal care items, water, fuel and electricity, reading materials and other printed materials. These are the criteria that were used in determining the rates, and those rates, as I indicated, increased in most communities in the Northwest Territories.

On top of that, we also added an age of child amount, which increased the base amount that was provided to foster families by either four, three or five dollars, depending on the age of the child. This was done in 2007. Following up on the recommendations from committee, we are doing another analysis to make sure that the rates are still appropriate, and we're working very closely with the Foster Family Coalition who is partnering with us on this review of the individual rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I got an answer to the standards of care of delivering foster care. I'll maybe ask that question another time.

I also noted in that 2014 Auditor General report there was a chronic shortage of foster care families, and this shortage continues today. Maybe the shortage is somehow financially linked. Again, we've heard from the Minister that the rates have changed from 2007.

Can the Minister indicate where is the rate for Yellowknife? It was at \$24. Where is the rate today?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I indicated that the rates went up in 2007, and following up on a recommendation from committee, we're doing another review of those rates. As I indicated, we're working very closely with the Foster Family Coalition for the Northwest Territories on that review. As of today the rate of Yellowknife is still

\$24 an hour, but as I indicated, there's also the age of child bonus that can be added on to that based on the age of the child. They will get a bonus of \$4 a day for children between the ages of zero to five, \$3 a day for six to 12, and \$5 a day for 13 to 18. That's on top of the \$24.

MR. DOLYNNY: I believe I heard \$24 an hour but I'm assuming it means per diem per day. I'm assuming that's the number we're referring to here.

Again, I'm not quite understanding whether or not there was a change in 2007 to the per diem rate for foster care families. It is alleged that \$24 was the rate that may not have changed since 1996, as indicated in yesterday's Hansard, but I'll leave it at that. The question still is that there is a CPI index that needs to be looked at since 2007. So, if by minimum compounded standards of 1.83 percent per annum, there would still have to have some considerable amount of money being put in in terms of the indexed of this amount annually.

Would the Minister at least agree to investigate further whether this number should be indexed and will it be indexed moving forward?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Member is correct; the additional child amount is per day not per hour. As I indicated, in 2007 there was a review, and I've articulated the different criteria that were used to determine the rates that will be provided. Virtually every community in the Northwest Territories went up as a result of that review. Yellowknife was not one of them. There were three communities that did not change. Yellowknife is still at \$24 a day.

As I indicated, we have taken the recommendation from committee and we are clearly looking at these rates that are provided and we are working very, very closely with the Foster Family Coalition on that review and we're incorporating the comments from committee as we do that work.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's still not clear here. I am led to believe, from what we've heard today and what we hear from yesterday, is that the \$24 rate per day has not changed for Yellowknife since 1996. Again, if we were just to apply simple math of 1.83 percent compounded annually over the 19-year period, that would be a 41.25 percent increase in that rate, or should be, applied to that rate, so that at a minimum, that number should be at least \$33.90 per day.

Would the Minister at least consider raising the per diem rate for Yellowknife for foster families to at least \$33.90 per day?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I indicated, in 2007 there was an analysis done of the foster rates provided to all communities in the Northwest

Territories and there was a number of criteria including cost of living, food costs, baby formula and operation of household equipment that were used to help determine that rate. That rate changed in almost community in the Northwest Territories. By way of example, Aklavik went from \$35 to \$43 a day, Deline went from \$37 to \$45 a day, Kakisa went from \$24 to \$34 a day. There were some communities that did not change. Unfortunately, Yellowknife was one of those communities that did not change. It remained at \$24 a day plus the additional child amount, which was new money, money that did not exist before. No matter what, no matter how you look at it, Yellowknife did go up a minimum of \$3 a day based on the actual additional child amount.

I'm not arguing with the Member. I'm agreeing that we need to do this review. Committee did indicate that the review is necessary, and we're in the review. I do need to stress that we are clearly doing that work with the Foster Family Coalition that is providing input as we move forward.

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

QUESTION 808-17(5):
AURORA COLLEGE
SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly a pleasure to ask questions here today. Although I did some of my Member's statement in Chip, my questions will not be in Chip. Although I'm sure Mr. Beaulieu helped me very greatly. I want to give him special credit and thanks for that help.

The question I'm going to be raising here today is in my Member's statement I talked about the importance of the Social Work Program. In the Northwest Territories we have a two-year diploma program, and in order for a student to seek a degree in this particular program, they have to continue the third and fourth year in a southern institution and I believe many of them use a university in Regina.

My question, really, for the Minister: What would it take to get on the education agenda, the Aurora College agenda, an evaluation of basing a full four-year program here in the Northwest Territories so our students who choose to take the Social Work Program can take it here in the North where they want to work, where they want to live?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I guess part of the process would be for those students and also the community members who are interested in having a four-year degree-granting program delivered in the Northwest Territories, then that message can be delivered

through the college, the venue. In order to make that happen, our legislation has to change as well.

Currently, we have three college campuses that currently deliver a diploma program, two years, and then they either continue with a third and fourth year degree social work or an option for them to pursue the workforce area. That has happened in the past and they continue with their distance learning, as well, and they eventually obtain their degree program. Those are just some of the areas that students or community members can access through the college.

MR. HAWKINS: I would kind of like to hear how the Minister wants to create this type of change. He said there was a legislative issue there. The Northwest Territories, through Aurora College, found a way with the teachers, found a way through our nursing program. Why can we find a way through this path?

I'm asking the Minister: What is he willing to do and what can he do to help ensure that the students in the Northwest Territories who want a Social Work Program, a full program, can obtain this opportunity here in the North where they want, in their home, in the North, where they want to do their work in their community?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As I stated, this is an area that the college is fully aware. We're currently delivering a bachelor of education through our southern partners, and even through the Social Work Program, the diploma program... (inaudible)... southern institution along with other degree-granting programs with our southern institutions. We don't have the legislation to grant the degrees in the Northwest Territories at this point, but this is an area that the college, I'm fully aware, is exploring, having a survey to the students and community members on which programs should be delivered as a degree-granting program in the Northwest Territories. It is in the works and I'm looking forward to the outcome of their feedback.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm going to use the opportunity to remind the Minister that he's in charge of the legislation and he could move the legislative initiative forward. Once again, as the Minister, clearly he's aware that this is an option here for the Northwest Territories. Clearly, he's already said there are discussions going on, and frankly, I want to hear what he is willing to do, because I kind of get tired of how we talk about how we can't do things. I remember the excitement when we all ran into this building and said how we will do things.

What is the Minister willing to do so we can work towards getting the social work program a full degree program here in the Northwest Territories?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: What I'm willing to do is listen to the students and listen to community members on which area we should focus on,

whether it be a bachelor of education, whether it be social work, the nursing degree-granting program or other specialized degree programs here in the Northwest Territories. Those are the people who are taking those courses. We need to listen to them. That's what we're doing at the current stage, having a survey from the college perspective, to hear and also receive feedback from the students who are taking these programs.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the students have been saying this for years. The instructors at the college have been saying this for years. What will it take from the Minister to finally break through and realize how important this particular option and opportunity is? I'm willing to go get a survey. Does he want 100 names on a petition? Does he want 1,000 names? You tell us what we'll do and we'll help him do his job. That's all I want. Frankly, what does the Minister need from us to help him realize how important this degree program is and we'll go out and do it. Maybe he can tell us what will make the difference.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. The program that we're currently delivering, the Social Work Diploma Program, is working effectively and efficiently. We're graduating students. Beyond that they're going to southern institutions to get their degree programming and then they're moving back to the North to work for us. We have internship programs where we've hired all these students as well.

So, it is a very successful diploma program. We're doing really well with our college programming. There's always room for improvement. This is an area that we are currently exploring. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final, short... No, you you've already had your questions, Mr. Hawkins. Nice try.

---Laughter

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 809-17(5):
WILLOW RIVER BRIDGE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions for the Minister of Transportation. Earlier this session I did a statement on the need for funds to install a bridge at Willow River.

As we speak, the community is doing a gravel haul up to Willow River. It's a perfect opportunity to put this bridge in place. Over the last couple of weeks we've had a chinook up in my riding and with this warm weather we're expecting an early spring, so this work needs to be done before April.

Will the Minister work with the community to ensure that we can spend these funds before April and invoice later? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working with the community from our regional office in Inuvik. Our superintendent has had contact with the community that's going to be installing the bridge, hauling the bridge from Inuvik and I think another piece of the bridge from the South. Also, this concept of them spending the money now and then requesting that it be preapproved from the following season is something that we're looking at seriously. We have a budget now, one to do the entire bridge from them and then one for work that is immediate. So it looks very reasonable from what I can see and we're moving forward on that. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. That's great news and I look forward to this bridge being hauled into Aklavik and later to the work site.

With these funds, the community can start putting this bridge in place, and also I mentioned they were doing a gravel haul. At this time of year, the departments usually are on a spending frenzy here.

Will the Minister work with his department to ensure that they stockpile gravel in the community of Aklavik in order to fuel projects this summer? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The gravel is something we have worked on every year. I think last year we were okay. We had a bit of a surplus of gravel. If the gravel sources are down, then, we do have a granular program. I think probably the community has one and we would do one with the Department of Transportation as well. So we will continue to do that. We will also agree with the latest numbers that we have they're reasonable and the DOT will reimburse the community if they spend the money to haul the bridge in from Inuvik and also from Nelson, I believe, because there's still one piece of the bridge down there. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: We have just over a month of time to do this work. That's not a lot of time, especially with the warm weather coming closer. As I mentioned, Housing actually is stockpiling gravel in the community, but the contractor is not planning to put this road in place due to the cost of the next couple of years. So I strongly encourage the Minister and the department to ensure that they stockpile enough for the next couple of years here. They will be making the road up to the bridge site, but it's not planned up to the gravel source. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We're getting into the funding of this road because we're hoping that the road is completed all the way to the gravel source. So we'll continue to work with the community and

fund what we can on the road annually. We have a limited amount of funds and we have quite a number of projects throughout the North under accessing this Access Road Program, but on this road here we've begun to fund it. We're looking at it. The community is starting to see that we're serious about getting that bridge in and start building the road to the gravel source at Willow River. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 810-17(5):
DEHCHO PROCESS NEGOTIATIONS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I raised some questions in terms of the Dehcho Process negotiations. We seem to be at an important juncture between the negotiations with the federal government, GNWT and the DFN. What's at stake is the fundamental divide seems to be getting greater daily, and yesterday the Minister of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations stated that the GNWT never left the table.

So I want to ask a question to the Minister of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations whether he can clarify whether his officials have cancelled negotiation sessions with the Dehcho First Nations or not. Mahsi.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Dehcho First Nations has written, through legal counsel, to inform the Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada that the Dehcho First Nations is pursuing litigation against both governments. The correspondence accuses the Government of the Northwest Territories of negotiating in bad faith. The Government of the Northwest Territories does not negotiate in bad faith. The Government of the Northwest Territories understands that it is not bad faith to have officials work collaboratively for almost two years exploring creative solutions to land questions. It is not bad faith for a party to negotiate to offer the best land quantum deal ever offered in the Northwest Territories. It is not bad faith to honestly communicate that extent of flexibility and it is certainly not bad faith for a party to negotiations to acknowledge that the parties may be too far apart to warrant continuing negotiations.

The correspondence also accuses the Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada of breaching our duty to consult, which is baffling. No particulars of this have been provided. The GNWT takes its duties very seriously and we have been

very open and transparent. I can't imagine any basis for these claims.

While raising litigation may be an ill-advised negotiation tactic, we must take it seriously even if we see no merit to it. If this is simply a tactic, this is certainly not helpful. I believe respect is built on honest and frank discussions. Making baseless accusations and threats of litigation is not how you build relationships and move forward.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. The initial settlement boundary or the territory of the Dehcho First Nations is about 210,000 square kilometres, which is the southwestern part of the NWT. The negotiations between the federal government and Dehcho First Nations was bilateral for the longest time and the GNWT became a party to those negotiations recently. Now it's a negotiations process that involves the federal government, the GNWT and the Dehcho First Nations.

Could the Minister of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs explain how he understands that, one, the federal offer to the Dehcho First Nations was a land quantum of 39,336 square kilometres and, two, that the GNWT offer of 37,500 square kilometres is more than the federal offer? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that this type of behaviour from the Dehcho negotiators is not new. At this point it is getting even more difficult to see a path forward through negotiations.

To answer the Member's questions, all you have to do is do the math. The federal government offered 39,000. That's when the Dehcho included the Acho Dene Koe, the Fort Liard Metis Nation and the K'atlodeeche First Nation. So when you subtract those numbers, you come to 33,448 and we have offered 37,500 square kilometres of land, so it's a substantial increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: Previous efforts to bridge the gap. Right now the gap is getting wider as our discussions take place, or lack of discussions on the fundamental differences in terms of the jurisdiction, the ownership and also the sovereignty of the Dehcho First Nations asserted territory.

Previous efforts were to mandate a federal ministerial envoy to help facilitate that gap between the Dehcho First Nations and the federal government.

Does the Minister agree to a mediator as an option to help facilitate getting beyond the current impasse? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Today in the Deh Cho Drum, the grand chief is quoted as saying, "I've been in this business for a long time. Any time the Dehcho has taken these kind of extreme actions, we always come out ahead." Extreme positions are not helpful or productive. All of this is unfortunate,

and the people that are losing out because of this are the people of the Deh Cho.

The Dehcho Framework Agreement provides facilitation may be requested should the parties come to an impasse. We have, of course, been working on the impasse related to land for a long time. While facilitation might be an option to consider, it is not something that can be realistically entertained while one party is accusing the other of bad faith and stating that it intends to litigate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you. I'm going to be very brief. Can the Minister, once again, clarify whether the GNWT officials have suspended negotiations? Yes or no. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As I said yesterday, we have not walked away from any meetings. We have not suspended anything. We have asked for a response to a very generous offer, the best offer this government has made in the Northwest Territories. We have increased the Government of Canada's offer from 33,448 to 37,500, and as I said, there is a main table that's there. That involves the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Dehcho First Nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 811-17(5):
NORTHERN MANUFACTURED
PRODUCTS POLICY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My example of the plow truck is only one of many that I could bring up in this House. My next question is for the Minister of ITI responsible for BIP manufacturing and BIP.

My question is: With communication that we've had before these tenders for the plow truck went out, about the concern, about the value-added in the Northwest Territories, how can the Department of ITI improve this system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can improve the system by working with the manufacturers here in the Northwest Territories. I mentioned earlier, we were in Hay River recently, and just last week we had another meeting here in Yellowknife. We have to enable manufacturers to know what the process is to get items registered so that they can be included as items that are manufactured in the North, and we fully intend on continuing to work with manufacturers here in the Northwest Territories so that situations like the

Member outlined for us earlier don't happen again. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess my frustration with this process is five days after the Department of ITI and several departments came to Hay River a tender was issued for the manufacturing of fire pits and it had to meet a southern manufacturer's standard. Why couldn't those fire pits be manufactured in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I want to thank the Member for his intervention in that, and I believe those are being manufactured in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: As I indicated, there are many examples. I'm just wondering what the Department of ITI is doing to collaborate with all the departments to buy products and services to make sure that we're supporting northern manufacturers?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We're doing what we can and working with the other departments. PWS, Transportation and a number of other folks were involved in the meetings we had both in Hay River and here in Yellowknife. There is also now a Northern Manufacturing Association that's going to be developed. They're going to prove to be a single voice for manufacturers here in the Northwest Territories, and we believe that's going to be a good conduit to working with government to ensure that products that are manufactured here in the Northwest Territories are purchased by our government here in the Northwest Territories, benefitting the economy here in the NWT. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the Minister can indicate to me who in his department will be watching to make sure that departments are not tendering out for manufactured items, and making sure that items that can be built in the North will be built in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That would be at the highest level: assistant deputy minister, deputy minister. They would be the ones I would count on in ensuring we are following policy, that goods that are manufactured here in the Northwest Territories are on the list and that we are continuing to work with manufacturers here in the NWT. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 812-17(5):
PROTECTION OF NWT
PUBLIC LANDS AND PARKS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for Minister Miltenberger, ENR,

and I'd like to speak about the northern tools. The Minister has stated that the NWT Wildlife Act, the Territorial Parks Act and the Lands Act could be used to protect special areas of the NWT as northern tools, including Thaidene Nene. More specifically, the Minister has stated that Thaidene Nene will likely be protected through a combination of national park legislation and northern tools. This was in Hansard on February 19th. On public lands in the NWT, it's important that all members of the public are meaningfully engaged in decisions about land use that impact their future.

My first question is: Given the current lack of transparency on what these northern tools actually are, can the Minister provide assurance that the public will be consulted on the exact nature of northern tools, some of which are in federal legislation, devolution legislation that we've mirrored without any review by the public, for protection and conservation of NWT lands? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we are a little further down the road with the negotiations and have a much clearer idea of what exactly is going to be considered, the answer would be absolutely yes.

MR. BROMLEY: I assume that would be before those tools would be actually applied, so that there was understanding on the basis of...so the public could have real input there.

My second question: Can the Minister provide assurance that there will be a full and early consultation with the public about the concept of Thaidene Nene? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It's our intent to have a public process and it's our intent, as we indicated in committee, to structure a process similar to the stakeholders Wildlife Act Advisory Group that was put in place for the work done on the Wildlife Act. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Minister's comments there. I know the Minister is well aware that this is the biggest used recreational area in the Northwest Territories, tens of millions of dollars every year poured into the recreation in that area.

Can the Minister confirm that northern tools will provide for the permanent legislated protection of the surface and subsurface of NWT parks, meeting international and national standards for protected areas? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I can assure the Member and the folks who are listening that we're going to come up with a plan that balances out our interests with those of Lutselk'e for the small federal footprint. We have some northern tools that the Member is articulating in this House

that could be used; some will need to be amended. The ability for permanent withdrawals is not clearly stated in some of the legislation. But as we work towards the final determination of the configuration of what is going to be in place in the Thaidene Nene area with the federal footprint and whatever complement of northern tools are decided on, those factors will be looked at very carefully. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there are multiple examples of parks in the Northwest Territories that allow the use of motors and hunting and so on.

Will the Minister assure NWT residents that any northern tools used in conjunction with national park legislation for Thaidene Nene will provide protection equivalent to a national park while reflecting the recreational interests of Northerners? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Since we are now post April 1st and we're onto the path from devolve to evolve, clearly we're going to design a system of land use and northern tools around Thaidene Nene around whatever federal footprint is there that are going to protect the interests of both the land and Northerners and respect third-party interests and will be designed in the North by Northerners for Northerners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Time for oral questions has expired.

Colleagues, before we go on today, I just got a note from the wife of Mr. Yakeleya. It says, "I'd like to remind Norman that it's his birthday tomorrow." I'd like to wish happy birthday to Mr. Yakeleya for tomorrow. We'll have cake on the plane.

Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ramsay.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 226-17(5):
TAKE ONE: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FILM
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

TABLED DOCUMENT 227-17(5):
COMMUNITIES AND DIAMONDS:
2014 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES UNDER THE EKATI, DIAVIK AND
SNAP LAKE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 228-17(5):
2014 ANNUAL REPORT – NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following three documents, entitled "Take One: Northwest Territories Film Strategy and Action Plan," "Communities and Diamonds: 2014 Annual Report of the Government of the Northwest Territories under the Ekati, Diavik and Snap Lake Socio-economic Agreements;" and "2014 Annual Report, Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 229-17(5):
NWT PATIENT EXPERIENCE WITH
HEALTHCARE SERVICES REPORT 2014

TABLED DOCUMENT 230-17(5):
MEASURING SUCCESS AND FOCUSING
ON RESULTS: NWT HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled "NWT Patient Experience with Healthcare Services Report 2014" and "Measuring Success and Focusing on Results: NWT Health and Social Services System 2013-2014 Annual Report." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 231-17(5):
PUBLIC REVIEW OF DEVOLUTION
LEGISLATION – MARCH 12, 2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 232-17(5):
THE HONOURABLE ROBERT R. MCLEOD
MEETING WITH OUTSIDE PARTIES,
JANUARY 2014 – FEBRUARY 2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 233-17(5):
AURORA COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled "Public Review of Devolution Legislation" and "The Honourable Robert R. McLeod Meeting with Outside Parties, January 2014 to February 2015."

I wish to table the following document, entitled "Aurora College Annual Report 2013-2014." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 234-17(5):
INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING
\$250,000 – APRIL 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Inter-activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000, April 1 to December 31, 2014." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Bromley.

Motions

MOTION 41-17(5):
REPEAL AND REPLACE RULES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: WHEREAS the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and all of its standing and special committees are conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the current Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories were originally adopted on April 1, 1993, and amended numerous times over the years;

AND WHEREAS a comprehensive review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was undertaken in order to modernize the rules, to acknowledge changes related to

technology, to reflect current practices as adopted by the Assembly and to continue to provide a transparent and efficient method of transacting public business;

AND WHEREAS the amended Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories were considered by the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, and the recommendations for amendments were then referred to the Caucus of the 17th Legislative Assembly for further consideration and approval;

AND WHEREAS a copy of the revised and approved Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, was tabled in this House on March 10, 2015, and identified as Tabled Document 221-17(5);

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that this Legislative Assembly repeal the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories originally adopted on April 1, 1993, and adopt the newest version of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, identified as Tabled Document 221-17(5);

AND FURTHER, that the new Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, upon adoption of this motion, come into effect May 27, 2015.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to this, I am pleased to summarize the intent of the comprehensive rewrite of the Assembly's rules as well as to highlight the most substantive changes that are being incorporated.

A working group consisting of senior staff from the Office of the Clerk was formed to study and make recommendations on revisions to the current rules of the Legislative Assembly. The working group considered the rules and procedures of other Legislatures with a particular focus on the approaches taken in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and New South Wales, Australia, as well as the Canadian House of Commons. We also addressed issues and suggestions provided by the legislative coordinator, who is a senior procedural advisor to the Government House Leader.

A review was conducted with two objectives in mind. The first was to modernize the rules of the Legislative Assembly, acknowledging changes over the last several Assemblies related to technology, to update the rules to reflect current practices as adopted by the Assembly, and to replace outdated or irrelevant rules. The second objective was to streamline procedures while balancing the interests of all Members and to provide a transparent and more efficient method of transacting public business.

The results of the review were divided into three separate areas:

1. Housekeeping matters: The review identified amendments which may be considered housekeeping in nature. These include correcting grammatical, spelling and number errors. In some cases, sections for rules were removed within the document for ease of access. No substantive changes are included in these matters.
2. Clarification matters: The suggested amendments identified in this section contained changes in wording in order to clarify the intent of a rule or a process that the Assembly has already adopted. Changes in this area generally reflect current practice and procedures.
3. Substantive matters: The suggested amendments identified in this section are generally new additions to the current rules including some substantive rewording of current rules to reflect discussions with respect to procedures and practices of the Assembly and consideration of the practices in other jurisdictions.

I will now highlight the most substantive changes being incorporated:

- Rule 1(3) allows the Speaker discretion to alter the rules and practices to accommodate Members with disabilities.
- Rule 3(1) provides clarity and formalizes the Assembly's three sittings each calendar and the respective start dates.
- Rule 12(9) provides for the use of electronic devices in the Chamber and references detailed guidelines set out in Appendix 1.
- Rule 15(1) provides greater clarity on who may be admitted to the Chamber during House proceedings in addition to Members themselves.
- Rule 24(n) provides a more comprehensive list of prohibited props or exhibits.
- Rule 24(o) specifies that Members cannot speak of confidential matters in the House.
- Rules 25(1-6) clarify the process for dealing with and defining points of order.
- Rule 28(4) provides for earlier presentation of committee reports on Tuesdays rather than Thursdays, to enable greater media coverage and public transparency.
- Rule 35(2) provides for advanced distribution of the Commissioner's opening address to Members on the day of presentation.
- Rule 37(3) provides for advance distribution of the Finance Minister's budget address to Members on the day of presentation.

- Rules 42(1-5) tighten up the procedures for posing and responding to oral questions, confirms that questions taken as notice must be responded to in the House on a subsequent day and form part of the record of proceedings.
- Rule 43 formalizes the tabling of responses to ministerial commitments, to provide additional information to a Member, made during oral question period.
- Rules 47(1-10) clarify the composition of a petition, including electronic petitions, and allows the Clerk to determine whether a petition is in the correct format prior to presentation in the House.
- Rule 48 clarifies that the Speaker has the ultimate authority in determining if a tabled document conforms to the rules and practices of the House and whether a document meets the criteria of sufficient public import or interest.
- Rule 50(k) removes the inefficient two-day notice period for the first reading of appropriation bills. These bills are often introduced at the end of a sitting in response to a House order calling for the production of a bill that mirrors estimates already considered and adopted by the House.
- Rules 59(1-4) provide clarity on the allowed scope of amendments to motions and the process for dealing with amendments and sub-amendments.
- Rules 89(1-3) incorporate the committee's terms of reference in an appendix to allow for greater efficiency when updating or amending the terms of reference.
- Rule 91(2) provides greater certainty to Members who are called upon to act as alternates in a committee meeting, clarifies their ability to participate and vote with equal rights as enjoyed by full-time committee members during a particular meeting.
- Rule 100(5) provides clarity to the Executive Council regarding both the timing and the parameters of government responses to committee reports.

I believe this summary captures the key changes that are being affected through the repeal and replacement of our current rules.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to rise with some objection to the motion that comes forward because I have some concerns on how the development of the rules and the procedures of the Legislative Assembly have emerged.

By and large, 99.9 percent, I support the initiative that has come forward, but I do have an issue with how the section called Point of Order has been evolved and finally found its, I guess I'll say, end wording.

It's my view that under Section 25, and I won't go through the full detail, but it says when a Member is to raise a point of order they shall cite. My view is they should cite the error that they feel that the rule has been broken and how it falls under.

As a Legislature, you're not expected to know everything in the House, but you should understand the general rules before us. Generally speaking, under a point of order, we usually find about 15 rules that we typically follow. Now, there are a lot of hidden practices and rules and nuances that every Assembly and every Chamber follows, and if we really boil it down, points of order generally fall into two or three different types of categories. In my experience over the last almost 12 years, it does.

As we migrate the word "shall" instead of using "should." what it does is make Members, in my opinion, and humbly I say this, Members are lazy. They should know the rules of the House, and I think it's fair that we should know the rules of how to do our job. Because if a person doesn't know the rule when they stand up and say I think someone broke a rule, and they're standing up, there is a point of order, the person charged, the person accused should know what rule they breached. It's only a simple question of natural justice, and I don't think that's fair.

I think we are not doing our job by not learning the rules. I would expect no less from a hockey player to understand what the blue line and the red line mean. I would expect a baseball player to know the rules. I expect a person driving down the road in a vehicle to understand the rules of that. Why would we think of ourselves less as legislators not to know the rules of the House? I don't expect someone to know it all the first day, but I certainly expect that they learn them, because they're actually quite straightforward. That doesn't mean we won't break them from time to time, and it doesn't mean we won't be called upon for correction, but to ask someone to stand up and say I think this person broke a rule and put it down to the Assembly machinery, be it the staff, be it you, Mr. Speaker, to figure out what rule they've broken, I think is being lazy and people should be doing their job.

I could speak endlessly on this, but the reality is I'm in the minority on this particular situation and I recognize that. Frankly, I still think strongly, though, that when someone calls a point of order they should say what the grievance is, and therefore the person accused of breaking the rule will fully understand and know what position they need to defend. Because rather than sitting there and assuming, well, I'm going to defend it because I

don't know, I don't understand what the issue is, but they're calling me wrong, it makes little sense. I define it purely as natural justice must be served, no different than when someone is driving down the road and a police officer pulls them over. It's the same type of process. I'm pulling you over because I think something might be wrong and we'll figure it out until we do get something wrong.

In the House if someone is called on a point of order, they should know exactly what the charge is and why, and that is the principle of how we should be operating.

In short, I believe the Assembly by choosing this approach on this one rule shows itself to be lazy for the job we could and should be doing. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member raising this question. It certainly has been a point of valid discussion, and discuss it we did. The Member is right. He can and, in fact, has spoken to this at length and I appreciate him bringing that forward, and all Members have had much opportunity to comment on it. Basically, a Member's ability to name rules will develop over time and certainly will likely be weak at the beginning and very strong at the end of their experience in the House. Of course, there's individual variation, the ability to quickly name a rule or do the research for it.

Finally, rules are rules. Whether they are named or not, they are there and they're not to be broken without some consequences. So again, I appreciate the Member bringing this forward again for discussion. We have discussed it quite a bit and I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 42-17(5):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO MAY 27, 2015,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, March 12, 2015, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, May 27, 2015;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to May 27, 2015, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the

Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 50:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 51:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 52:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 52, Supplementary

Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 53:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 54:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Forest Management Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Forest Management Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

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

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 50:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016, be read for the second time.

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016, has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 51:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 52:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 53:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
 NO. 1, 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Forest Management Act. Thank you.

---Consent granted

BILL 54:
 AN ACT TO AMEND THE
 FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Forest Management Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Forest Management Act to expand the subject matter of the act to include mushrooms, define mushrooms and establish regulation-making authority in respect of mushrooms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Forest Management Act, has had second reading and is referred to committee.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 14-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the 2014 Review of the Official Languages Act, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

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

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to deal with Committee Report 14-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the 2014 Review of the Official Languages Act. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. We will commence after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we've agreed to review Committee Report 14-17(5). To start, I will go with the chair of Gov Ops, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Government Operations was pleased to present its Report on the 2014 Review of the Official Languages Act to the House on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

The report was read into the record, received by the House and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

The mandate of the committee's review comes directly from the Official Languages Act. Members will recall from the report presented yesterday that the standing committee's approach to the review was to pick up from where the last legislative review, which was conducted in 2009, left off.

Our committee's focus was on achieving continuity and ensuring accountability for the work that was previously done.

As we consider the report and subsequent motions, other Members may wish to make comments. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. I will ask for general comments on the report. General comments. Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 113-17(5):
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES RESPONSE
 TO 2009 REPORT,
 CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment work closely with the Standing Committee on Government Operations to revise and bring forward its legislative

proposal for amendments to the Official Languages Act in the life of this Assembly;

And further, if the department has received any legal opinions related to the issue of federal concurrence with changes to the NWT's Official Languages Act, this information should be shared in confidence with the Standing Committee on Government Operations, so that the department and the committee are working with a shared understanding of the factors affecting legislative change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to just talk a little bit about this motion. Members had spoken about it a bit this week. In doing this review of the Official Languages Act, the committee found it quite difficult to get a handle on just where the department is in terms of what it's doing with regard to official languages.

We noted the Minister had made references to an official languages strategy I think four years ago, but could find no evidence that an official languages strategy had ever been put forward or tabled.

The other thing that was of great concern to committee is the very comprehensive review from the 16th Assembly that was conducted in 2008-2009 had never been formally responded to by the department and the Minister. There were a great number of recommendations in the 2009 report that the department said we can't respond to these because we don't want to bias the work we're doing. Committee really didn't know where the department was at because we had no response to the recommendations from the 2009 report. So this motion is asking for two things. We're asking for an official languages strategy to be tabled, so that we know clearly where the department is going and what their strategy is. We are asking for the official languages strategy or whatever document is tabled to include a response to all the recommendations in the 2009 report.

Committee has received some of that information from the department. A lot of that work has been done, but it isn't in the public realm. Committee would like it to be in the public realm, so part of this request is that the response from the department include a response to each of the recommendations in the 2009 report.

Lastly, the motion asks for the department, that has adopted a new approach to languages and it's not that committee feels it's a bad approach, it's just a new approach and it's unclear how it fits into everything else. So we would like this motion and the committee would like the department to identify how this new approach fits in with the

recommendations and the comments from the 2009 report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate Ms. Bisaro for bringing this motion forward. To not repeat many of the concerns that she has, as well as other committee members shared, this was a very problematic issue for the standing committee, which really has a very legitimate mandate to do this type of oversight. We are saddled with the ability to review all the policymaking and program on languages, so committee was very concerned. I think that was reflected in our report, almost to the point where there was a disregard for the committee in trying to get a firm answer with respect to the 2009 review. Without that formal response from the government, it makes our job that much more difficult in doing the oversight that we did.

Again, this motion asks us some very clear direction, and first and foremost, we need to have that fulsome reply to this 2009 review. Hopefully once we get it, it might be too late for the life of the 17th Assembly, but we'll hope that for future Assemblies we're able to look at that response and see how those recommendations fit in the actual plan that we have for language moving forward.

I just want to share my thoughts, Mr. Chair. It makes our job much more difficult when there are clear gaping holes in a committee mandate. Not having tools at our disposal and not having that 2009 review report coming back from the department did make our job a lot more cumbersome. I just want to share that thought with the House. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I just want to speak on some of the key events that took place within this realm of the Official Languages Act.

I think it's important that since we're talking about official languages, I'm going to speak in Tlicho.

[Translation] Mr. Chair, before I begin I would like to take a moment to thank those of my colleagues who use their official language in this House. I also want to thank my mother, who made sure that I spoke my mother tongue. Without her persistence I would not speak fluently. This is important in this conversation today: the role our parents play in making sure we know who we are and where we came from.

Aboriginal language revitalization is all about use and relevance. It is inspiring to hear all our Aboriginal MLAs and Mr. Dolynny using our official Aboriginal languages in this House.

As the Standing Committee on Government Operations noted in their report, they are building on the work of the previous Assembly, that presented a lengthy report with many recommendations. Since that report was tabled, I have responded to it and provided updates multiple times in person, and by letter when standing committee was not available to meet. This is up to and including a letter to the chair of the standing committee including a detailed table of the status of our work, which I sent on April 5, 2014.

Since the 2009 standing committee report was tabled, I chaired, with the chair of the same standing committee, the first Aboriginal languages symposium. At that meeting I also made room on the program for the chair of the standing committee to provide a presentation to delegates on the SCOGO report. Subsequently, a copy was presented and was sent to all the delegates.

Elders, regional Aboriginal governments, language coordinators, linguists and other experts were in attendance as were several MLAs at that time. Following that meeting, I tabled this in the House on October 27, 2010, a 10-year framework for official languages, entitled "NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan – A Shared Responsibility." As my opening message in the plan said, this plan used the information collected, the results and recommendations of the 2009 report of the NWT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Government Operations entitled "Reality Check: Securing the Future for the Official Languages of the Northwest Territories."

We took the advice of the standing committee and added the voice of language experts to draft this 10-year plan and its corresponding actions in response to the standing committee's report. This plan is updated as necessary and is undergoing an update at the moment to reflect our new partnership with regional Aboriginal governments as they assume considerable increased responsibility for revitalization of their own language.

Mr. Chair, as symposium delegates advise, where the responsibility rightly rests is with the actual keepers of the language who use their languages in their everyday lives and encourage others in their regions to do the same.

The plan will also be updated to reflect new agreements we will be signing with the federal government very soon, an agreement that we hope will bring increased funding to all our official languages and will enable our people to become more fluent in their mother tongues.

As I said, the 2009 SCOGO report was a lengthy report, coupled with 48 recommendations and 45 sub-recommendations, for a total of 93 recommendations. The report advocated for increasing the layers of oversight by dividing responsibility into two distinct and separate

branches: the official language services and Aboriginal language protection.

Under the Aboriginal language protection branch, a further two layers were proposed: an Aboriginal language authority and an Aboriginal language advisory committee. In addition, a non-government Aboriginal languages centre was proposed. The advice received from standing committee to create these layers of bureaucracy is, however, not what Aboriginal governments, elders and language experts are telling us. What they said is we need less bureaucracy and more authority as keepers of the language, and we listened.

This government has worked with Aboriginal governments to assess in creating and finding their five-year language plan. Now, as we come to the end of the first year of the implementation, we are working together to create a detailed measurement, evaluation and accountability framework.

That framework will provide both the GNWT and our Aboriginal government partners with the information we all need to move forward, making any necessary changes and improvements and guarantee the survival and strengthening of our official Aboriginal languages.

Many of the 93 recommendations suggested in the 2009 standing committee report most certainly have merit and we have and are working on those. I very much look forward to providing further detailed reporting when I table my response to the current standing committee report in 120 days.

When we speak about NWT official languages, we must also take into consideration English and French. There is no doubt that English is thriving and needs little help, but our responsibility to French is a different matter. The French community is working very hard with their language speakers to strengthen their language and to make it very clear that they expect no less from the government.

Recently, every department in this government created language plans to describe how services will be provided to French residents, and those plans are currently being implemented. We are extremely hopeful that the new language agreement we will sign with the federal government will provide additional funding to completely underwrite the cost of the government's French Language Plan. This is a responsibility that resides with the federal government and we fully expect to be met.

In closing, I would like to say again that I tabled a response to the 2009 report in the form of a 10-year plan, entitled "NWT Aboriginal Language Plan – A Shared Responsibility." I have provided updates to standing committee through representations and letters and through annual language reports. I will be more than happy to table all this information once again, including letters to the standing

committee if the chair permits. I will provide a full detailed response to the standing committee report in 120 days. [Translation ends]

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Dolynny.

COMMITTEE MOTION 114-17(5):
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS
TO THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment work closely with the Standing Committee on Government Operations to revise and bring forward its legislative proposal for amendments to the Official Languages Act in the life of this Assembly;

And further, if the department has received any legal opinions related to the issue of federal concurrence with changes to the NWT's Official Languages Act, this information should be shared in confidence with the Standing Committee on Government Operations, so that the department and the committee are working with a shared understanding of the factors affecting legislative change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. A motion is on the floor. The motion has been distributed. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Minister for bringing some clarity to the House and bringing some clarity to the committee with the report. I know the Minister has made offerings a number of times in his dissertation earlier about coming back in 120 days with a more fulsome report to us. That said, there was and there is a bit of a strained relationship currently, and I think our report factored that in with the standing committee. There were a lot of moving parts in the last couple of years since 2009, and our attempt was to try to find at least some commonality where language was going.

Now, this motion, if I may, Mr. Chair, I'd like to quote just a very quick passage out of our report that puts into context the motion we have before the House.

"The standing committee is deeply troubled by the department's apparent lack of concern for the fact that it's operating the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board in contravention of its own legislation."

What transpired, according to chronology of the department, was the fact that the revitalization board was brought into play, which really, in essence, de facto, breached the legislation that we have before the House. Now, I know this may have been done as a result of expediency or a need to put a layer in order for preservation. However, again, this is not a defence that we should ignore, the law that governs a land, and language, like any other component of life in the Northwest Territories, is governed by its own legislation.

This motion basically asks the department to please, in the very near future, bring legislation current, so that we're not working de facto against the very same legislation we're supposed to uphold.

The second point has to deal more with a sharing of information. Legal opinions bear a lot of weight, and when one party is privy to a legal opinion and a mandate such as a standing committee is not privy to such information, it does strain the relationship between department and standing committee. Like anything else, we're looking for commonality, we're looking for a common goal, and we're looking to have resolve, and I think it's a fair ask, and I know the department has always been very good at adhering to that. We're just quantifying that ask in the form of a formal motion.

Again, I do appreciate all the work the department and the Minister has done over the years in language. It's apparent the passion that the Minister has and the department has to put language and revitalization back in the hands of community governments, and I believe the people are probably sometimes smarter than we are. They want less bureaucracy and they want more programs, and you know what? That's exactly what I feel and I think it's exactly what a lot of Members feel as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the committee for allowing me to bring this motion forward.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Committee, I'll go to Mr. Moses.

COMMITTEE MOTION 115-17(5):
ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK,
CARRIED

MR. MOSES: I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment establish an accountability framework for the funding provided to Aboriginal language communities under the "new approach" and provide the standing committee with progress

reports and a copy of the framework when completed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. A motion is on the floor. The motion has been distributed. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee does have some concerns about the funding model under this new approach with the delivery of Aboriginal languages revitalization. I think the committee pretty well agrees that it is a good idea to have our Aboriginal communities and our experts try to revitalize language with their own community plans. In terms of accountability, particularly in the event that goals established by the language communities are not met with the funding that's provided is a concern to community members and that possibly dollars not be, I guess, distributed to the best cause to revitalize our Aboriginal languages. All committee is asking for is that we get continued updates and that the department establishes an appropriate monitoring and accountability framework and updates committee on a regular basis. Also, when those work plans and action plans in the communities are completed, that they are shared with committee, as well, just to hold both the government and communities accountable moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Next I will go to Mr. Yakeleya.

COMMITTEE MOTION 116-17(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed.

To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I look forward to that report.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Does committee agree we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 14-17(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

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

--Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon. 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 Committee Report 14-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the 2014 Review of the Official Languages Act, and would like to report progress with four motions adopted and that Committee Report 14-17(5) is concluded. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

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

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 50:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 51:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 52:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 53:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2015-2016

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 42:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable George L. Tuccaro, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to bills?

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. George Tuccaro): Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, good afternoon.

I would like to thank you all for your good wishes last week when it was announced in this House and by Minister Valcourt in Ottawa that my term as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories has been extended for one more year, to May of 2016.

---Applause

I am very grateful and honoured in your confidence in my work as your Commissioner. I am glad to be offered a bit more time in this job and will do my very best to continue serving all Northerners with the dignity and professionalism required of this office.

It is important to acknowledge the recent passing of several long-term, prominent Northerners and to note that when we lose these elders, we have lost an important part of our northern history and it is up to us to remember and honour their wisdom, their lives and their very contributions to our territory and to our country.

I want to wish you all a well-deserved break, safe travels to your homes and communities in your riding and a happy and blessed Easter in a few weeks.

ASSENT TO BILLS

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 12, Northern Employees Benefits Services Pension Plan Act;
- Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act;
- Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act;
- Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act;
- Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act;
- Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act;
- Bill 50, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2015-2016;
- Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015;
- Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015; and
- Bill 53, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, mahsi cho, qanani, koana.

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, it has been our usual busy winter session. You have considered budget matters, reviewed legislation and debated numerous motions. I appreciate your attention and dedication to this important work.

Before we leave today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Pages who have worked with us during this sitting. Thanks for doing an excellent job.

Colleagues, our caterer for some years, Ms. Putte Nielson, is leaving us at the end of this month. On behalf of all Members and staff, I would like to thank Putte for her services and extend our best wishes. We will miss her excellent cooking.

Finally, colleagues, there are two events that I wish to bring to your attention.

First, I want to remind all Members of the 2015 Youth Parliament, which will take place May 4th to the 7th. It is always such a pleasure to see our young people participate in this unique learning opportunity. I look forward to meeting the 2015 Youth Parliamentarians and invite all Members to join me.

Secondly, please note that May 26th is the date this Assembly has set aside to recognize as a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation. This is an important day for the Northwest Territories as many of our communities come together to continue to

support the collective healing and reconciliation process.

Colleagues, spring is arriving early – not early, it's still pretty cold out there – but the days are growing longer and it is a particularly beautiful time in our communities. I hope everyone has some time to get out on the land and enjoy traditional spring activities with family and friends.

To all residents of the Northwest Territories, I urge you to take care and to travel safely at this time of year. I wish everyone a good break with a chance to get out and see your constituents.

I look forward to meeting again in this Chamber in May.

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

HONOURARY TABLE OFFICER (Mr. Tony Whitford): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Special Committee on Transition Matters in Committee Room A at adjournment of the House.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 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
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
Wednesday, May 27th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

