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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2001

Members Present

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Merci pour le priere, Mr. Braden. Bonjour, mes collegues. My colleagues, I am pleased to recognize Monday, March 12, 2001 as Commonwealth Day. Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and its members. Commonwealth Day brings together some 1.7 billion people from all over the world, approximately 25 percent of the world's population, of many faiths, races, languages and traditions.

The goal of Commonwealth Day is twofold:

- to promote the virtues of both the Commonwealth and parliamentary democracy to the younger generation; and
- to provide people with a memorable and enjoyable day of celebration for our association of nations.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat will be hosting the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, England this year. The theme of Commonwealth Day is The Year of a New Generation, focusing on showing youth around the world that they can achieve any of their goals if they are given the right chance.

Mr. Paul Cook, a resident of Yellowknife, is currently attending university in England. He has been invited to celebrate as the Northwest Territories' representative. The Commonwealth Day events Mr. Cook will be participating in include:

- a discussion on Commonwealth and Commonwealth parliamentary associations and their contributions to parliamentary democracy;
- the observance at Westminster Abbey of Her Majesty the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth and all of the Commonwealth high commissioners in London;
- a tour of the United Kingdom House of Parliament and the opportunity to observe from the gallery in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

Please join me in recognizing March 12, 2001 as Commonwealth Day.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Déclarations de ministre. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 78-14(3): Draft Greenhouse Gas Strategy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, climate change is considered one of the most serious environmental, economic and political challenges of this century. The impact of climate change on the Arctic and especially on people with traditional lifestyles is a major concern for all of us. Northern regions are already seeing the effects of a changing climate.

As Members are aware, climate change is caused by the build up of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. Today, I will be tabling a draft strategy which proposes actions to help us begin controlling the emission of greenhouse gases in the Northwest Territories.

While the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development had the privilege of coordinating the development of the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy, this is not a Government of the Northwest Territories strategy. Mr. Speaker, more than 40 federal and territorial agencies, aboriginal organizations, industry and environmental groups participated in the development of the strategy. This is a strategy proposing action by all sectors in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, public education is a major theme in the draft NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy. The recent opening of the NWT Climate Change Centre in the Arctic Energy Alliance's Yellowknife office is an example of a measure proposed in the strategy to raise public awareness. The NWT Climate Change Centre will play a pivotal role in educating people and building an understanding of the effects of climate change in the North.

The strategy also proposes the development of the Renewable Energy Technology Conversion Assistance Program to increase public awareness, confidence and acceptance of renewable energy systems. The proposed program is also designed to expand the renewable energy supply industry in the NWT, and to reduce long-term dependencies on fossil fuel and emissions of greenhouse gases.

These are just two examples of actions we could take to help control greenhouse gas emissions. Many more are identified in the draft strategy. I invite everyone to review the strategy and to provide comments and feedback on these actions. I also encourage all NWT residents to take personal action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of those involved in developing this strategy and to thank the participants whose significant commitment of time

and effort has guided the development of the draft Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Déclarations de ministre. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Minister's Statement 79-14(3): International Women's Day

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, March 8th, is International Women's Day, part of International Women's Week which is being celebrated this year from March 4th to March 10th. March 8th is a day set aside around the world to highlight accomplishments in women's universal fight for equality, to raise awareness regarding women's issues and to celebrate together the victories and achievements of women.

The theme for this year's International Women's Week is Canadian Women: Raising Our Diverse Voices for Positive Change. This theme highlights the power that can come from women's diverse perspectives when they are raised both individually and collectively. It further acknowledges the influence of women to bring about positive changes locally, territorially and nationally through their paid and unpaid work.

Mr. Speaker, this week provides an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge the contributions women have made to improve the quality of life for women and indeed for all Northerners. Women have always played a significant role in the North's social, political, economic and cultural environment. There are countless women in the Northwest Territories who have dedicated hours of service to their communities in order to make positive change. Individually and together with government, business and NGOs, northern women have worked:

- to strive for the elimination of family violence;
- to ensure that quality child care is available in as many communities as possible;
- to involve more women in politics, locally and territorially; and
- to encourage young women to seek out greater education and career opportunities.

While we have seen positive change, our work is not done. There are still enormous challenges facing women in the North, and indeed around the world. The fact that many women continue to be subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse is unacceptable. Throughout the world, women still earn, on average, less than men. Women remain underrepresented in both elected office and in senior and managerial positions. The majority of single-parent families, almost 80 percent, are headed by women, and the statistics indicate that single-parent families typically face more challenges to their economic and social well-being. These are only a few of the challenges that women face, and it is up to all of us to recognize these challenges and to tackle them head on.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow many communities in the Northwest Territories will pause to celebrate International Women's Day. In Yellowknife, people are invited to gather in the Great Hall of

the Legislative Assembly to mark the occasion and also to recognize the recipients of this year's Wise Women Awards. Since 1992, the NWT Status of Women Council has sought nominations annually to recognize and honour the many women who serve as role models, especially through their contributions to improving the lives of women and families in the NWT. Consistently, the council receives numerous nominations, an indication of the many worthy and deserving women throughout the NWT, and each year five awards are presented.

As the Legislative Assembly will not be sitting tomorrow, I would like to take this opportunity to commend these very deserving women who have made significant contributions to women's equality and to our quality of life in the NWT. The 2001 NWT Wise Women Awards are going to:

- Ernestine Gladue of Hay River;
- Monica Loomis of Norman Wells;
- Cecilia Martin of Rae;
- Louise Norwegian of Fort Simpson; and
- Hazel Nerysoo of Fort McPherson.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that all Members join me in thanking these women for their significant contributions and for being such positive role models. They demonstrate the commitment, dedication and spirit that International Women's Week is intended to celebrate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Madam Minister. Déclarations de ministre. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 80-14(3): Support for National Chief Coon Come

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as elected leaders in this House we are entrusted by our constituents to improve their quality of life and to plan for the future. In order to do this, we must remain committed to working with each other and with aboriginal leaders.

At the national level, we must remain committed to working with members of provincial and territorial governments, with Members of the Canadian Parliament and with national aboriginal leaders.

Recently one of these leaders, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Matthew Coon Come, spoke out strongly on one of the most important issues facing aboriginal people in Canada -- health and living conditions. Yesterday I tabled his remarks made at a national health conference. He spoke about the need for all of us as individuals and as governments to take responsibility and to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a few perspectives on these issues and highlight the leadership role we are taking here in the Northwest Territories to address the needs of our residents.

National Chief Coon Come's remarks entitled, First Nations Health: Our Voice, Our Decisions, Our Responsibility, focused

on the challenging health and living conditions faced by many aboriginal people across Canada. He urges that these conditions be improved with haste to avoid the costs of not taking action. He stresses the need for people to take control of their own lives and the shared responsibility with government to take practical and concrete action.

Mr. Speaker, aboriginal people in the NWT face some of the challenges of which the national chief spoke. This is evidenced by the discussions we have with our constituents, in our ongoing relationships with NWT aboriginal leaders and by the issues that have been raised in this House. I am confident that we are tackling these challenges head on -- we have been making a difference. We are assisting our people in achieving a better standard of living. Our goal is that they will be better off in the future than on the day we were elected.

The national chief's call for action in such a forceful and straightforward manner should be commended. I remain committed to working with him and other leaders in Canada to take this action. This is what we are doing in the Northwest Territories and we will increase our efforts at every opportunity.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the national chief welcomed the message sent in the recent Throne Speech to Parliament, a message that an intensive effort will be made to achieve social justice for aboriginal people. I can assure you that the Government of the Northwest Territories is ready and willing to work with the federal government and aboriginal governments in support of these efforts. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Déclarations de ministre. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

Minister's Statement 81-14(3): CYAID 2001 Conference Update

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for Youth and a Member of the 14th Legislative Assembly, I wish to commend the efforts of the CYAID Conference Organizing Committee. I particularly wish to formally recognize the efforts of Michelle Thoms, Rene Lamoreux, and the rest of the organizing committee who are working to make this national conference a reality. It will take place in Yellowknife from March 22 to 25 inclusive of this year.

For the first time in this conference's history, every province and territory will be represented by youth from across Canada. Over 300 enthusiastic youth from across the NWT are expected to participate, including youth from Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Fort Providence, Fort Smith, Hay River, Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife.

The CYAID Conference Organizing Committee raised over \$110,000 and numerous in-kind donations from both the public and private sector. This is a fine example of how everyone can contribute to help raise the awareness against drinking and driving, not only at the territorial level but also at the national level.

I wish to congratulate the CYAID Conference Organizing Committee for the endless hours they have put into organizing this conference, and I also wish them every success in getting their important message out.

In the context of the document Towards A Better Tomorrow, the 14th Legislative Assembly will continue to support and work with all youth organizations to achieve their goals. Today I am pleased to share with you this fine example of our ongoing work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Minister's Statement 82-14(3): On-Line Learning Continuing Success in NWT Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, virtual schooling is growing significantly in Canada and the Northwest Territories. On March 12th of this year, we will be launching the on-line version of Northern Studies 10, a course which was piloted in six Northwest Territories communities last year. This is one of the 35 credit courses currently being offered on-line in the Northwest Territories. Over the last year, nearly 250 Northwest Territories students have enrolled in one of these courses or the on-line introductory course called Information Highways.

On-line learning became a reality in the Northwest Territories last year with the signing of a two-year memorandum of understanding with the Calgary Board of Education to partner with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in the delivery of on-line courses.

On-line program delivery is particularly appropriate in the Northwest Territories where communities are small and isolated. On-line classes give students in even the smallest schools the opportunity to access a range of senior secondary courses. A choice of programs enriches a student's education and improves the overall quality of education in the Northwest Territories.

I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that students in the Northwest Territories have taken to on-line learning with great enthusiasm. The completion rates of students enrolled in the Information Highways course remains well above the average completion rate for students in other types of distance-learning programs. Results from the first intake of students studying a regular credit course on-line indicate that success and completion rates will remain high.

A process is in place to ensure that we can continue to increase the number of trained facilitators available to help students taking on-line senior secondary courses. So far, more than 40 educators from across the Northwest Territories have received the training necessary to allow them to serve as on-line learning facilitators.

In addition to training facilitators who help students, we are also training educators to instruct the courses. Three educators, two from Yellowknife and one from Wekweti, have begun instructing on-line courses alongside education instructors from the Calgary Board of Education. Our goal is to have most of the on-line instruction delivered solely by Northwest Territories educators.

Mr. Speaker, the North has always been a leader in adapting technology in innovative ways to meet our needs. The enthusiasm with which educators and students have embraced

on-line learning augurs well for our ability to continue to provide a quality education in the Northwest Territories.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Déclarations de ministre. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Accomplishments of Young Inuvik Dog Sled Racers

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about some accomplishments of constituents back at home. It has been reported previously in the papers and there are some proud parents back in Inuvik of some youngsters who have been successful in their extracurricular activities.

Mr. Speaker, Jason and Rebecca Baxter travelled to Fairbanks, Alaska and competed in the Junior North American and International Federation of Sled Dog Sports on February 23 and 25, 2001. Mr. Speaker, Jason took the first place title in the four-dog class and Rebecca took third place in the two-dog class.

Mr. Speaker, I think the youth of our Territory and our communities need to be recognized for the achievements they have excelled in, and have worked hard to get to. I would like to take this time to thank the parents and the youth that have taken a lot of time and dedicated extra hours in ensuring that they become successful in their activities. I wish them much success in the work they are about to do in the area of sled-dog sports. They have definitely highlighted it and brought more interest from our community.

Speaking of youth, Mr. Speaker, it brings me to the point where I feel I must also tell my family and my wife that I am coming home tomorrow. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement on Community Breast Health Tool Kit

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday a broadcast on CBC Northbeat on breast health kits caught my eye and I arranged for a briefing to see the kit myself this morning. In honour of International Women's Week, I would like to recognize publicly this ground-breaking initiative. I wish I could show the model. It is very impressive, but I do not think I am allowed to have a prop.

Let me just explain. This resource called the community breast health tool kit has been sent free of charge to each regional health board in the NWT. The intent is that each health centre will access the tool kit to provide information to women in their community. This unique display, made in the North for the North, has also captured the interest of communities across Canada. In addition to the complimentary copies being distributed within the NWT, the action group has sold tool kits to action groups from Vancouver to Newfoundland to Nunavut.

I understand that the story has been carried by Newsworld, so I am sure they will get more calls.

The community breast health kit was produced by the NWT Breast Cancer Action Group. This group is primarily women volunteers who have been affected by breast cancer, either personally or through a family member. Their goal is to improve access to breast cancer information and support for women in the NWT. The concept of a tool kit came from Winnie Greenland, a community health representative at the health centre in Fort McPherson. Winnie identified a need for a visual display with basic information written in plain language to introduce northern women to the importance of breast health.

This project was funded by CIBC Run for the Cure. The Run for the Cure is held annually in October in Yellowknife, raising funds that have been spent on projects to benefit women in the Northwest Territories. The tool kit is a visual display written in plain language with entry-level information. It is comprised of six components. It is a display which sits accordion-style on a tabletop, with a breast model with lumps of various sizes in it, the Canadian Cancer Society breast self-examination video, a technical brochure with breast health information for women of every group, and a give-away bookmark with telephone numbers for cancer support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude this statement by thanking the group and the individuals who actually made this at home to...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, the time for your Member's statement has concluded.

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to conclude my statement, please?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There being no nays, Ms. Lee, you may conclude.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. I would like to conclude this statement by saying that the tool kit display information encourages women to practise good breast health by following three steps:

1. learning and doing breast self-exams;
2. have a breast exam during the well-women checkup; and
3. identifying when a woman is eligible for having a mammogram.

I would just like to thank all the people involved in making this kit for their good work. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement on Lack of Staff Housing in Dogrib Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday an ongoing crisis was again brought to my attention. This crisis is the lack of staff housing in the Dogrib communities. The situation exists because there is not enough

affordable housing in the communities for either professional staff or for local people.

The GNWT used to operate and maintain a number of staff housing units in each community, but with the move to community empowerment and the recognition that these units were extremely costly to maintain, the GNWT turned these buildings over to the communities to run. In turn, some communities turned surplus staff housing over to the local housing association which felt that the empty units were public housing units.

In the North we still rely on importing health and education professionals, but a crisis exists in the communities because there is no affordable housing for them to live in. Grade 10 extensions are stalled in both Gameti and Wekweti because there is no housing for the new teachers. In Wha Ti, a teacher is staying in a commercial bed and breakfast.

In Rae-Edzo, there are currently six positions vacant in Health and Social Services. If and when these positions are filled, it will be almost impossible for the health care staff to find available and affordable housing.

By shifting the responsibility for staff housing to the communities, the Housing Corporation has unfortunately created a crisis in the North Slave. Local organizations are not yet able to build and operate the needed units without financial support.

Although the Housing Corporation is moving away from providing staff housing in communities, I think they still have a role to play in this time of transition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Assisting Non-Government Organizations

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a statement earlier this session, my colleague Mr. Bell mentioned how difficult it is at times for NGOs to access funding that is made available through federal programs. I would like to follow up with this statement because I have become aware of a federal program that is very difficult for groups to access funds from.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has set aside \$350 million to help healing groups across the country. Recently, we heard that 13 proposals for funding submitted by communities in Nunavut did not meet the guidelines set out by the Ottawa-based Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The foundation now says it will hire coordinators in each Nunavut region to assist those communities in accessing funds.

Mr. Speaker, although I know that some funding from the foundation has made it into the Northwest Territories, I wonder how many organizations in communities across the Northwest Territories have missed out. From what I understand, the application process is both lengthy and difficult to understand. This is a common concern with many government programs.

Most small organizations in northern communities will never be able to access the funding available in federal programs like

this. As is the case with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, the community groups rarely even know that the programs are available, and if they are informed, they often do not have the resources to successfully get through the frustrating application process.

Mr. Speaker, this program and the funding will soon sunset, probably without using all of the money that is available. Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a way in which our government should be assisting these small community organizations and helping to bring money to the North. In July of 1999 and again last April, I wrote to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services suggesting that a staff position be identified to help non-government organizations. I suggested that this person could assist NGOs in identifying third-party funding and preparing proposals.

Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting for the government to act on this proposal. Minister Groenewegen replied last year saying that this would be considered by the social envelope and that I would be kept advised of any developments in this area. Mr. Speaker, that letter was dated May 17, 2000, nearly a year ago now.

We keep hearing about the fiscal challenges we face in trying to identify adequate funding to deal with social problems. Minister Groenewegen has said, for instance, there is not adequate funding to increase the numbers of social workers as quickly as we should. With help, Mr. Speaker, NGOs could access a lot more federal...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dent, the time for your Member's statement has concluded.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Dent. You may conclude.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, with help, NGOs could access a lot more federal dollars, effectively multiplying a small investment in one salary into many more dollars in the social area in the Northwest Territories. How long will we continue to miss out on opportunities to access third-party funding that could be helping to improve the lives of all Northwest Territories residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on Weekend Activities in Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on this, possibly the last day of the Third Session, I would like to speak of a couple of activities that are taking place in my constituency tomorrow and on the weekend.

As part of recognizing International Women's Day tomorrow there is going to be a luncheon sponsored by the Tawow Society in Fort Smith. It is going to be held at the arena hall

and will be catered to by the Thebacha cooking class, of whom I can personally attest puts out gourmet-style meals with the students they have there. They have some fine instructors. I think it will be a very nice part of this very important celebration.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for this particular luncheon is going to be the important dates in Canadian women's history, starting from 1907 to the present. It is going to be spoken to by many of the local women.

I would also like to recognize as part of this effort the work of the executive director of the Tawow Society, Carol Jordan and, of course, the many volunteers who have assisted her in pulling together this function.

On another positive note, Mr. Speaker, this weekend is the weekend for our annual carnival, the Wood Buffalo Frolics. With the weather being as it is, I would like to encourage everybody who takes part in the many activities to be careful.

I would like to recognize as well the work of Anne Heron and the many volunteers who have pulled this event together for the weekend to allow the community to celebrate hopefully what will be the advent of spring.

Mr. Speaker, these are just two examples of how we rely on volunteers in our communities and how much less community life would be without people such as the folks who have put their efforts into organizing these two important events. I would like to acknowledge once again all the fine work of the volunteers in the community of Fort Smith. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Déclarations de députés. Le député de la Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on Continuing Progress of the Deh Cho First Nations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Legislative Assembly of the continuing progress of the Deh Cho First Nations. During the week of February 12th to 16th, 2001, the Deh Cho First Nations held their winter leadership meeting in Fort Providence.

The Dene and the Metis of the Deh Cho passed a unanimous resolution approving the initialling of the Deh Cho First Nation Formal Agreement and Interim Measures Agreement. The Deh Cho Process will result in a unique and unprecedented self-government process for the region. The government structure will be a public government based on Dene values and principles. This is a process which should be promoted and encouraged by this Legislative Assembly, as the Deh Cho Process is the route that will see the Dene and the Metis of the Deh Cho realize their rights as per the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Deh Cho leadership has passed a resolution with respect to the bidding of oil and gas exploration licenses which will ensure sustainable development of the Deh Cho lands and resources. The Deh Cho First Nations will also negotiate an Interim Resource Development Agreement that will set out benefits in the areas of royalties, resource revenues and community support.

The Deh Cho First Nations is in the process of expanding and finalizing this land-use mapping of our traditional territory. This

will provide a foundation and background for future development of the Deh Cho territory. Much of this work has already been completed, however, environmental work that will give a comprehensive picture of the ecosystems needs to be done.

Together, traditional knowledge and scientific environmental study will provide a solid footing for any future development in the Deh Cho. The Deh Cho First Nations will also use mapping information to negotiate land withdrawals before moving into phase two, which will result in an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. They will also strive to implement initiatives in the area of economic development and governance this year.

The Deh Cho First Nations sees the Aboriginal Summit and the Intergovernmental Forum as potential interference to the Deh Cho Process. They intend to observe and monitor the activities of the summit and the forum to ensure those activities do not prejudice the Deh Cho Process in any way. The Framework Agreement and Interim Measures Agreement will be signed at a public ceremony within the Deh Cho territory. The date has not been set at this point.

Mr. Speaker, Treaties 8 and 11 and the Deh Cho Declaration of 1993 confirm that the Dene and the Metis of the Deh Cho have the right to govern lands and resources of...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLeod, the time for your Member's statement has ended.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being no nays, Mr. McLeod, you may conclude.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Treaties 8 and 11 and the Deh Cho Declaration of 1993 confirmed that the Dene and the Metis of the Deh Cho have the right to govern lands and resources of the Deh Cho. The Deh Cho Process is an open process and I will continue to provide updates to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. McLeod. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement on Contributions of the YWCA to Community Life

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. International Women's Day for 2001 will be celebrated tomorrow. Around the world, this is a symbol of women's efforts to shape a better tomorrow. In recognition of this day, I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of helping and healing organizations to community life in Yellowknife that are located in the constituency of Great Slave.

The YWCA of Yellowknife opened in September of 1966, Mr. Speaker. It was a residence for young single women coming to Yellowknife from across the North to take advantage of education, training and jobs. The provision of safe housing for

women was a core need then and today, 35 years later, the YWCA still counts safe housing for women and their children as their number one priority.

Related to this, I applaud the efforts of the Member for Frame Lake, the honourable Charles Dent, and the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, the Honourable Roger Allen, for their good work with the Women's Centre, the YWCA and the Salvation Army in making the former detox centre on Franklin Avenue here in Yellowknife available for the Women's Centre Shelter Program. This is an excellent example of enhancing partnerships with the community, about which I spoke last week.

To further support women in crisis, the YWCA and the Yellowknife Women's Centre were instrumental in starting the new Women and Children's Healing and Recovery Centre. This pilot program has been established in Yellowknife to provide support to women who suffer from trauma and addictions. The program includes therapeutic, life skills and literacy programs. They are working with a network of community partners focusing on the daily needs of women and their children and providing a continuum of care. This approach will also serve as a model for all northern women whose lives have been affected by trauma.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the above programs illustrates the benefit of community partnerships and the commitment of women to address barriers that prevent them from participating in community life and programs. Our successes and achievements are best measured with the positive impacts at the grass-roots level. I acknowledge the contribution and accomplishments of the YWCA and the Healing and Recovery Program during International Women's Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement on Contributions of Women to Society

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take the time to recognize International Women's Day tomorrow, recognizing the importance that women play in our day-to-day lives and also in our communities. They play many roles, from leadership roles in being our chiefs, our councillors, our band members and also working within organizations such as social services departments, health centres, schools and also working on different councils, the band councils, the hamlet councils and Inuvialuit organizations. They take care of our elders, being the caregivers that they are. I would also like to acknowledge the women who work in our churches.

I feel that women play a very important role in all of our lives, being our grandmothers, our mothers and our sisters. The communities have changed because of the roles women have played in our lives by taking on responsibilities where they feel it is important to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the women in the Northwest Territories who have given that extra effort to take on those responsibilities which may be vacant, where they feel

they have to do better in improving the lives of their children, their grandchildren and the community as a whole.

On that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also recognize the many women who are going to be recognized with the Wise Women Awards this year, especially Hazel Nerysoo of Fort McPherson. Hazel has been doing some great things in the community of Fort McPherson. Hazel has been a sub-chief, a councillor, an alcohol and drug counsellor through the TI'oondih program. She has worked as a parole officer and continues to work in places where volunteers are needed.

Hazel never hesitates to be there for the many people who need her. Besides all of that, Hazel is also a mother of five children and has been married to her husband, James Nerysoo, and also adopted other children to improve their lives. I believe that women such as Hazel and other women in the Territory are examples that we have to live up to, to show that we can accomplish...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Krutko, the time for your Member's statement is over.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being no nays, Mr. Krutko, you may conclude.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the many roles that women play in our lives is what established the critical positions we see ourselves in today. Also, the support I receive from the many women within my riding when I need someone to talk to or just have someone there, knowing they are listening with an ear also listening to them. With that, I would like to thank all the women for the hard work they have done and for the success we see in our communities. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Member's Statement on Working Together to Achieve Resource Development Benefits

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about working in cooperation, working together. Mr. Speaker, there are many challenges facing us in the Northwest Territories, one of which is non-renewable resource development. It is going to take the cooperation of aboriginal governments, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the people of the Northwest Territories working in cooperation to realize this. Knowing the federal government is going to be the biggest benefactor in resource development, we have to work together to get the best benefits as a group; and by saying "together," knowing when enough is enough. We cannot afford to develop the Northwest Territories if we are not going to accrue the benefits from it.

In that same spirit of cooperation, we have to take on other challenges that are facing us. Minister Antoine just spoke about National Chief Matthew Coon Come's speech on the health

and well-being of aboriginal people being a major concern. It is no different in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker.

We in the Northwest Territories are experiencing the clawback of non-insured health benefits. It is going to take the Government of the Northwest Territories and its aboriginal partners to fight the federal government in ensuring that further erosion of the non-insured health benefits does not occur, and also to clawback some of the erosion ourselves.

On tourism, we have to work together to develop a strategy and an economic base for our people to work together, so we could realize new monies coming into the Northwest Territories and utilize our natural resources, our renewable resources which benefit the people of the Northwest Territories by having aboriginal people working with governments and practicing a way of life that other people in the world would like to see and experience. I think we are almost there. We have to work together to realize that as well.

In essence, we seem to be fighting in this House, but we are just vigorously debating ways of achieving the goals that we...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nitah, the time for your Member's statement has concluded.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being no nays, Mr. Nitah, you may conclude.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories is first and foremost the health and safety of the people of the Northwest Territories. We need to develop an education system that will realize higher graduation rates of people of the Northwest Territories. If we have better-educated people, we will have healthier people and better economies that do not rely so much on non-renewable resource development. Only by working together as peoples of the Northwest Territories and as leaders and governments of the Northwest Territories, we will see a better tomorrow. By working together, we will see that better tomorrow. With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement on the Booming Capital City of Yellowknife

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today should turn out to be the last day of a very hectic Third Session of this 14th Legislative Assembly. As in the past session, this one would not be complete if I did not inform this House of my continued fascination with this booming capital city of Yellowknife and what drives it.

It is said, Mr. Speaker, that when a city reaches a certain size, it begins to feed on itself and growth is inevitable. It is also said that cities create their own climate and weather patterns. I have always found Yellowknife a bit breezy myself, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in one of my previous lives, I sold and installed central vacuum systems. One thing that I learned about vacuum systems is that in order to sell them, you need a good product. A good product has a good piping framework, a good motor, lots of suction, and a good warranty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to compare this city with a giant vacuum cleaner. One that is driven by the very best motor in the industry, this government. The piping framework extends into every department and the suction is so strong that it sucks up everything before anyone has a chance to see it lying around.

-- Laughter

The warranty for this powerful machine, Mr. Speaker, is our very own Finance Minister, Mr. Handley.

-- Laughter

Borrowing millions to fast-track the completion of Highway No. 3 is like adding 100 horsepower to the motor and increasing the size of the intake hose.

It is no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that we see new hotels and motels going up around Yellowknife. Every day, I see or hear of another conference, symposium, meeting or workshop bringing people from every part of the Territory and beyond, sponsored directly or indirectly by this government, a major industry in itself, Mr. Speaker.

I keep hearing that this government does not want to be seen as empire building. Well, if that is the case, Mr. Speaker, we should extend the piping framework throughout the Territory and, for at least a few days of the year, reverse the air flow, or should I say the money flow. By the way, Mr. Speaker, that constant breeze in Yellowknife is caused by that giant vacuum cleaner running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement on Fundraising Efforts of the Yellowknife Gymnastics Club

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to the attention of this House the efforts of a fine Yellowknife club, the Yellowknife Gymnastics Club. They have taken on the challenge of conducting the largest raffle in the history of the Northwest Territories, and that includes Hay River as well, I believe.

-- Laughter

The Yellowknife Gymnastics Club is composed of 300 or so members, and it has been in existence for approximately 20 years in this fine city. For the past two years, the club has been operating out of a vacant warehouse on Old Airport Road. Soon, Mr. Speaker, that will not be the case. The club is working on raising the necessary money to build a multi-sport athletic training centre in Yellowknife for the benefit of northern athletes from around the Territories.

The club recognized the growing need for such a centre in the North and has been actively fundraising for the last few years. In-kind support, by way of architectural planning, legal and other services has already been donated towards the building of the facility, Mr. Speaker.

Numerous contributions from individuals, community groups and businesses have been received and along with fundraising events, the club has secured approximately 40 percent of the money needed. Mr. Speaker, to date they have raised approximately \$336,000 and they need another \$464,000 to go.

The goal is to build a permanent training centre that would include a dedicated gymnastics training area; areas for other sports such as wrestling, karate, and tae kwon do; areas for community dance programs, skaters and athletes in choreographed sports; and specialized training areas for conditioning and rooms to host coaching clinics and team meetings, Mr. Speaker.

The most recent fundraiser is a first for the North. In October of last year, the club began selling 30,000 raffle tickets for a 2000 Hummer, worth \$157,000, Mr. Speaker. The lucky ticket holder will have the option of owning this vehicle or they can take \$100,000 in cash. It is quite a deal, Mr. Speaker, and you can get your tickets at www.winahummer@ssimicro.com, or you can buy them at various locations around the city.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Yellowknife Gymnastics Club for taking on this very ambitious project. I hope my colleagues all have their tickets, even Mr. Delorey, because the draw date is fast approaching. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Déclarations de députés. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement on Contributions of Women to Society

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in honour of International Women's Day, I too wish to acknowledge women's contributions to society. Mr. Speaker, women's role in society has changed from simply being the primary homemaker, cooking and caring for children to, in today's complex and demanding world, being members of the workforce or leaders in our communities in one form or another.

Mr. Speaker, women in my riding now serve as municipal councillors, school councillors, chairs of community corporations or even regional corporations. We also have women in general serving this Legislative Assembly and previous Legislative Assemblies. We also have a Member of Parliament who is a woman from this Territory.

Mr. Speaker, whether we men like to admit it or not, behind every good man there is a better woman to give advice, direction and, in some cases, direct orders.

-- Laughter

I wish to thank all of the women in my riding and in the Northwest Territories in general for the time they have dedicated to making this a better world. In particular, I wish to thank my wife for the advice and guidance she has given me, whether I asked for it or not.

-- Laughter

I wish to acknowledge all the efforts women put into making our lives better.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Indeed, Mr. Steen. Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement on CYAID 2001 Conference Organized by Students Against Drinking and Driving

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little earlier, the Minister responsible for Youth spoke about the CYAID Conference here in Yellowknife. It is upcoming and today I would like to acknowledge some of its members in the gallery, the Yellowknife Students Against Drinking and Driving.

They are working very hard to change some shocking statistics here in the Northwest Territories. These statistics come from the chief coroner's office. They show that we in the Northwest Territories have two-and-a-half times as much impaired driving as the national average, and that 52 percent of all accidental deaths in the Northwest Territories involve alcohol.

The Students Against Impaired Driving group started at St. Patrick's School in 1994 with fewer than 20 members. Since then, they have changed their name to SADD, or Students Against Drinking and Driving. The students at both high schools and Weledeh School have formed chapters.

In all, there are now 140 members of SADD in the Northwest Territories. Of course, it is difficult to know what circumstances and activities cause statistics to change, but it is interesting to note that between 1989 and 1994, there were on average 27 impaired drivers involved in collisions per year in Yellowknife. Between 1994 and 1999, there were on average 17 impaired drivers per year involved in collisions in Yellowknife. That indicates a substantial drop.

The 11th Annual Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving Conference will be held in Yellowknife at St. Patrick's and Sir John Franklin High School from March 22nd to 25th. This will be the first time ever that there will be representation from every province and territory in the country in a conference of this nature. The organizers are expecting approximately 300 youth delegates and adult advisors to attend.

The hope for an improved society in the future depends on our young people. It is certainly admirable what these young people are doing about our problems with drinking and driving. I want to thank them for their efforts and congratulate them for what they have achieved. I want to wish them, and I am sure that all of us wish them, a very successful conference. I want to thank them for being in the gallery today, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement on 2001 Deh Cho Youth Conference

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about Fort Simpson. The Deh Cho Youth Conference started today and it goes on until Friday. It is the 2001 Deh Cho Youth Conference. This is put together by the youth. They have done this in the past few years.

They have put together a program that offers a good variety of different topics. They have a whole list of good speakers such as Martha Many Grey Horses. She is a blood Indian with a master's degree in education and social work. There is Tanya Tourangueu and Stuart Lennie, who are young people involved in drama in Edmonton; Jamie Bastedo, a well-known northern person who talks about science and history and does some performing on the side; Mike Vaydik will give a presentation on mining; Sandi Dowdall with WCB will do a young workers' safety workshop; Terry Garchinski from Yellowknife will be talking about growing up with a disability; and Greg Krivda from Yellowknife will be talking about growing up in a system with foster homes and being on the wrong side of the law and straightening out in the end.

We have a number of very good presentations that will be done. Gerry Antoine will be talking about revitalizing Dene games, drumming and ceremonies. Joe "Pinto" Dragon, who is into education, will talk about being a former hockey player. He is now is a senior advisor to RWED, to the Honourable Joe Handley here, and he will be doing some speaking. They have an excellent program that they have outlined for themselves, and I would like to thank the sponsors who are the Liidlii Kue First Nation, Deh Cho Society Friendship Centre, Municipal and Community Affairs, Deh Cho Health and Social Services, the Beavertail Jamboree Committee, the Deh Cho Education Council, the Village of Fort Simpson and the Education Committee of Fort Simpson.

I would like to wish all the delegates that come from the surrounding communities in the Deh Cho, the youth that are preparing themselves for the future, and hope that they have a very useful and enjoyable conference. Mahsi. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on International Women's Day

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Minister's statement today I mentioned International Women's Day and the efforts and initiatives that will take place to honour women.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, although we do not have as many women in this Legislature as we probably should, I do want to thank the Members of this House for the recognition that they have paid to women today in this House and to their ongoing sensitivity to social issues that we attempt to address here in the Northwest Territories.

We spend many hours together in this Assembly, and it is kind of like going on a long road trip with somebody. You do not know somebody really well until you go on a long road trip with them. Some days we spend ten, 12, 14 hours together in this

House, and you really get a chance to know each other very, very well.

I just want to say that I do appreciate the group of MLAs that we have here, and assure the people of the Northwest Territories that although there is a disproportionate number of men -- someone asked me yesterday why we were not having a grandfather's council; I said that we have one and it is called the Legislative Assembly -- in terms of representation in this particular level of government, I want to say that I do appreciate their sensitivity to the issues facing our people. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. Responses a des questions orales. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mot de bienvenue aux visiteurs. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine and also our representative in the Senate in Ottawa, the Honourable Nick Sibbeston. Mahsi.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, indeed, welcome Senator Sibbeston. Senator Sibbeston was a Member and he was also a Minister and Government Leader in former governments. Welcome, as always, to our Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I would like to introduce students from St. Patrick's SADD program who are organizing the CYAID Conference here in Yellowknife. With them today are Rene Lamoureux and Michelle Thoms. All of them are coordinating this large conference, Mr. Speaker, so please help me welcome those students. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that my constituents do not come to the vacuum cleaner that is Yellowknife, I would like to recognize them in their homes of Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. I would also like to recognize all the women in the Northwest Territories in recognition of Women's Day tomorrow. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity, colleagues, to introduce to you again Ms. Carol Roberts, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Colleagues, I am going to take a little bit of Speaker's license here and recognize

my mother, Emilia Gratrix in Fort Smith. She is soon to be 84 years old. Speaking in recognition of women and their valuable contribution to the outcome of their children, I have a great deal to be thankful for.

-- Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 464-14(3): Staff Housing in Northwest Territories Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, the Honourable Roger Allen. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, staffing positions in the North Slave will not be possible without staff housing. Although the Housing Corporation has gotten away from staff housing in the Territories, the shortage of accommodation for professionals is seriously affecting the health and education of the communities.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can tell me, what transition role does the corporation have regarding staff housing in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 464-14(3): Staff Housing in Northwest Territories Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, to answer the Member, the Housing Corporation manages the 71 remaining staff housing units on behalf of FMBS. The direction the NWT Housing Corporation is taking at this point is that we are working with other community governments or the land claim groups to help formally develop a housing market in the communities to help alleviate the housing shortage problems. We will be communicating that back to the individual communities, regions or the respective departments as we progress in establishing housing either in the rental market or the buying market. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 464-14(3): Staff Housing in Northwest Territories Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to get a guaranteed mortgage from a bank the local housing associations in the communities would need to provide 25 percent of the money to the bank, and they do not have that money. Can the Minister work with these organizations to find funding or options to help them to build accommodations for staff? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 464-14(3): Staff Housing in Northwest Territories Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are presently analyzing our position. We do have some general powers under the Corporation Act to assist the communities in getting some money. We are continually working with the community that is affected, so I am sure that they are going to continue to liaise with the respective communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty. Thank you, no supplementary. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 465-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance regarding the highway toll. I realize that it is still an issue that is being developed, they are working on the details and we should be expecting more information in May. Previously and up until now, we have been utilizing a document called the Highway Strategy that was basically a blueprint for expenditures in the area of transportation for the next while. Now with the introduction or discussion of the highway toll, we are expecting the resource development and trucking companies and the general public to pay for a lot of development in the area of transportation.

I would like to ask the Minister, would he give the users who are paying the extra fees a say in setting the priorities over where their money is spent once the highway toll document is completed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 465-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly it is our intention with any toll we put in place to have the toll revenues spent on the system from which it is drawn. So in the case of a highway toll, the revenues would go back into highways. The Minister responsible for Transportation has developed a very thorough Highway Strategy and business plan and has had consultation on it. I think there has been much consultation with users and I expect that will continue to be our government's approach. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 465-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Highway Strategy and through the discussions on the highway toll, there is no mention of a bridge and it seems like the bridge across the Deh Cho has been ruled out for consideration by this government. I would like to ask the Minister, what capital estimates were provided to him for consideration when they discussed the allocation of the money for this highway toll?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 465-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not been provided with any specific information in terms of the cost of a bridge over the Mackenzie Valley. I can say that through the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development we have been working with the committee that is looking at the feasibility of a plan for building a bridge. We will continue to cooperate with that group. We have certainly not given up on looking at options for having a bridge across the Mackenzie River eventually.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 465-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated that some consultation has taken place on the expenditure of the highway toll. Should the users who are paying the extra fees indicate some proportion of those fees be allocated to a bridge across the Deh Cho, would this government consider that request?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 465-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, in a general sense, certainly we would consider that request. More specifically, I think it is something that would need consultation with the Minister responsible for Transportation and his people who are working on the overall strategy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 466-14(3): Support for Federal Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago in Parliament, Mr. Pat Martin introduced Private Member's Bill C-203. This bill would amend the Bankruptcy Act to give priority to employee wages and pensions. Earlier this session, I had asked the government if they would consider telling the federal government that we supported the passage of this bill and was assured I would be able to have an answer before the end of session.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, has the government considered Private Member's Bill C-203 and are they prepared to advise the federal government that we support passage of that bill?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 466-14(3): Support for Federal Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have, on a number of occasions, written to the federal government expressing our concern that the current

federal legislation does not adequately meet the needs of the people that it is intended to protect, particularly the rights of employees in the event of bankruptcy.

We are aware that there is a private Member's bill. We are also aware that the federal government has said they will undertake a review of their own. What we do know is that it is not clear to us that the bill in question is the best way of addressing the concerns that have been expressed by the workers, the government and the Members of this Legislature as well. We are not clear at this time because we do not have the capacity within the time frame that we have to do a proper assessment of the private Member's bill. So we are not in a position right now to advise the Members of a response we might make or a position we might take with regard to this private Member's bill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 466-14(3): Support for Federal Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I heard the Premier say we did not have the capacity to do a proper review. Will the Premier consider hiring outside counsel if necessary to do a review so we can determine whether or not this sort of legislation would be in the best interest of our citizens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 466-14(3): Support for Federal Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, we believe that there is some action being taken by the Member of Parliament through his private Member's bill. As well, there is a commitment by the federal government to undertake a review of this matter. We will commit to advising Members shortly on what we are prepared to do with regard to this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Question supplémentaire. Supplementary question, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 466-14(3): Support for Federal Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier provide a certain date for that response? In any case, will he commit to it being no later than the beginning of the next session?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 466-14(3): Support for Federal Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will undertake to try to get sufficient advice and research done to advise Cabinet and the Legislature at the beginning of the next session of this Legislature. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, Hay River has taken steps to try to address the issue of the homeless in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue throughout the North and one that we must address. I would like to commend the Hay River Friendship Centre for their willingness to take part in a program to try to resolve this issue. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Minister Allen in recognizing this problem and their willingness to make funds available to address this problem.

Unfortunately, attempts in setting up the homeless shelter in Hay River have gone sour with regard to process and location. Could the Minister inform me if he has taken an active role in this Hay River issue in trying to find common ground acceptable to all concerned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have taken a personal interest in the ongoing issue of the homeless in Hay River. I can advise the Member that we will continue to consult with not only the NGO who took a vested interest in the project, but also with the Housing Corporation officials and we will continue to work with the community in trying to achieve some levity for this problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister be willing to come to Hay River and meet with town officials to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am more than willing to travel to Hay River and I will also bring along the president of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation so we can sit down and begin to work out some of the procedures that may eventually lead to addressing the homeless issue in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Monsieur Ministre. Le question supplémentaire. Supplementary question, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is always nice to see involvement from residents and concerns whenever a project has taken place in a community. I would like to ask the Minister if the residents' views will be taken into

consideration when dealing with this issue further? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to also engage the honourable Member for Hay River South to be available for the consultation process so we can start with step one and lead to a conclusion. I think it is important that not only the public be involved, but also the municipality where they will continue to show their support and the NGOs who are really the thrust to getting the homelessness program underway. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 467-14(3): Addressing the Homeless Situation in Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not so much a question, but a general comment. I would like to thank the Minister for his willingness to participate in this issue and I look forward to working with him on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and it is with regard to the statement I made earlier about breast health. I think it is general knowledge that breast cancer, while it can be fatal, is easily treated if it is diagnosed and detected early. I understand the group that put the kit together will be proposing a breast wellness clinic where women could go in and have training on how to do the personal breast exam and do it right, so that early detection can be possible.

I wonder if the Minister would be willing to instruct her staff to be receptive to such a proposal and work with them on this important initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we really do appreciate the very invaluable work of NGOs when they turn their efforts towards things such as the breast cancer awareness kit that Ms. Lee spoke of today in the House. If they require the assistance of our government in terms of their clinic or further work on this it would probably be directed through the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board, but I know there is support for NGOs through the board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, might I ask the Minister whether she has had an opportunity to have a demonstration of this kit and take a look at it and what the group is doing with this kit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I have not had a chance to see this kit and to have a briefing on the work that is being undertaken by this association, but I would certainly welcome the opportunity to do so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister whether or not she is aware of any initiative, strategy or policy to deal with women's health and in particular breast health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could undertake to speak with the department and find out if there are any universal programs such as breast cancer screening that are undertaken by the boards on our behalf. At this time, I do not have information specific to that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Madam Ministre. Le dernier question supplémentaire. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I also ask the Minister to commit to keeping us informed or writing us and advising us as to the department's work in the area of breast cancer prevention and the curing of breast cancer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 468-14(3): Breast Wellness Clinic

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do believe that there are certain things which are done at headquarters such as the cancer registry which keeps statistics on the incidence of cancer, but I believe the responsibility for much of the work at the front line is undertaken by the boards. I will get that information and provide it to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Question 469-14(3): Payment of Out-of-Territory Medical Fees

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for Mrs. Groenewegen, the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. There have been situations over the years where people have had to go south on medical referrals to get specialized treatment and end up at a clinic in Alberta. Although the service would be covered by our health care insurance, they end up having to pay upfront for certain services like anesthetic. They are out of pocket for this money until they can come back and claim it.

What I am wondering is, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister look into this and if we know we are going to cover these kind of things, make arrangements with the clinics ahead of time to pay for the service upfront? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 469-14(3): Payment of Out-of-Territory Medical Fees

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize that it may cause some inconvenience where patients are referred and certain procedures and supplies may not be covered and patients are asked to pay for these. I can look into this. I know from personal experience that some of the costs, such as the one that Mr. Bell refers to, are often covered through people's private insurance plans through their employers as well, so it might be difficult to pay in advance in every instance because I believe there is an obligation for patients to first try to recover these costs through insurance plans they may have in place through other means. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 469-14(3): Payment of Out-of-Territory Medical Fees

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That may be the case. I am wondering if in situations like this we could have a brochure that, when we are referring somebody south for medical travel, says, "Here is what you do first and if you do not have private health insurance, notify the Northwest Territories health insurance provider who will then pay for this in advance." Certainly there could be some way around this so that people are not surprised to find they have to pay for these fees upfront. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 469-14(3): Payment of Out-of-Territory Medical Fees

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is certainly an opportunity to make northern residents aware of some of the expenses they may encounter when they are travelling for medical reasons. Mr. Bell raises a good one here and there are other issues we could include in

such a publication or brochure as well that have to do with medical travel. I agree with the Member that it is unpleasant when these things come as a surprise and people may not be financially prepared to deal with them. I think his suggestion is good. I will see if there is any written material at this time and if not, his suggestion is a good one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, it is that time of the year again when we see a number of activities in the Northwest Territories in the area of recreation. Carnivals are coming up. The main event in Yellowknife is coming up, Super Soccer. All of this requires funding from one source or another. Does the Minister, in his department, have any cash flow or programs to assist communities with their carnivals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under our current policy, no, I cannot commit any funds to the carnivals. Again, in view of Super Soccer, it is contingent upon the department to look for funds to help support sports. I think the question raised by the Member requires perhaps incorporating carnivals as a recreational component to our sports policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister will look at carnivals as an overall recreation component of his department, which would suggest that there is nothing he can do for this year. When can he do something for next year? Can we expect some program in place by spring 2002? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, we are doing a comprehensive review of our sports policy. It is going to be concluded fairly quickly. I hope to have something back to the Members in early June that will identify some of the direction that the communities want to go in, in terms of sport, recreation and youth. I am sure that particular component will be incorporated into our policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am sure carnival organizers all across the Northwest Territories will be very happy to have some kind of assistance in this area of work. The Minister has indicated that Super Soccer is being reviewed. When can we see some results from that review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was raised to me earlier in the week with regard to our capability of funding various sporting venues. I think we are presently looking at that. The question raised by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South asked if the Minister responsible for Youth had a budget and I said no. We are currently working on it and hopefully we will be able to present that back to the Legislature in June.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification purposes for the people of the Northwest Territories and so soccer players all over the North can realize, does the Minister have any kind of assistance programs for Super Soccer? The cost of transportation from communities, especially with the bridge closed at that time of year, is a major impediment to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We got the question. Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 470-14(3): Carnival and Recreation Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement with Sport North, who really looks after sports across the Northwest Territories for the government. We will continue to communicate with that specific organization to see if we can continue to support major events such as Super Soccer or other sporting competitions across the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 471-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for Finance and it is a follow up to questions my colleague, the Member for Deh Cho, had regarding the Transportation Infrastructure Plan. It is a plan, Mr. Speaker, that has garnered broad, positive support across the North.

We are looking at bringing the terms and conditions into legislation in June with the potential implementation in October. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, industry in the North needs to plan and we are looking for more details. My question for the Minister is, can he advise the House when essential details will be released to users of the highway system so they can plan accordingly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 471-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a specific time of when we would have the information available, but I would hope that within the next couple of months we will have information that can be shared with the standing committees. We would want to be consulting with all the stakeholders well before it is introduced as legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 471-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I think industry is on reasonably good ground in asking for more information than has been exchanged in this Assembly on some of the rates and terms that this government is thinking of. Can the Minister assure this House that there will be consultation with major users of the highway system, major customers? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 471-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I can assure the House that there will be as much consultation as possible with the users as we prepare the toll structure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 471-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister again, given that we have an October implementation, that is not many months from now and customers may be looking at a significant impact on their freight bills and need some time for planning, for cash flow, for the impact on their business, will the Minister look at releasing some information as early as possible to give businesses some sense of the magnitude of what is coming down the pipe? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 471-14(3): Proposed Highway Toll

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, as soon as our Appropriations Act is finalized, approved and our staff has time, we will get back to work on the toll structure. They have been

doing some work already. I would like to talk with the chairs of the appropriate standing committees and work out a schedule for them. I assure you we will give the trucking industry, the users or producers as much notice as we can on what is being proposed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during committee of the whole when we were reviewing the budget and reviewing the Department of Public Works and Services, in questions to the fee increases, the Minister stated he would be tabling the fee increases that would come out as a result of the budgeted increases or the fee increases. I would like to know, is the Minister prepared to table that document today?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, I will not be tabling those particular documents today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can he say why he will not be? We have included the total figures for increases in the area of \$187,000 and he even mentioned them in his opening comments to this department. So why can he not table the specifics? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find myself basically in the same situation I was with the regulations regarding fee increases for Transportation. However, the legislation for the fee increases for Transportation was in fact signed off by the Commissioner. This particular legislation is not signed off by the Commissioner. I do not have the authority to table it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not interested in the actual regulations documents. We would like to know the specifics to the actual fee increases, for example, in electrical permits, boiler registration, gas permits and elevator permits. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the information the Member wants, but I do not have the authority to release it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister stating then that we do not have the authority to approve the budget today?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like the Member already knows, those fees are listed under recoveries and they have nothing to do with expenditures, although they are reflected in the money that was identified in the budget. However, it is my understanding that we are talking recoveries here. There is no requirement for approval of the recoveries in that section.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Your final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though there are going to be costs impacting on residents of the Northwest Territories, the Minister is stating that we are not approving that fact? If this budget was not approved, then we would not be approving the increases. Is that not correct? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 472-14(3): Tabling Public Works Fee Increases

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that I presented a fee increase as part of the budget. It was simply there as recoveries showing the money that the department would be receiving. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 473-14(3): Planned Expenditures for Highway No. 5

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my questions to the Minister responsible for Transportation as well and they are in regard to the capital plan, the Highway Strategy as it pertains to Highway No. 5.

I was wondering if the Minister could indicate what the plans are for this coming construction season? I know there was money in the budget, and it is \$500,000 this year, \$2 million and then \$3 million.

I would just like an idea from the Minister, could he just elaborate on how he intends to start this process? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 473-14(3): Planned Expenditures for Highway No. 5

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to Highway No. 5 expenditures this year, I believe the department has a \$500,000 figure identified and within this is a survey. 145 kilometres of Highway No. 5 are going to be undertaken in surveys, between kilometre 87 and kilometre 232, as well as production of granular materials and chip-seal.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 473-14(3): Planned Expenditures for Highway No. 5

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether the plans are to start early in the construction season? Are there any possible glitches, or is it all full speed ahead with nothing but smooth sailing? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. There are two questions there. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 473-14(3): Planned Expenditures for Highway No. 5

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe the department is already putting together some plans as to how we are going to implement all the accelerated activities that we have identified. As far as I know, everything is on-line for Highway No. 5. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education. It is in regard to the whole area of child care and providing good, secure child care. In a lot of our communities, mothers are not able to be there or able to meet the potential they have

because of having barriers put in front of them. One of the biggest barriers in a lot of our small communities is having good babysitting services or some child care being offered.

I would like to ask the Minister, is the Minister or the department going to be looking at trying to find new ways to improve on the child care in our communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, at the present time we have three programs within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that deal with early childhood areas.

We have the Early Childhood Program, which we put in approximately \$867,000; the Healthy Children's Initiative of \$1.9 million; and the Day Care Subsidy Program of \$1.2 million. That is the area that the Member is obviously very interested in and very concerned about.

We are working with Health and Social Services, as we are all aware, to develop the Early Childhood Development Plan. Progress is quite good on that, Mr. Speaker, and one of the areas that we are dealing with, and one of the interest areas that I have, is in the area of day care services for the Northwest Territories.

We do provide subsidy programs for start-ups and operations and maintenance, but there are occasions when operations do run short of funding in order to accommodate the number of children who are in need of day care. We are working on that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is great to know that the Minister is working on these initiatives. The federal government has been trying to enhance this area, especially in early childhood development, preschool and what not. I also think we have to develop the facilities in our communities so that they can offer this service.

Is the Minister also looking at the possibility of accessing dollars to build facilities in our communities to house these operations? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program did not entail a capital plan, Mr. Speaker, at this particular time. I recognize that there may be some interest in that, but it is an

area that would require substantial capital money in order to initiate programs.

Certainly if we could access the ability to look at funding mechanisms from other federal programs, if that is a possibility, then certainly we would pursue it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, would you consider assisting through either operations and maintenance or start-up funds so community groups could take on this much-needed endeavour and get the seed money to get the program started and then, eventually, look at the other capital dollars elsewhere? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good suggestion and one that we can pursue, to provide some seed money. I do not know what we can do in terms of funding yet, because we have not quite tackled all the details on it. However, it is a good suggestion to provide communities with some seed money to see if they can access other funding as well for infrastructure development, or capital money for that infrastructure.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell us roughly, does he have any idea of when he will be bringing something forward so that we can have a chance to review it?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 474-14(3): Improving Child Care in Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly bring it forward. As the Member knows, we have focused areas of concentration. We have it in pregnancy, birth and infancy; parenting and family supports; early childhood care and learning; and community supports.

That particular program is taking a bit of time to flush out and complete. We will be putting it before Cabinet hopefully within 60 days or so, perhaps 90 days, Mr. Speaker. Once we have done that, we want to proceed to appearances before the standing committees of this House so that we can outline and

get the input of the Members for that particular program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my Member's statement from earlier this afternoon. Last April, I wrote the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services to suggest that we establish a staff position to assist NGOs to develop business plans and proposals to access not only federal program funds, but also private foundation funds. We are missing out on a tremendous amount of money each year because NGOs fail to access these programs successfully.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister responded to my suggestion and said that it would be discussed by the social envelope. Can Minister Groenewegen advise this House whether or not that discussion has in fact taken place?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have discussed how we can access federal dollars for NGOs in the Northwest Territories. As Mr. Dent knows, there are difficulties with this government accessing dollars under federal programs which were specified for specific target areas, because it does have an impact on our formula funding agreement with Ottawa.

We have not so much considered a staff position yet, but what we have considered is what is out there in terms of federal dollars which we as a Territory, or territorial NGOs, are not accessing. What we have asked for is a complete inventory by department to identify these kinds of fundings and how we can categorize the different criteria for accessing them.

After we have identified the magnitude or the volume of funding that may be out there, then we would attempt to assess the best way to assist northern organizations in accessing these dollars. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be absolutely clear, I was not suggesting that this government access those funds, but try and help the NGOs to access them. Knowing that perhaps \$250 million is going to soon disappear with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation money, will this government move to examine whether or not we can fund such a position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot speak to the time frame for the specific funding that Mr. Dent speaks of. It is Aboriginal Healing Foundation federal dollars. Whether or not we could put a staff person in place in time to access that, I cannot say whether that would be possible.

However, if there is an NGO out there that is interested in accessing those dollars and may need some administrative support in putting together a proposal, support in terms of gathering information about the kinds of things we would like to do with that, we could provide that assistance on an ad hoc basis for now.

As I said earlier, there are all kinds of dollars out there which are available under all different kinds of scenarios, matched funding, per capita funding, funding by proposal. There are all kinds of federal dollars which we are missing out on, and I am not suggesting that as a government we should be applying for them, but perhaps we could set up the framework to facilitate other organizations to access them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister just offered to assist the NGOs where they need it to apply for these funds. I would like to ask, can she tell us to whom NGOs should direct their requests for assistance?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, for now I would be pleased if NGOs would direct those inquiries through my office, and in turn I would identify the most appropriate source within the department who may be able to assist in preparing a proposal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Madam Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's offer to assist NGOs that are aware of the programs. The big problem we have is that many NGOs do not know about all the programs that are out there. Will the Minister undertake to examine this position that I proposed again, with the idea of also having someone who could advise NGOs of those programs that may be available for them to apply for funding?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 475-14(3): Assisting NGOs in Accessing Funding

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, as a first step, we have one of our senior officials to, by department, identify funding that is available from the federal government in all kinds of areas that we are presently not able to access as a government, where we could help other agencies access it. As soon as I have that inventory of the funding programs out there, I will apprise the Member of that. I believe that is the first step in assessing the necessity for such a position. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Madam Ministre. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation. The Government of the Northwest Territories is planning to apply user fees to fund major highway improvements. How much additional funding does the government expect to raise? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Minister Steen.

Return to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have identified roughly \$15 million a year based on 1999 traffic volumes and five cents per kilometre.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister what proportion of this will come from Yellowknife highway traffic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Minister Steen.

Further Return to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the figure I have been given is that roughly two-thirds, or 66 percent, is forecast to come from mining activity in the North Slave Geological Province, and as a result down Highway No. 3 and Highway No. 4, so a fair bit of the revenue will be coming from the traffic coming into Yellowknife itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you. I would also like to ask the Minister, how much capital does the government expect to spend on the Yellowknife highway over the next five years?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take it that the Yellowknife highway that the Member means is Highway No. 3. We plan to finish the portion between here and Rae-Edzo that is not finished at this time. We plan to finish that over a four-year period at an estimated expenditure of \$60 million. We plan to make a further \$25 million expenditure on Highway No. 4. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that we are looking at funds to come from commercial users rather than from the federal government and our own coffers, I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider, during a new round of consultation, to set the priorities for expenditures. I am sure that some questions should be asked of the commercial users if they will accept a delay on construction of Highway No. 3 in light of additional spending in support of a bridge? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLeod, could I ask you to repeat the question?

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking the Minister if he would consider a new round of consultation with the commercial users of the highway system in order to set priorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 476-14(3): Highway Infrastructure Development

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Member's concerns will be addressed through the toll charging legislation and the transportation legislation. In the normal process, once we table the legislation and first and second readings are done, it goes to the committees. The committees would be holding their hearings, and at that point, there is ample opportunity for public input.

Then it comes back to us for the approval of this House. Not only are we as a department going out for input from the trucking and mining industries, but the committees will also be collecting input. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 477-14(3): Revenue Information in the Public Interest

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Deputy Premier of the Northwest Territories. In light of the information that we are

passing on, public information, a bill of dollar expenditures here, is it not in the public interest to make public increases in fees that will affect their daily lives? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 477-14(3): Revenue Information in the Public Interest

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation, the Honourable Vince Steen. In the past, when I have asked the Minister how building our new all-weather roads was decided, the Minister had said that industry and the volume of traffic decides where the road to resources would be built. I would like to ask the Minister if his department has been talking to industry about these roads to resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understand the Member correctly, the Member is asking me if we have had consultations with the industry on the road to resources. We do not have a specific road to resources, as I have said before. All of our roads lead to resources. There is general consultation in all of our expenditures and where we direct our expenditures as well. In a sense, we do not have direct contact, direct dealings with industry as to where we are going to spend our dollars, but we do have contact with the general public and your input. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he has received any correspondence from the existing companies or new companies that want to build mines in the region or in the North Slave. I would like to ask the Minister if he has received any correspondence. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any correspondence we have with the mining industry for all-

weather road activities. We did, through our process of developing our Highway Strategy, have consultations with them as to the routes they might favour and where they see the mining activity taking place. However, that is the only consultation or correspondence I am aware of that we have had with them. We have had other correspondence with industry and that is in regard to the Lupin winter road.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can go to his department and ask if they did receive any correspondence because I was made aware of correspondence going to the department from a mining company that wanted to start up in the North Slave region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will certainly do that. I have no problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister gets the information, can he please make all the Members aware of the correspondence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 478-14(3): Consultation on Roads to Resources

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is possible, if it is not confidential, I will make the information available to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Ootes advised the House on a number of occasions in recent weeks that a review is underway into criteria for income support payments and what is eligible to be clawed back, but I am wondering if there is really any end, Mr. Speaker, to what is going on now in the extent to which the government is clawing back income.

A constituent called and advised that she usually gets about \$600 in much-needed support services, but she just got a \$439 child tax credit, which she advises, Mr. Speaker, is going to be clawed back leaving her with about \$160. Mr. Speaker, my question is, would the Minister release or table today the entire list of the kind of payments and revenues that income support clients have to declare in order to qualify for their next cheques? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure of the time frame involved in order to get that list, but I will certainly share it with the Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that list should be readily available. Clients have shown it to me and it would be a benefit, I think, to all Members, the media and the public to see just what is going on there. My follow-up question, Mr. Speaker, is whether the government will, as it has done for the fuel rebate difficulty, take a situation such as child tax credits or any other lump-sum payments and give clients notice that they will have to clawback these allotments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I have been told is when clients do come in for income support, it is clearly outlined to the individuals what areas they will be supported in, what areas will be taken back, what areas are unearned income and considered as such, and what areas are considered as earned income. I am assured by my officials that that is made clear to clients at the time of application, Mr. Speaker.

Some clients are on a yearly basis if they are permanently required to be on income support. Other clients may be from time to time, in cases where they are in need. So they are, on an ongoing basis, informed. Those clients who are on a continued basis may receive cheques automatically, Mr. Speaker, but at the time of application they are informed about the conditions and the circumstances of provision of support in the income support area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I am one Member who is entirely supportive of the need for the department to spell these things out clearly, for clients to understand that the program is designed to fulfill a certain need. It does so and here is how the rules work. The issue -- and I would reiterate my earlier question -- is in events when there are large payments that would normally be deducted and would cause great inconvenience on a month to month basis. Will the department give notice? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the Member's concern. As I have stated, clients are made aware of the items that are considered unearned income. They are told there may be occasions when they receive income that has to be taken back and their particular cheque is reduced. So on a monthly basis, the income of the individual is not reduced. They get it at one time of the month, a certain amount, and later in the month they may receive a reduced cheque. So their monthly income remains the same, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, that is a good and reasonable explanation. I think the reality out there is for many people in these kinds of situations when a one-time or unexpected or unanticipated situation comes along and they have cash, they are going to use it. That is the way it is out there.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Braden. If you can cut short the preamble of your question.

MR. BRADEN: Will the department give notice when large, unexpected payments may interfere with a client's lifestyle? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 479-14(3): Criteria for Income Support Payments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Braden does have a very good point, that individuals get a cheque and, through circumstance, they may spend that money and then find themselves in a situation at the end of the month where they feel that they are short of money.

As I stated, they are not really out that month any more than previously. The Member's point is, can we set up a system of notification to individuals in the event of anticipating receipt of chunks of money from other sources?

I will do my best, Mr. Speaker, to take the honourable Member's concern in that area to see if we can institute a better system. I cannot guarantee that there is a more advantageous process that we can employ. Perhaps it is being done already. However, I will undertake to look into that and see if we can improve the system, Mr. Speaker.

Just to conclude on that, Mr. Speaker, I guess that is why I went to my officials and directed them to come back to me with a report on this, so that I can enter into some discussions with them and then in turn with the Members on the other side.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. Minister. Le temps pour les questionnes orales est termine. The time for question period has ended. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 6-14(3)

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on June 21st, 2000, our Premier, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, addressed the House and the people of the Northwest Territories about the energetic and positive start we have made towards addressing the challenges before us.

He spoke of the new sense of enthusiasm within the Northwest Territories, about the prospects we have for a secure economic future. In February, he stated that within the Northwest Territories, he and his Cabinet colleagues recognized how the people of the Northwest Territories want to be governed and the types of institutions, partnerships, administrators and experienced workforce needed to advance the Northwest Territories' interest at the national and international level.

Mr. Speaker, it was acknowledged that considerable time was spent by all Members of this 14th Legislative Assembly in developing the vision, priorities and agenda contained in the document Towards a Better Tomorrow. He agreed that this was time well spent and in fact, this document would serve as the foundation upon which the government would build its action plan. He identified actions and specific strategies designed by Cabinet to help achieve the goals outlined in Towards a Better Tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, on January 17th, 2001, our Premier addressed the people of the Northwest Territories and laid out a plan full of wonderful initiatives that painted, by anybody's standards, a very bright future for the people of the Northwest Territories. The only thing missing, Mr. Speaker, was the money to go with the plan. Needless to say, we were all very anxious to find out where the money would be coming from.

On February 15th, Mr. Handley brought down his bold, aggressive, ambitious, and very rich budget. As I followed along, page after page, it was hard not to be supportive and, indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to be negative towards a budget that addresses all of our problems with a solution and the dollars to go with it.

The budget was full of catchy phrases such as: a bright future that lies before us; tremendous economic potential for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren; self-reliant, healthy, well-educated individuals; a vibrant northern economy; a prosperous future for the Northwest Territories; match every

Northerner who wants to work with a job; start our children off in life on the right foot; residents leading fulfilling and productive lives; maximizing northern employment; job opportunities for all graduates; bring our post-secondary graduates back North and put them to work; support our public servants; the Northwest Territories Literacy Strategy; Early Childhood Development Action Plan; investments in health care; housing for seniors; full control over our future is only a matter of time; the time for action is now; reconstruct and pave Highway No. 3 in three to four years; pave highways to Fort Smith and Fort Resolution; and we are investing today for a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, who could argue with initiatives such as these? Who would not want to be a part of such a plan, especially if we had input into it?

I am not a song composer, Mr. Speaker, but I have a good friend of mine in Hay River, Doug Henderson, who had a great plan with all these phrases and putting a song together. Maybe I will get him to put one together for Mr. Handley.

I suppose, Mr. Speaker, if we were in Alberta and Ralph Klein had been delivering that budget, we could have all formed a circle, joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne and watch our problems go down memory lane. However, the reality is, Mr. Speaker, that we are not in Alberta and we do not have Alberta's money. The federal government is not going to pay, so somehow we are going to have to pay.

We know that to make this plan work, we must take control of and develop our resources. We need to transfer our federal resource revenues. We need devolution. We need to have all governments working together. We need to have all people, all parties understand what resource revenue sharing will look like. We need to streamline our regulatory process and our regulatory environment. We need more mines. We need a Mackenzie Delta pipeline and we need to generate and sell hydro-electricity. We need more money from Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we need all these things, we just do not know how, if and when we are going to get them. I can remember, shortly after being elected as an MLA, Mr. Speaker, sitting in our beautiful Caucus room and having Lew Voytilla before us and painting us a picture of our fiscal situation.

I can remember thinking, "This is going to be a boring four years", because there is no money. The debt wall was not hovering above us, it was right smack in our face, Mr. Speaker. I remember wondering how we were going to accomplish anything in the next four years. Well, what a difference one year makes, Mr. Speaker. Lew Voytilla and Mr. Handley have done a wonderful job in changing the picture.

Mr. Speaker, although I support all the initiatives in this budget, I think there is room for concern. In the areas of devolution and resource revenue sharing progress is slow, at best. We say that it is a must and that it is going to happen. We also say that it is a must, but if that is the case, how long can we wait?

It sounds good when we say companies have spent \$650 million for Crown exploration licences, \$76 million in bid bonuses for Inuvialuit subsurface lines, \$60 million for exploration licenses in the central Mackenzie Valley. The 1999 production at BHP reached almost \$600 million; however, we have to look at how much money came directly back to this government.

Mr. Speaker, it sounds good when we say the Mackenzie Delta region could generate \$400 million in revenues. In five years, diamond mines will produce \$2.2 billion worth of diamonds annually. The potential for revenues in hydro-electricity is immense and promising, but what does this all mean in view of the unknown and how these figures will be affected when the federal transfer payments are taken into consideration?

How will they be affected in partnerships with industry and local governments by resource revenue sharing? When will the feds open up the purse strings and when they do, how wide are they going to open them? How will it all affect the transfer payments and when it is all said and done, will we be better off? Can we expect enough support from the House of Commons in view of the fact that we now receive approximately \$15,000 for every man, woman and child in the Northwest Territories?

Fifteen years ago, Mr. Speaker, my kids and I had a favourite song we use to sing all the time. It was a song by Kenny Rogers called the Gambler. I think maybe our Finance Minister, Mr. Handley, has fit the role of the gambler quite well. I would suspect that he is in a very high stakes game with some very good gamblers. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that when the time comes, our Finance Minister can keep his game face on and play his hand out.

Being an ex-gambler myself, I can appreciate that the game can get very intense and I will borrow a line, and I will not say who it is from, but if we are going to go, we do not want to go silently; we may as well go out with a bang.

I have to support all the initiatives in the budget, Mr. Speaker, but I think it is incumbent upon us as government Members to remember that we are here to serve the people of the Northwest Territories and that whatever we do, we must do everything we can to try to keep the cost of living down to an acceptable level for all of our residents.

So I support the budget, but I will be watching that the cost of living does not keep creeping up on our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 122-14(3): GNWT Comprehensive Response to Committee Report 4-14(3)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have four documents to table. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, The Government of the Northwest Territories Comprehensive Response to Committee Report 4-14(3), March 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 123-14(3): Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Strategy, March 2001

I wish to table the following document entitled, Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Strategy, March 2001.

Tabled Document 124-14(3): Aurora Fund (1996): Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2000

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, Aurora Fund (1996): Financial Statements for the Year Ending June 30th, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 125-14(3): Aurora Fund II: Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2000

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, Aurora Fund II: Financial Statements for the Year Ending June 30th, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Tabled Document 126-14(3): Victoria Anne Douglas, 1921 to 2000: A Biography

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Premier, I wish to table the following document entitled, Victoria Anne Douglas, 1921 to 2000: A Biography. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Premier. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 19-14(3): Support for the Protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Carried)

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, this motion is put forward for the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

WHEREAS the 14th Legislative Assembly recognizes past efforts of the Government of the Northwest Territories in opposing oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;

AND WHEREAS the introduction of the National Resource Governance Act of 2001 and the Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security Act of 2001, two Bills recently introduced in the 107th Congress of the United States, will allow oil exploration and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;

AND WHEREAS the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the most northern and among the largest refuges of the American National Wildlife Refuge System, and is home to the calving grounds of the migrating Porcupine Caribou herd;

AND WHEREAS the Porcupine Caribou are linked to the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in peoples both traditionally and culturally, and as an critical component of their subsistence;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada continues to oppose oil and gas exploration and development activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to protect and preserve the abundance and diversity of shared natural resources, including the Porcupine Caribou;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is ardently opposed to oil and gas

exploration and development activity being carried out in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and its Coastal Plain;

AND FURTHER, that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier of the Northwest Territories, communicate this resolution to the Right Honourable Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada, through the office of the Minister of the Environment, be encouraged to continue to vigorously oppose any threat to the shared natural resources of northern Alaska, the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We are on Motion 19-14(3). The motion is in order. To the motion. Is the House ready for question? To the motion, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I put this motion forward today knowing of the importance of the Porcupine Caribou to not only the residents of Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories, but also the subsistence way of life of many residents of the Northwest Territories. Also realizing the importance of this species to the people who have lived here for thousands of years. We cannot afford to take a chance on a resource that has, for thousands of years, taken the migration route all the way to the coastal plain every May and June to have their calves and then migrate south during the winter to their wintering grounds in the Ogilvie and Richardson Mountain ranges, where a lot of the residents that I serve continue to maintain themselves by that food source to support them through the long winters.

I would like to make it clear that I do not see how we, as Canadians, can allow for this activity to take place in a national wildlife refuge. That is just like us opening up the door to allow exploration development to take place in our national parks in Canada.

With regard to the Aulavik National Park, which is established through the Inuvialuit agreement and the Vuntut Gwich'in National Park, which is established through the Vuntut agreement in Old Crow, they have taken the step to preserve and protect the calving grounds in Canada. Also, we have established the Tukut Nogait Park around Paulatuk to protect the Bluenose Caribou where we have set the precedent in Canada already. I would just like to make it clear to the people out there that in no way, shape or form can we allow that to happen. Those are my reasons for protecting the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I supported Mr. Krutko as the seconder on this motion for a couple of reasons. One is the cultural linkage to the caribou of the area and their calving grounds.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that my support for this motion refers to the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou herd. In no way, as I see it, is it infringing on the rights and the abilities of the Inuvialuit and the Inupiat of the Mackenzie Delta and of the Alaskan far north.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to be clear that we are here to continue the efforts, as has been done in the past. I believe Cabinet is on that path to ensure that the calving

grounds remain protected and it is in the interests of all the northern peoples. Again, Mr. Speaker, just to be clear and on record so my Cabinet colleagues can understand where I am coming from, as well as residents of the Mackenzie Delta, we are here to ensure that ongoing activities are being done and sought out through the Inuvialuit and Inupiat as it is their business. As we proceed, as I see it, I support them in their initiatives to develop their resources.

I know that already through, for example, the Inuvialuit, the hunters and trappers committees and the Inuvialuit game council, they work to protect the species of the area. They work in conjunction to protect their areas. I see that as important and vital work that is ongoing in partnership with their development plans, Mr. Speaker.

With that, again for the record, I would like to state that as we put this motion forward, my support for this is for the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd and in no way is meant to impact or infringe on the rights of the Inuvialuit and Inupiat. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the motion is offering direction to the Premier, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, to communicate the resolution, and as such, Cabinet will be abstaining from the vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too will speak in favour of the motion. At first glance, the situation would appear to be a regional issue and would only impact those residents of the Northwest Territories living in the Mackenzie Delta region. I feel that it is one that is consistent with issues that we in the southern part of the Northwest Territories have dealt with and, as development continues in our region, will deal with.

There are many hundreds of people here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, who rely on the caribou herds that migrate into this part of the country. We also have to grapple with how to manage development that is good in some cases with what may be harmful in other areas. I think there may also be a correlation with what we recognize on a national and international basis as areas of free trade and globalization, Mr. Speaker.

We seem to be very quick to adopt things that go across the border that will be for our economic and our industrial benefit, but we must also recognize, Mr. Speaker, that for the ecology and our natural world, we also have to pay attention to what goes on in one jurisdiction and how that may affect the people in another.

I support this motion because I believe it is incumbent on us to ask our neighbours in the other territories and provinces and, in this case, our good friends and neighbours in the United States, to pay attention to what is a very important issue for the survival of a lifestyle and culture of people here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting the motion today. I think it is important that we realize that the ANWR area is ecologically very sensitive. I think there are Gwich'in people in the area who are dependent on the Porcupine Caribou herd for their livelihood. We know that if there is development on the shore, quite possibly it will stop the migration of caribou in the area. Caribou will not be able to get to the shore for their traditional calving grounds, which will mean they will be forced further inland, closer to the mountains and closer to their natural predators. I think there is some real concern that the herd would be at risk. I think we have to ask ourselves -- development is important, but at what cost? I think this is certainly one area where we have to realize that we should not be doing any drilling. I will be supporting this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the motion. Some would ask how can the Government of the Northwest Territories and Members of this Legislative Assembly support such a motion when development in the Northwest Territories is happening? I would like to point out that we are talking about the calving grounds area. The development that is happening in the Northwest Territories is not in the calving ground areas. The diamond mines, for example, are in the area that the Bathurst Caribou herd use, but in a short time during the fall and spring each year. The effects on the caribou are not as great as it would be if the development was happening where they are born.

I believe the Gwich'in people depend on the caribou for subsistence hunting and traditional way of life. It is just good, prudent management to not support any development where the effects of that development might endanger the very survival of a free-roaming caribou herd of that magnitude. With that, I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. To the motion. The mover of the motion has the final say. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues, for your support. I would like to make it perfectly clear that in no way are we stopping development by this motion. We know there are 30 trillion cubic feet of gas in Prudhoe Bay that has to go to market, and it will go to market. The same thing in reverse, the oil and gas in the Beaufort Delta is also a resource. There are already existing routes in place.

As Canadians and as Americans, we have to look at this, not at who is going to get to it first. I think we have to realize that we have these resources in the ground but, again, I would like to stipulate my position clearly. I cannot see Americans or Canadians allowing any development in calving areas or in national parks that are protected refuges. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is protected under legislation, under law, to protect the ecosystem. The national parks in Canada are there on a similar basis.

I would like to ensure that we do not allow the opening up of our national parks to be decimated because of development or economic goals of people or groups of people.

With that, I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, if we could have a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member and the mover is seeking a recorded vote. Mr. Clerk, are we prepared for the vote? All those in favour, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Krutko, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Roland, Mr. Dent, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Bell, Mr. Nitah, Mr. Braden.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Steen, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Handley, Mr. Allen, Mr. Ootes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The results of the vote: in favour, ten; opposed, zero; abstentions, six. The motion is carried.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 17, motions. Motion 20-14(3). The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Motion 20-14(3): Terms of Reference for the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause (Carried)

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my motion has to do with the terms of reference for the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause.

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly has established the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause;

AND WHEREAS, the Special Committee requires the approval of the Legislative Assembly of its Terms of Reference;

AND WHEREAS, the Special Committee has given consideration as to its Terms of Reference:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Nahendeh, that the following provisions be adopted as the terms of reference for the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause:

1. The Special Committee in undertaking its review, adopts the following as operating principles as articulated by the 14th Legislative Assembly in Towards A Better Tomorrow:
 - a) The Special Committee is committed to the development of a system of Government in the Northwest Territories that recognizes and protects the rights of all residents, balancing individual citizens' rights and collective aboriginal rights;
 - b) The Special Committee recognizes that aboriginal and other northern leaders working together in support of a common vision and strong sense of identity is the foundation for a better future for all residents;
 - c) The Special Committee holds that aboriginal people must have greater self-determination over their social, cultural, economic and political destiny;

- d) The Special Committee recognizes that aboriginal and public governments have unique, necessary and complementary roles to play in serving territorial residents; and
- e) The Special Committee recognizes the need for strong, effective aboriginal and public governments operating cooperatively;
2. The Special Committee is further committed to:
- a) providing information to aboriginal governments and seeking their input on issues related to the achievement of its mandate; and
- b) an open and public process that provides opportunities for stakeholder groups, elected bodies and the general public to receive information and input their views on issues related to the achievement of its mandate;
3. The Special Committee shall:
- a) In relation to the Sunset Clause:
- i) Provide information to Northwest Territories residents concerning the intent and effect of Section 2 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (the Sunset Clause), as to the need to address section 2 before the next election and to solicit input and options; and
- ii) Make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly concerning the Sunset Clause.
- b) In relation to the Implementation of Self-Government:
- i) Consider how the Legislative Assembly may be impacted by the implementation of self-government in the areas of legislation and appropriations;
- ii) Review the models for implementing self-government in the Northwest Territories currently being negotiated;
- iii) Review the impact implementing self-government agreements will have on the Legislative Assembly operating structures and procedures;
- iv) Review legislative initiatives that would implement self-government agreements;
- v) Make recommendations as to how existing and future legislation, policies and practices of the Legislative Assembly might be amended or developed to reflect the concurrency of jurisdiction between aboriginal and partnership governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories;
- vi) Make recommendations on ways in which the budgetary process might be modified in form and process so as to reflect the duality of interests resulting from the implementation of self-government agreements;
- vii) Make recommendations on transitional measures, which could be introduced to prepare for the implementation of self-government agreements:
- c) Consider how self-government may impact the Government of the NWT with respect to the functions of policy, programs, services, financing and administration over the immediate and long term:
- i) Evaluate the impact self-government will have on the authorities contained in the *Northwest Territories Act* and Territorial Statutes (legislation);
- ii) Investigate and advise on the impact self-government will have on the public governing structure of the Legislative Assembly and Government of the Northwest Territories and its powers, functions, programs, services and finances; and
- iii) Make recommendations on transitional measures, which could be implemented to prepare for the implementation of self-government agreements.
4. The Special Committee in carrying out its terms of reference will use best efforts to ensure that its discussions and activities support, complement and otherwise not overlap with or in any way interfere with self-government negotiations or discussions taking place at the Intergovernmental Forum;
5. The Special Committee shall establish processes for providing information to and affording the residents an opportunity to make their views known;
6. The Special Committee shall have access to such persons, papers and records as necessary to the conduct of its business;
7. The Special Committee shall be provided through appropriations with adequate funds to carry out its terms of reference and assigned responsibilities;
8. The Special Committee is authorized to employ such staff and/or consultants and contractors as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities;
9. The Special Committee may consider other matters referred to it by the Legislative Assembly; and
10. The Special Committee may make recommendations it considers desirable through interim and a final report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize that was a very lengthy motion, so I would just like to make a short comment regarding this motion. Of course, I am speaking in support of this motion. First of all, I would like to express what an honour and privilege it is for me to be chosen as one of the co-chairs, along with my colleague, the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine, the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. I believe this shows the importance that is being placed by the Assembly on the work of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause, the fact that this is a joint committee of Cabinet and Members.

As well, I believe it speaks to the level of cooperation required to do this work, not only in this Assembly, but also with our partners outside of this Assembly; aboriginal governments, municipal governments, the NGOs, the private sector and all of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am also honoured and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on the committee which include Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave; Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North; and, Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee has met on three occasions to begin our work. To help us carry out that work, we developed this terms of reference which are before the House today for consideration and approval. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the motion stated clearly the operating principles which will guide the work of this committee, which are the vision and values that were articulated in Towards a Better Tomorrow.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I think the motion states clearly an emphasis and highlights the importance of creating a public forum, an opportunity for people of the Northwest Territories to have input and information about the important issues of how to deal with the sunset clause, as well as the impact the self-government negotiations and implementations will have in our communities and the future of the Territories, which is certainly facing a very exciting future with the changes that will go along with it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for support from the Members of this Assembly. I would like to conclude by expressing how excited I am to undertake this important work on behalf of this Assembly and all the people of the Northwest Territories, and I respectfully ask for support from the Members on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 16, motions. Motion 21, the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Motion 21-14(3): Terms of Reference for the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act (Carried)

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker;

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly has established the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act;

AND WHEREAS, the Special Committee requires the approval of the Legislative Assembly of its Terms of Reference;

AND WHEREAS, the Special Committee has given consideration as to its Terms of Reference;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that the following provisions be adopted as the terms of reference for the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act:

1. The Special Committee in undertaking its review, adopts the following as operating principles:
 - a) The Special Committee will respect the right of language communities to represent their ideas and needs to the committee in the official language of their choice.
 - b) The Special Committee is committed to having amendments to the Official Languages Act introduced within the term of this Assembly.
 - c) The Special Committee is committed to an open and public process in reviewing the act and to providing opportunities for "stakeholder groups" and the general public to participate in the review process.
 - d) The Special Committee is committed to strengthening the official languages of the Northwest Territories and carrying out its duties related to the act in a manner that is consistent with this commitment.
 - e) The Special Committee is committed to public consultation, which will occur in each of the language areas of the Northwest Territories and with representatives of each recognized linguistic group in the Northwest Territories.
 - f) The Special Committee recognizes the value of elders in relation to aboriginal languages and will ensure elders participate fully in the review process.
2. The Special Committee shall:
 - a) review the provisions and operation of the Official Languages Act;
 - b) examine the objectives set out in the preamble of the act and the extent to which the objectives have been achieved;
 - c) examine all provisions of the act including the rights and responsibilities established in the act and the extent to which they have been effective in supporting achievement of the stated objectives;
 - d) review the administrative regulations, policies and procedures established by the Government of the Northwest Territories designed to guide the implementation and interpretation of the act;
 - e) examine the effectiveness of the act's provisions in relation to the general public and the government departments and agencies charged with providing services;
 - f) evaluate the specific needs related to each of the official languages in the Northwest Territories;

- g) examine the extent to which the public understands the current act and current language rights;
 - h) examine and consider the roles and responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner;
 - i) examine and consider other acts that have reference to the official languages of the Northwest Territories; and
 - j) evaluate official language act policies and programs in other jurisdiction.
3. Upon the conclusion of these considerations, the special committee shall provide the Legislative Assembly with interim reports and a final report to determine whether or not the act requires revisions regarding:
 - a) the objectives of the act;
 - b) changes to any provisions of the act;
 - c) changes to current and related policies; and
 - d) the implications of the Education Act, The Jury Act and other territorial legislation.
 4. The special committee is committed to working in partnership with the Languages Commissioner and Office of the Languages Commissioner who shall provide all reasonable assistance to the special committee, including acting in an advisory capacity, providing relevant studies or reports and forwarding information, concerns or issues raised by the public regarding language legislation;
 5. The special committee shall establish processes for providing information and affording the Northwest Territories residents an opportunity to make their views known;
 6. The special committee shall have access to such persons, papers and records as necessary to the conduct of its business;
 7. The special committee shall be provided through appropriations with adequate funds to carry out its terms of reference and assigned responsibilities;
 8. The special committee is authorized to employ such staff and/or consultants, and contractors as may be necessary, to carry out its responsibilities;
 9. The special committee may consider other matters referred to it by the Legislative Assembly; and
 10. The special committee may make recommendations it considers desirable through interim and a final report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Your motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Special Committee established to Review the Official Languages Act, I am pleased to speak in favour of this motion.

It provides the terms of reference that will guide the work of the special committee in carrying out the responsibilities, given to us by this House.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of language and cultural diversity in the northern society. For myself and those of my colleagues who speak more than one language, it is very easy to appreciate the passion with which so many people pursue the preservation and enhancement of their mother tongues.

I have been raised bilingual and know from first-hand experience that my capacity to fully express myself in my first language and what is lost when I communicate in my second language, English.

The greatest difficulty that I have is communicating basic cultural understanding values when I speak English. It is in recognition that so many Northerners also feel strongly about their language and the important role that it plays in defining who we are as a distinct northern people.

However, we are proposing the review that we are legally required to carry out, be done in a manner that involves extensive public participation in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a culture that understands that each one of us has a reason for being born in this place and time and that we each have a purpose that is respected by others. This understanding and our respect for each other and all living things and their purpose is reflected in my language.

This very understanding and acceptance and respect that flows from them is a very real source of personal strength for me and so many others in the North who gain strength from their culture.

The relationship between strength in language and culture and building a strong northern community are clearly linked. These links are acknowledged in our priorities document, Towards A Better Tomorrow, where respect for the diversity of cultures and languages is identified in the vision for a prosperous future.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that all people benefit, both on a personal level and on a societal level, from strengthening all of the languages in the North.

Recently, I have also come to learn the value of multi-lingualism in the development of our intellectual capacity.

A world-renowned scientist, Dr. Thom Hartmann, presented scientific proof that aboriginal languages require the predominant use of the right lobe of the brain and that European languages require the predominant use of the left side.

Through actual brain activity testing, he has found that people who speak both an indigenous language and a European language are using a greater part of their brain and their intellectual ability to learn is enhanced significantly. Dr. Hartmann has further evidence that the defined time to learn language is between boyhood and five years old.

The language learning capacity of children over the age of five begins to diminish because the part of the brain that is used to learn language must be exercised early in life before it begins to deteriorate.

Other important insights that have been uncovered relate to the limitations of developing only the left lobe of the brain. People lose their creative capacity, they tend to be unwilling to take risks and they lose their leadership potential and tend to become followers and dependent on others.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, society as a whole has much to gain from strengthening our languages. We become not only more tolerant of our cultural differences, we actually can begin to see and experience the benefits and values of such differences.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you and Members of this House the sense of importance our special committee places on the work that we have been mandated to take on. We are proposing a very inclusive approach to our work of reviewing this act. We feel that this is necessary to ensure that whatever changes are proposed from this process, they are actively supported by people throughout the Northwest Territories. The steps we take now to work through our identifying and addressing the needs of each official language community may well contribute to the well-being of northern people and the very survival of some of our official languages may hinge on it.

The special committee seeks the support of all Members to carry out this important review in the manner that will allow the language communities of the Northwest Territories to participate directly in the process. Together, we will find ways in which the laws of our Legislature can be developed to support the strengthening of language, culture and ultimately the resilience of our northern peoples.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee looks forward to receiving the Members' support for the terms of reference we have developed and for getting on with the important work of beginning the review. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The House will recess for 15 minutes.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 13, tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 13, tabling of documents. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Minister Steen. You may return to item 13, tabling of documents.

REVERT TO ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 127-14(3): Draft Electrical Protection Amendment

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Draft Electrical Protection Regulation Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 128-14(3): Package of Documents Regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table several documents and information in regard to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 16, Bill 17, Bill 19, Bill 20, Bill 21, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call the committee of the whole to order. We are dealing with Bill 16, 17, 19, 20, 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we deal with Bill 19, followed by Bill 17, Bill 20 and then Bill 21.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will continue on with Bill 19. We are dealing with Bill 19, in your grey binders. We are on schedule, part one, vote one, operations expense, total appropriation and operations expense, \$788,925,000. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 42-14(3): To Amend the Schedule (Part 1) of Bill 19, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that the schedule to Bill 19 be amended to:

- (a) decrease by \$100,000 the appropriation amount set out in part 1, item 3, "Finance", by
 - (i.) striking out "9,519,000" and substituting "\$9,419,000" in the column entitled "Operations Excluding Amortization"; and
 - (ii.) striking out "9,519,000" and substituting "9,419,000" in the column entitled "Appropriation by Item"; and
- (b) decrease by \$100,000, the amount set out in part 1, as the "Total Appropriation for Operation Expenditures", by striking out \$788,925,000 and substituting \$788,825,000.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Your motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Part one as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Part two, vote two, capital investment expenditures. The total appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$98,262,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total appropriation, \$887,187,000. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 43-14(3): To Amend the Schedule (Total Appropriation) of Bill 19: Appropriation Act, 2001-2002 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 19 be amended to decrease by \$100,000 the amount set out at the end of the schedule as the Total Appropriation by striking out "\$887,187,000" and substituting "\$887,087,000". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Total appropriation as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We deferred the preamble to Bill 19. To the preamble. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): To the bill as a whole, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 19 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 19 is now ready for third reading as amended.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are now dealing with a private Member's bill, Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Mr. Lafferty, do you have any opening comments? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today is a very important day in that the Members of the House will be making a decision on Bill 17. This involves renaming my electoral district by amending the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

This name change is an important step marking the government's recognition of our different regions. It is also significant that it is being given a Dogrib name. This is in keeping with the aboriginal name changes that have occurred throughout the Territory for both electoral areas and communities.

Since being elected as the MLA for the North Slave region in December 1999, I have been deeply concerned with the lack of coordination between government departments. I have brought these concerns with the budget process forward in the House,

in committee meetings and I have shared them with my colleagues and the chiefs for my region.

In July, the chiefs responded to these concerns by forwarding a band council resolution supporting the renaming of our area to Monfwi. Renaming the North Slave region Monfwi is a fundamental shift that will help to ensure our region is recognized fairly in the budget process. It will provide for a better understanding of local issues and needs. It will also make government expenditures much clearer and it will allow me to work more effectively for my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Does the chair of the committee regarding this bill have any comments? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight reviewed Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, at public hearings in Yellowknife on February 19 and March 6, 2001. Bill 17 is a private Member's bill and is sponsored by Mr. Leon Lafferty, the MLA from the electoral district of North Slave.

Rule 77 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories provides for private Members' public bills. Bill 17 amends the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act by removing the heading "North Slave" in item 12 of Schedule A and replacing it with the word "Monfwi". Chief Monfwi was the Dogrib chief who lived from 1886 to 1936, and was a signatory of Treaty 11. Section 2(1) of the Act provides, "There are 19 electoral districts as named and described in Schedule A."

The bill as originally drafted would have come into effect following third reading and assent of the proposed legislative change. At the public hearing on February 19, 2001, committee members heard from Chief Richard Edjericon and Chief Peter Liske of the communities of Detah and N'dilo, Yellowknives Dene First Nation. The committee also heard from Mr. Richard Garepy, legal counsel for Akaitcho Treaty 8 First Nations, and N'dilo elder Muriel Betsina.

These presenters put forward to the committee the position that to change the name of an electoral district at the present time would just add confusion to their current land claim boundary dispute with the Treaty 11 First Nations.

John B. Zoe, chief negotiator for the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, told committee members that the private Member's bill was merely a change to the name of an electoral district and had nothing to do with the claims or boundary dispute process.

Mr. Lafferty and Mr. Zoe put forward the following reasons for wanting a change to the name of the North Slave electoral district:

- (1) Mr. Lafferty told the committee that it would assist him in identifying budgetary items for the four communities that he represents in the North Slave region during the budget process; and
- (2) Mr. Zoe identified the need to have culturally relevant names and told the committee that the amendment would work towards strengthening the Dogrib language.

The committee would like to thank those who appeared before them at the public hearing and fully understands the concerns of the presenters from both Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 First Nations. In particular, the committee would like to thank Mr. Lafferty for bringing forward an amendment to Bill 17. The amendment proposed by Mr. Lafferty would delay the effective date of operation for this bill. This motion to amend Bill 17 was passed by the committee at its public hearing on March 6, 2001.

The bill will now come into force when the Government of Canada has ratified the final Dogrib Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement. Mr. Chairman, committee members may have additional comments during the review of the bill in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight on Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments. Clause by clause review of Bill 17. General comments. Mrs. Groenewegen

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The renaming of the constituency on the face of it is a simple matter. Although this bill will not change or establish any boundaries, it is clear that other claimant groups, most notably the Deh Cho and Akaitcho, are concerned about the name change because it overlaps issues related to land claims and self-government initiatives.

As a Cabinet, we have worked hard to maintain open and productive relationships with all aboriginal governments and peoples of the Northwest Territories. To take a position on this bill at this time we feel could jeopardize those relations. Because the proposed name change would not come into effect until the Dogrib claim is ratified by Parliament, one might ask if the bill is urgent at this time. It might make more sense to deal with it when some of the related political issues are closer to resolution.

However, Mr. Chairman, the timing of the bill's presentation is not in Cabinet's hands, but for these reasons, Mr. Chairman, Cabinet will be abstaining from voting on this bill and the will of the House will preside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen, Deputy Premier. General comments, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want some clarification here. In Mr. Lafferty's opening remarks, he wants to rename the electoral district by amending the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. In the last paragraph, at the beginning of the paragraph, "rename the North Slave region Monfwi is a fundamental shift." Are we talking about the North Slave? Is it the North Slave region that is being named or is it the electoral riding called the North Slave riding? As far as I understand, the North Slave region includes the communities of Detah, N'dilo, Yellowknife and Lutselk'e as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. If the sponsor of the bill could clarify, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the wording may give the Members a different idea of what I am looking at, but it is just to identify my district. I could say district

in putting in that word, but I thought using the word region was more appropriate for the opening comments. For the bill, the way it is worded I think explains everything. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if we can get a legal opinion on this. I would like to be absolutely sure that we are talking about the North Slave riding and not the North Slave region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Legal counsel, Ms. Peterson, would you like to clarify?

MS. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the bill does is change the name from North Slave to Monfwi in the schedule to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. That schedule is a schedule that describes electoral districts. It does so in two fashions. First by name and then by boundary for each electoral district. This bill affects the name only of the North Slave electoral district as set out in the schedule to that act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Peterson. General comments. Clause by clause.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 1

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 17 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 17 is now ready for third reading. The next bill on our list is Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any comments. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$11,959,822 for operations expenditures and \$3,332,000 for capital investment expenditures.

The total for operations expenditures exceeds the amount included in Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001 by \$650,000. Mr. Chairman, I will be introducing a motion to amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001. The additional amounts include:

1. \$450,000 to fund Workers' Compensation premiums, for the year 2000, for hunters and trappers.
2. \$200,000 to fund the recently announced enhancements to the Fuel Rebate Program.

The total requirements are within the estimated supplementary reserves established in the budget.

The operations expenditures supplementary appropriation requirements include the following major items:

1. \$7.4 million for the departments to fund the additional expenses to be incurred in the current year as a result of finalizing a collective agreement between the GNWT and the Union of Northern Workers. The application of the collective agreement applies to unionized employees, non-unionized employees, managers, MLAs and Ministers.

These expenditures were financed using a special warrant. A special warrant was required because the GNWT wanted to make payment to employees as soon as possible. The departments had insufficient appropriations for the payments and the Legislative Assembly was not sitting for approximately a month.

2. The cost of petroleum fuels has increased drastically in the last year. As a result many Northwest Territories residents (households and businesses) are facing financial hardship. A total of \$2.7 million is therefore being requested to assist Northwest Territories residents to cope with the economic difficulties arising from fuel price increases as follows:
 - \$1.1 million for the Financial Management Board Secretariat to provide funding for forced growth in expenditures in the Power Subsidy Program. The Power Subsidy Program provides assistance to domestic and commercial consumers of electricity who pay for their own electricity and reside in high-cost areas.
 - \$230,000 for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs for funding to community governments to help offset the increases in their operating requirements that resulted from fuel price increases.
 - \$1.6 million for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development for the implementation of a Fuel Rebate Program for qualified Northwest Territories households, including home renters and renewable resource harvesters who had harvested at least \$500 worth of fur in either the 1999-2000 or 2000-2001 trapping season. This amount includes the additional \$200,000 to be included in the motion to amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2.
3. \$300,000 for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to fund the extraordinary costs the

hamlet of Fort McPherson is incurring in operating its water treatment plant. These costs include additional testing required to address water quality concerns and maintenance issues such as frozen water lines and recharging the water source.

The authorization for capital investment expenditures includes \$3.1 million from the Department of Transportation to accelerate the bridge building program on the Mackenzie Valley winter road. The total two-year project costs are estimated to be \$6.6 million. The federal government has committed to providing \$3.8 million in funding over the two years.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, will you be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, if they are here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in. For the record, could you please introduce your witness?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, with me is Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witness. General comments on the bill. General comments. Detail. Page 5, Bill 20, Legislative Assembly, operations expense, office of the Clerk, special warrant, \$57,000, not previously authorized, \$19,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Office of the Speaker, special warrant, \$2,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Expenditures on behalf of others, special warrant, \$59,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$7,000, special warrant. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Commissioner of Official Languages, special warrant, \$3,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$128,000, not previously authorized, \$19,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Executive, operations expense, executive office, cabinet secretariat, special warrant, \$196,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, special warrant, \$35,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$29,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Labour relations and compensation services, special warrant, \$204,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$46,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Government accounting, special warrant, \$89,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,039,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Budgeting and evaluation, special warrant, \$59,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$74,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Audit bureau, special warrant, \$34,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Aboriginal Affairs, special warrant, \$102,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$719,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,388,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Financial operation expenditures, directorate, special warrant, \$42,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Treasury, special warrant, \$37,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Financial policy, special warrant, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bureau of Statistics, special warrant, \$15,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$114,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expense, directorate, special warrant, \$63,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Emergency services, special warrant, \$16,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community financial services, special warrant, \$22,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community governance, special warrant, \$16,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Land administration, special warrant, \$47,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community development, special warrant, \$22,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Regional operations, special warrant, \$121,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$197,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): School of community development, special warrant, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$327,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$497,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Public Works and Services, operations expenditure, directorate, special warrant, \$165,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$35,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Asset management, special warrant, \$336,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$278,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Systems and communications, special warrant, \$50,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$215,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$127,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$551,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$401,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Health and Social Services, operation expenditure, directorate and corporate services, special warrant, \$345,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$3,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Primary and acute care program, special warrant, \$1,532,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,200,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Children's program, not previously authorized, negative \$17,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$41,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$1,877,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,145,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Justice, operations and expense, expenditures, corporate services, special warrant, \$317,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Legal Services Board, special warrant, \$23,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Registries and court services, special warrant, \$126,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community justice and corrections, special warrant, \$525,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$991,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Northwest Territories Housing Corporation expenditure, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, special warrant, \$253,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,350,000. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the amount of \$1,350,000, under not previously authorized for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation be increased by \$200,000 to implement the Fuel Rebate Program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley, are you moving a motion?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes I am, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Could you read the motion for the record?

Committee Motion 44-14(3): To Increase Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Supplementary Funding for the Fuel Rebate Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the amount of \$1,350,000 under Not Previously Authorized for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation on page 17 be increased by \$200,000 to implement the Fuel Rebate Program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, special warrant, \$253,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,550,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrant, \$253,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$1,550,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Education, Culture and Employment operations and expenditures, director of corporate services, special warrants, \$85,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Advanced education and careers, special warrant, \$507,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$422,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Education, culture, special warrants, \$417,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$79,250. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrants, \$1,900,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$501,250. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Transportation, operations expense, corporate services, special warrant, \$220,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Airports, special warrant, \$196,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$26,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Highways, special warrants, \$175,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$24,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ferries, special warrants, \$16,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$2,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community marine, not previously authorized, \$2,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Motor vehicles, special warrant, \$47,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrants, \$654,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$2,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations expense, corporate management, special warrants, \$147,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$143,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Environmental protection, special warrants, \$31,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Resource management and economic development, special warrants, \$355,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$242,072. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to make a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The Minister is making a motion. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 45-14(3): To Increase RWED Supplementary Funding for Renewable Resource Harvesters Compensation Benefits (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the amount of \$450,000 be added to the activity "Resource Management and Economic Development" under the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Operations Expenditures, not previously authorized, on page 21 to provide funding to pay the Workers' Compensation Board for the provision of workers' compensation benefits to renewable resource harvesters during the 2000 calendar year. Thank you

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried.

Careers management and development, resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$692,072. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Forest management, special warrants, \$233,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$40,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrants, \$766,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$875,072. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Executive, capital investment expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, special warrant, \$110,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$80,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrants, \$110,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, \$80,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, special warrants, \$3,142,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrants, \$3,142,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will deal with Bill 20, page 1, Supplementary Appropriate Act. Clause 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 5?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 6?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 7?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 8?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Schedule, part I, vote 1, operations expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The Minister is going to make a motion.

Committee Motion 46-14(3): To Amend the Schedule (Part 1) of Bill 20: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 20 be amended to:

- (a) increase by \$200,000 the appropriation amount set out in Part I, item 8, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, by:
 - (i) striking out "1,603,000" and substituting "1,803,000" in the column entitled "Operations Excluding Amortization", and
 - (ii) striking out "1,603,000" and substituting "1,803,000" in the column entitled "Supplementary Appropriation by Item";
- (b) increase by \$450,000 the appropriation amount set out in Part I, item 11, "Resource Development and Economic Development", by:
 - (i) striking out "1,175,072" and substituting "1,625,072" in the column entitled "Operations Excluding Amortization" and
 - (ii) striking out "1,191,072" and substituting "1,641,072" in the column entitled "Supplementary Appropriation by Item"; and
- (c) increase by \$650,000 the amount set out in Part I as the "Total Supplementary Appropriation for Operations Expenditures" by striking out "11,309,822" and substituting "11,959,822". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. To the schedule, part one, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures item. Total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditure, \$3,332,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total supplementary appropriation, \$14,641,822. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will make another motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley, it is okay if you make the motion at the head table. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 47-14(3): To Amend the Schedule (Total Supplementary Appropriation) of Bill 20: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 20 be amended to increase by \$650,000 the amount set out at the end of the schedule as the "Total Supplementary Appropriation", by striking out "\$14,641,822" and substituting "\$15,291,822."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Schedule, part two, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Back to page 1, preamble. To the preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 20 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 20 is now ready for third reading as amended. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses.

The next bill that we will deal with is Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he has any opening comments?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have opening remarks on Bill 21, the Labour Standards Act. Mr. Chairman, this bill would bring the parental leave provisions in the Labour Standards Act in line with recent changes to the federal Employment Insurance Program.

The Government of Canada amended the Employment Insurance Act to provide increased parental leave benefits for natural and adoptive parents of children who were born or placed for adoption after December 31, 2000.

Under the federal program, the parents of a natural or adopted child can now obtain parental leave benefit payments for up to 35 weeks after a two-week waiting period. This is in addition to pregnancy leave benefits, which are available for 15 weeks after a two-week waiting period.

However, the changes to the Employment Insurance Act do not require employers to extend the time period of unpaid parental leave that they must grant to employees.

In the Northwest Territories, the Labour Standards Act, or in the case of federal works and undertakings the Canada Labour Code, governs minimum standards regarding the length of unpaid leave that an employer must grant for employees in the private sector.

Currently under the Labour Standards Act and Pregnancy and Parental Leave Regulations, an employer must provide an employee with up to 17 consecutive weeks of unpaid pregnancy leave if she has been working for the employer for 12 consecutive months and she gives at least four weeks notice.

In addition, an employer must provide an employee with up to 12 consecutive weeks of unpaid parental leave if he or she has been working for the employer for 12 consecutive months and he or she gives the employer at least four weeks notice. This leave can be taken to care for either a natural or an adopted child. It must be taken within a year of the birth of the child or within a year of the child being placed for adoption in the employee's home.

The Labour Standards Act requires the employer to reinstate the employee to his or her position or a comparable position after the pregnancy or parental leave. All provinces and territories except Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Yukon have passed legislation to extend the time period for unpaid parental leave.

Bill 21 would extend the period of time that employers must grant as parental leave from 12 to 37 weeks. This would help parents in the Northwest Territories to take full advantage of financial benefits now provided by the federal government.

The transitional provisions in the bill would allow eligible employees to extend their parental leave, or go back on parental leave, so they would also be able to get the benefit of the federal program. Under Bill 21, eligible employees would have to provide their employers with three weeks of notice to extend their parental leave.

During its review of the bill, the Standing Committee on Social Programs suggested that this should be changed to four weeks to match the four weeks notice that employees must give in order to take parental leave in the first place.

Bill 21 would also allow some people to go back on parental leave if their leave has expired or if they do not have enough time to give the four weeks notice. The bill gives people only two weeks from the date it comes into effect to provide their employers with notice that they will be going back on parental leave.

During its review of the bill, the standing committee suggested that employees should be allowed four weeks to provide their employers with notice instead of two weeks, so that employees will have enough time to find out about the amendment. I agree with the committee's two suggestions, so later I will be making motions that support these changes.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 21 supports this government's policies on healthy families. It will enable infants in a number of families to be cared for by their own parents during the first year of life. The bill also promotes the well-being of children who are adopted. It will assist in stronger bonding of adopted children and their parents because adoptive parents would be entitled to the same period of parental leave as their parents.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I think the amendments proposed in this bill will benefit a lot of families in the Northwest Territories. I would like to thank the members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their timely review and their helpful comments. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee reviewing this bill have any comments? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs met on Monday, March 5, 2001 to review Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act. The amendment changes provisions of the Northwest Territories Labour Standards Act so its territorial residents can access the maximum amount of time off available under the federal employment insurance maternity benefits. In short, it makes territorial legislation compatible with federal legislation. Similar amendments have been passed in the majority of other Canadian jurisdictions to accomplish the same thing. Members of the committee had no concerns with the intent of the bill. Committee Members did have concerns with timing and transition issues on the implementation of the bill. The committee recommended that employees who planned to extend or recommence their leave to take advantage of the longer benefits and leave periods be required to give employers four weeks instead of three weeks notice of their intent.

In addition, committee members were concerned that the requirement to give such notice within two weeks of the act coming into force did not allow for sufficient time for the department to notify the general public of the changes to the leave provisions and recommended that this be increased to four weeks. The committee was pleased that the Minister agreed with the Members and that he will be introducing amendments to address our concerns. Individual members of the committee may have questions or comments for the Minister as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Is the Minister going to be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses in, please? Mr. Minister, for the record, can you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my right is Janis Cooper, the acting director of policy and planning. To my left is Diane Buckland, legislative counsel. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a short statement to thank the Minister and the members and chair of the Social Programs Committee for moving with such speed and resolve to introduce this and to get this bill through during the life of this session.

I think we should look into seeing if we have broken any records in terms of the speed of the bill being introduced here. I think all the work was done within a week to ten days.

I appreciate this because it is a concern that a constituent of mine brought to my attention at the beginning of the session. I know that while all Members in this House had to work together to get this bill through, I am sure my constituent will be pretty impressed with my effectiveness.

I would just like to really thank the Minister and members for getting this job done. I think this should serve as an example where all the Members of this House could work really well together to do a good thing for the people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. General comments. Detail. You should say clause by clause.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): That is more like it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 48-14(3): To Amend Clause 3 (Proposed Subsection 35.2(2)) of Bill 21: An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Carried)

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that clause 3 of Bill 21 be amended by striking out "three weeks" in proposed subsection 35.2(2), and by substituting "four weeks".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 3 as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 49-14(3): To Amend Clause 3 (Proposed Subsection 35.2(3)) of Bill 21: An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Carried)

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Chairman, I have another motion here. I move that clause 3 of Bill 21 be amended in proposed subsection 35.2(3) by:

- (a) striking out "five weeks" and substituting "eight weeks"; and
- (b) striking out "two weeks after this section comes into force and at least three weeks" and by substituting "four weeks after this section comes into force and at least four weeks".

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 3, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 21 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 21 is now ready for third reading as amended. Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Thank you, witnesses.

-- Applause

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. We will rise and report progress.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. The honourable Member for the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 19, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002, Bill 17, Bill 20 and Bill 21 and would like to report progress with eight motions being adopted. Bill 17 is ready for third reading, and Bills 19, 20, and 21 are ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Thebacha seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give third reading to Bill 17 today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member is seeking consent to give third reading to Bill 17. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Lafferty, you may proceed.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Paul Delorey, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 17 has had third reading.

-- Applause

Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 19: Appropriation Act, 2001-2002

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 19, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with the reading of Bill 19. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Handley, you may continue.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 19, Appropriation Act 2001-2002, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. We have a motion. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 19 has had third reading.

-- Applause

Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 20: Supplementary Appropriation, Act No. 2, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent for third reading of Bill 20. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Handley, you may proceed.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. Bill 20 has had third reading.

-- Applause

Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Bill 21: An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 21. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 21 has had third reading.

-- Applause

Order, please. I understand that Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills and to prorogue this session of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Clerk, could you please attend to and escort the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories into the Chamber?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Ms. Glenna Hansen): Please be seated. Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is an honour for me to join you today in this Assembly. It has been almost a year since I first addressed you as the 14th Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Since that time, I have had an opportunity to attend and be a part of many events and occasions that are representative of your work and successes as a government. I would like to tell you that these occasions have been both an honour and a source of pride.

I listened with interest in January as the Premier reflected on the achievements of this government in its first year and spoke of your plans for the year to come. I too share the excitement for the future that Premier Kakfwi expressed. In every region of our Territory, economic initiatives are putting Northerners to work.

This was very evident on my recent visit to the Delta where I was able to participate in and celebrate the onset of drilling at the Petro-Canada Akita well at Swimming Point. In the completion of my official duties and in my meetings with ordinary citizens, it was clear that there is a renewed excitement in our Territory brought about by the anticipation and growth of economic activity.

I am also increasingly aware of the significant steps that are being taken daily in our land claim and self-government negotiations.

These are indicative and I commend the Government of the Northwest Territories for your continued commitment to work in

partnership with federal and aboriginal governments, as well as the private sector, to achieve your vision of a better tomorrow.

An important element in all of the positive developments in the Northwest Territories are the strengths and contributions of individual citizens. While at times these go unrecognized, I am pleased that next week I will be able to attend the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, where the efforts of two distinguished Northerners -- Richard Nerysoo and Senator Nick Sibbeston -- will be honoured.

Over the next year, it is my intention to continue visiting a number of your communities to meet with individual residents and to recognize many of their distinct contributions. In that spirit, I am pleased to express my appreciation to Corporal Wayne Norris for stepping in to act as my aide-de-camp today.

Before I assent to bills, I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories to express my shock and sadness upon hearing of the death of Constable Jurgen Seewald, whose life was taken Monday while in the line of duty in Cape Dorset, Nunavut. Prior to his posting in Nunavut, Constable Seewald served both in Hay River and Fort Liard, Northwest Territories, and will be remembered with love and respect by the many people who knew and loved him there. To his family, his friends and to members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I offer my prayers and condolences.

Now in the exercise of my duty as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; Bill 19, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002; Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2000-2001; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act.

I wish to announce that the Fourth Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly will convene on Tuesday, June 5, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Third Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

-- Applause

-- PROROGATION

The House prorogued at 6:15 p.m.