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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 30, 2001****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, 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): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Please be seated. Good afternoon, Members. Before we begin, I have a ruling on a point of order. At this time, I wish to provide that ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent, on Monday, October 29th, 2001. Mr. Dent's point of order was raised under Rule 23(m) for comments made by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes, on Friday, October 26th.

Rule 23(m) states:

In debate a Member will be called to order by the Speaker if the Member introduces any matter in debate that offends the practices and precedents of the Assembly.

The comments that the Member for Frame Lake feels that Mr. Ootes used that gave rise to this point of order are contained on page 1079 of unedited Hansard. I quote:

The Supreme Court Justice commented to me a while back, Mr. Speaker, his feelings of disgust that we still have leadership elections by secret vote. Poignant words from someone of the stature of the Supreme Court Justice.

I heard from the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes, on the point of order and his comments are contained on page 1134 of unedited Hansard. I quote:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want the transcript of the tapes checked because it is my belief that I said "a" Supreme Court Justice stated and I did not identify a Supreme Court Justice as being a Supreme Court Justice of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

I have had the tapes reviewed and, for the record, it is not clear if it is an "a" or "the", and in my view it does not change the context.

In considering this point of order, I was unable to find a specific rule that Mr. Ootes may have breached. There is, of course, the sub judice convention, which is an unwritten rule that during debate, restrictions are placed on the freedom of Members to make reference to matters awaiting judicial decision in the interests of justice and fair play.

This is not the case in relation to the point of order before me today. However, there is also an understanding that it is not appropriate in the House to make reference to conversations

that took place outside the walls of this Chamber. It might also be inappropriate, out of respect to the judiciary, to attribute comments on a political issue to a Supreme Court Justice, whether they are a Justice resident in the Territories or not.

Therefore, I do not find that Mr. Dent has a point of order. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 46-14(4): Canada Career Week**

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, November 4th to 10th is Canada Career Week. The theme this year is Learning - Power for Life.

In the NWT we will celebrate Career Week with a series of events intended to emphasize that career development is a life-long process of managing learning and work. Thoughtful career planning gives us control of our lives and our careers.

Often the biggest challenge in reaching a career goal is knowing where to start. One of the goals of Career Week activities is to make people aware of the many places individuals can turn for help. Talk to a teacher, a school or career counsellor, friends and parents. Explore personal interests through volunteer work, continuing education, student exchange or apprenticeship programs. Check out resources available on the Internet and at NWT career centres.

Mr. Speaker, in Yellowknife, a series of brown bag lunch workshops on education and career development preparation can provide useful tips. In other locations, interpretive displays, career planning workshops at schools and career planning open houses are only a few of the special events that will mark Canada Career Week. The events taking place in communities throughout the NWT are designed to increase awareness about the range of programs available to support NWT residents in their efforts to find and keep work, to change careers and to acquire additional skills.

Mr. Speaker, many events influence the direction of one's life. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to developing innovative career development supports for NWT residents. This will help to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the education and skills necessary to take advantage of new opportunities. This enhances further our ability to take control of our own careers and lives.

Career choices that suit individual lifestyles and personal priorities will create a productive workforce. This, in turn, will help the GNWT realize the goal of a healthy and diversified economy. I encourage each of you to get out in your community November 4th to 10th and participate in Career

Week activities. Learning is power for life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Funding for Elite Athletes

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak on behalf of a constituent of mine who supports two children who are in elite sports programs. Just last year they spent \$10,000 for the training expenses, including the airfares and the programs they have to attend for their swimming training in the south. Just last year they spent \$10,000 and they have been doing it every year. They are not able to access any sports programs to help them with this cost.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Members in this House have been focusing their attention on the sports and recreation policy and I commend the Minister for circulating a discussion paper not too long ago. I have had a chance to take a look at it and it covers a lot of issues, but it does not really have any allocations for elite athletes.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that the funds are limited and that we have a lot of need in this area. We need to support athletes at all levels. We should also respect those who work hard, really hard, to support their children to develop their talent to a maximum.

I would just like to ask the Minister to revisit or add to his discussion item a possible support program for elite athletes. As well, I would like to take this opportunity to give notice to the Minister of Finance, who I know is working on restructuring our income tax program, if there could be any possibility for tax deductions for those with low disposable incomes for families with elite athletes who have to incur extra expenses where they may be able to claim these as income tax deductions.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to give notice to the government that this is an issue I will be pursuing in the days and months to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Support for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an important group of people in our communities, our local volunteer fire men and ladies. I think we have to realize, with the circumstances that we have come to see in the last number of weeks, how important it is that the firefighters who volunteer their time to protect and ensure the safety of the Northwest Territories. These members of our communities put their lives on the line every time they respond to a fire in our communities. Most importantly, they volunteer their time at no cost.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important, as a government, that we start taking hold of the importance that these people play in ensuring the protection of the lives of the people and the property in our communities. Mr. Speaker, in a lot of our

communities we have over 20-year-old fire trucks and outdated equipment. We have to give them the tools to do their job and give them the training so that they can do the best job expected of them. Mr. Speaker, we do have to realize that there are people out there who have volunteered their time and have put time and effort into ensuring that they protect the property in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, volunteer firefighters in our communities are having to raise money through bingos to acquire the equipment that they need and which is essential for them to maintain their equipment in our communities, and to ensure that they have the quality of equipment. Presently, a lot of that is outdated.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, I believe we have to put a higher priority on the firefighting protection in our communities so that we can ensure that the volunteers feel that we are showing respect for what they are doing; putting their lives on the line and not asking for anything, but for us to stand up and support their endeavours.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister some questions on this matter. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement on Day Care Subsidies

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on an issue that has come to my attention, and it is in the area of day care and day care subsidies for establishing day care programs in a community, and how parents can access a day care subsidy to have their children in these programs.

It is unclear when a constituent looks at the matter. They have just moved into a community to try and see how things work, and there are some questions that have been raised that I think we need to clear the air on. That is the fact that there is an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that the message we are sending out there is clear. My understanding of the concern here is that, in fact, day care programs that are established out there and funded through this government sometimes lack inspection. I am not sure of that, but I would like to confirm with the Minister later on during question period as to how a program is established and how it is monitored.

With that, Mr. Speaker, speaking of children, I would like to send greetings back to my wife and children.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. It was nice to hear that spontaneous applause there. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on Accomplishments of Fort Smith Writer Richard Van Camp

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw attention to Richard Van Camp, a

young Dogrib Northerner from Fort Smith, who has just won a very prestigious journal literary prize.

Richard Van Camp's first novel, *The Lesser Blessed*, was published in 1996. A year ago the novel was translated into German and the German rights sold at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The translation of Richard's book has now won the youth literature prize in the juvenile fiction category. Richard says he is delighted to have won the prize, as I am, and as are all Northerners, Mr. Speaker.

He does not yet know what the monetary reward is connected to this prize, but whatever it is he intends to put it towards his Masters degree in creative writing which he is pursuing at the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, Richard has been writing for ten years and has won several other awards before this, including awards for his two children's books, *A Man Called Raven*, and, *What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?* In 1997 he was also recognized by the Canadian Authors' Association as the most promising Canadian author under 30. Richard says that he loves the North and Northerners very much, and he intends to celebrate life in the North in all his writing. His second book, a collection of short stories called, *Angel Wings Splash Pattern*, is currently at the printers and will be released shortly.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we are all proud that Richard is a Northerner and that he is doing such a great job through his writing of celebrating life in the North, both in Canada and beyond. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members in this House to join me in expressing our most sincere congratulations to Richard Van Camp. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement on Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, when we look at the big picture in the NWT we see tremendous economic opportunities available across the NWT. What really makes this all work and what brings it home are people at the community level and in the small- and medium-sized business sector.

Last Friday, Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to attend the annual general meeting of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, along with many other members of that organization in this community. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the contribution of the Yellowknife chamber and its 450 member businesses. The chamber has been participating in the economic life in this community since 1946. That is 55 years, Mr. Speaker, longer than many of us in this Chamber have been around.

The chamber has been active this past year with the cost of living study and initiatives, a Buy North campaign and Small Business Week. It has demonstrated fiscal responsibility in its operations, and their efforts benefit residents and businesses across the NWT.

I would like to congratulate the new president, Mr. Speaker, Mr. David McPherson, and his new executive including vice-

president, Shawnette MacNeil; second vice-president, Jerry Jaud; treasurer, John Taylor; and past president, John Ondrack. They, along with their directors, have a challenging and, I hope, rewarding year as they represent the business community of this city.

The chamber provides a focus and an opportunity for us as MLAs and government to consult and hear the opinion of the business community. I encourage the government to actively improve its communication in this area. As with all organizations, administration is critical for continuity and getting the job done, and I would also like to recognize Ellie Sasseville who has served the chamber for four years as their executive director and who is moving on. Dale Thompson, after 35 years in the service of this government, will be taking up the post of executive director. I wish them both continuing success.

Volunteerism is important to us all, whether it is in the social, economic, sporting organizations at the local, regional or national levels, Mr. Speaker. We should continue to recognize and appreciate their efforts. The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce is an excellent example of this kind of contribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on World Champion Jet Boat Racers Russell and Spencer King

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after the very dramatic few days, I thought I would give my Member's statement in a lighter tone. I want to recognize today, Mr. Speaker, world champions from the Northwest Territories. I am speaking, of course, of Mr. Russell King and Mr. Spencer King from Hay River.

Once again, they have competed in a world championship event in New Zealand, where they raced against top calibre jet boat racers from all over the world. Again, Mr. Speaker, they won by an astounding 48 minutes above their next competitor. I would like to congratulate Mr. Russell King and his son, Spencer King, in this world championship. It is not too often that Canada sees a world champion. As they came from the Northwest Territories, I think we should recognize them and congratulate them, and I would like to do that today. Congratulations, gentlemen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on Support for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak on an issue that my colleague, Mr. David Krutko, spoke on today and which Mr. Paul Delorey and Mr. Steve Nitah spoke on last week. It is on the issue of community firefighting volunteers and the government's efforts to support the valuable work that they provide for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly, in its document, *Towards A Better Tomorrow*, laid out a vision that the Members

of this House wish to pursue. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, in support of this vision, developed seven goals, one of which is to reduce death, injury and property loss from fire. In its main estimates for the current year, MACA states that protecting the lives and property of all Northerners is a priority for MACA. MACA goes on to state that the department will also continue to build capacity through the Northwest Territories fire training plan.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, MACA is responsible for the office of the fire marshal, an office that enforces the Fire Prevention Act and regulations, as well as setting training standards and supporting the training of community firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, upon review of the main estimates published by MACA, I have noticed that the main estimates show a decrease in budgeted funding levels for the office of the fire marshal from \$449,000 to \$326,000 for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2001 to the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2002. This is a decrease of \$123,000. The same main estimates show a decrease in the budgeted fire training allocations from \$120,000 to \$90,000 over the course of the last two years.

Mr. Speaker, I fail to see how MACA can state that, on one hand, the protecting of lives and property for all Northerners is a priority for MACA, while at the same time it slashes the budget for that very activity. Mr. Speaker, there have been recent media reports in The Deh Cho Drum that have highlighted concerns in the Deh Cho communities over the resources given to community firefighters. Although these concerns focus primarily on the recruitment and retention of firefighters, they also relate to equipment and training.

I do not have direct knowledge of the situations in other Members' constituencies. I presume these issues apply across the North. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that these concerns over service levels and resources are directly linked to these budgetary cuts and lack of attention being paid by this government to critical services for our communities.

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

MR. MCLEOD: 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. You may conclude.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is critical that this government gives sufficient resources to our community firefighters to do the job right. Linkages between resources for volunteer firefighters and the lives that have been lost in our smaller communities is simply too direct for us to ignore.

Cutting budgets and essential safety services that can affect our small communities in such a tragic way is of no economy, at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Enhancing Programs for Seniors

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to an issue today that is vital to the people of the Northwest Territories. The issue, Mr. Speaker, is securing the future of our seniors. Mr. Speaker, our seniors population continues to grow at a very rapid pace. CBC Radio has reported that by the year 2006, there will be more seniors in the Northwest Territories than there will be teenagers.

I have spoken at great length in this Assembly about this government investing in our aging population. By the same token, Mr. Speaker, we as legislators cannot afford to overlook the fact that seniors are significant contributors to our local economy. Mr. Speaker, what is needed is a full review of existing programs and services to our seniors. This review should not only reflect need, but should also serve to provide equality for all seniors.

Mr. Speaker, one issue that I have heard several times from my constituents is the issue of parity for all seniors. Government programs and policies currently in place do not always allow for parity for all seniors. Mr. Speaker, one such policy is administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs under the auspices of the seniors' current Property Tax Relief Act. This act, Mr. Speaker, allows for seniors below a certain income threshold to apply for property tax relief from municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, this government speaks over and over about Maximizing Northern Employment and other initiatives designed to improve the quality of life for our Northerners. An aspect of a decent quality of life is the ability of individuals to maintain a certain standard of living. Our seniors have worked in the North for many years and many seniors have done a lot towards planning their future. To this end, Mr. Speaker, many of our seniors enjoy a decent quality of life. This puts them in an unenviable position of not qualifying for a number of government programs.

I believe it is high time, Mr. Speaker, that our seniors are recognized for their valuable contribution to our society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Measures to Address the Poor Conditions of NWT Highways

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the committee review that has been underway by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, it has become abundantly clear that the road toll bill as presented is not gaining any public support, but it is also obvious that our highways are in serious need of improvement.

Mr. Speaker, if, as I expect, the toll is not approved, we may not be in a position to fix them as quickly as we would like. However, that is not to say there is nothing we can do. With \$6 million earmarked for the road to Rae, it is still years from completion. The Minister of Transportation must ensure that the resources of his department are focused on the safety of the public who are travelling on those roads.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have made it very clear to me that they do not feel safe when travelling on the highway to Rae. I have been contacted by constituents on numerous occasions about these concerns and we must move to address them in some manner.

I note, Mr. Speaker, one alternative that has been proposed to the highway road tax, and that was made by the Dogrib, Deton' Cho Corporation and RTL. They advanced an independent plan to finance accelerated construction over the ten-year pay-back period. I do not believe that these plans were seriously considered. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, these should be revisited.

In the meantime, short of having roads which are safe for our residents, there must be safety procedures implemented. First must come proper emphasis on maintenance. Just because construction may be on the horizon, we cannot cut back on maintenance. That is the best way to ensure public safety on all those highways that are in poor shape, like the section between Yellowknife and Rae.

The second step, I think, has already been undertaken by the Minister with the announcement on October 26th of the new 1-800 phone number.

A third step that I think we can consider was suggested by a constituent who had a very scary trip on the highway between Yellowknife and Rae last summer. That constituent suggested we consider signs. I know many of us travelling in the south have seen those electronic signs on highways, that are over the highway and warn about icy patches ahead, or construction. I think we should suggest the Minister consider signage to be located at the commencement and end of unpaved sections on Highway No. 3, signs that could be updated frequently by department staff and clearly display the current road conditions and warnings for drivers of that section of highway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement on Western Harvester Support Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a time when our people are getting ready to trap for furs. We have people out there in the Dogrib communities who did not trap before, but they do now. It is a very important element in our community lifestyle. This type of lifestyle will continue because of the Western Harvesters' Support Program which our government set up in 1994. I understand \$15 million was available under the program through supplementary appropriations based on requests. It was up to the community to make decisions on this money. I will have questions for the Minister later on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement on Achieving Closure on the Conflict of Interest Issues

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to this Legislature coming to the end of a very difficult time for us all. I think it is time to close the cover on this chapter in our history as a Legislature. I can assure Mr. Lafferty, and I know he already knows this, that this indeed did not amount to a cover up and I am very proud of that and I think this whole Assembly should be very proud of that.

We did, as a committee, make some very difficult recommendations. I think we made those recommendations because we felt we had to, and the whole process to this point was open, was public, I believe it was fair and even-handed, Mr. Speaker, and I do know that the public had questions about the ability of a committee of MLAs to discipline its own. I think we have answered those questions, Mr. Speaker.

I do want to thank the committee members for all of their time and effort. It has been a lot of work. Mr. Lafferty, in particular, had to come up to speed and he did so very quickly. He was not in this process from the beginning, not having been on the Board of Management, but he did a lot of work in a very short time. I thank him for that. Mr. Handley obviously needed more work like he needed a flat tire on his way home on that beautiful road on Highway No. 4. We know how much work he does, so I appreciate the extra effort he put into this. Mr. Roland and Mr. Miltenberger had to basically spend their summers away from their families travelling and working with this committee and that was much appreciated.

There is some good news, I think, that can come out of this. I think we saw it here yesterday with the amount of support displayed in this House and in the community for the Premier and for this government. It is clear to me that this Premier, Mr. Kakwi and his Cabinet, are clearly on the right track. I hope we as a Legislature can take this momentum and build on it.

Mr. Speaker, I truly hope we have achieved closure and I thank my colleagues for all the support during this trying time. We will, Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, be measured on our ability to move forward from here. I hope we take that very seriously and can achieve great things in the last two years of our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on NWT Young Entrepreneur of the Year Hau Than Huynh

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to congratulate the NWT's Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Hau Than Huynh. Hau and his wife April Tran are constituents of mine. They own and operate Arctic Jewellers in Centre Square Mall.

The Business Development Bank of Canada, which gives out the annual National Young Entrepreneur Awards, made an excellent choice when they decided to honour Hau because he is such a fine example to other young Northerners in the business world.

Hau comes from a family of jewellers with two aunts, an uncle, a cousin and a brother in the jewellery business. He began studying jewellery making with his cousin in Vietnam when he was still in school and only 14 years old.

He says he loved the work from the very beginning. He especially loves creating new designs. Hau says he finds Yellowknife a particularly exciting place to be a jeweller because of the Yellowknife gold and NWT diamonds with which he can work.

He started his business, Arctic Jewellers, in 1999, ten years after he emigrated to Canada and only a year after he came to Yellowknife just to visit. His business is doing very well, having doubled in size in the first year. He attributes his success to his hard work, skills and determination to solve any problem which arises. He is a goldsmith who designs and creates original jewellery and also repairs jewellery and watches right in his store. Hau says he was very surprised and, of course, thrilled to receive the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

His expenses to go to Edmonton for the presentation were covered by the Business Development Bank and his mentor, Fred Hunt, president of Nunasi Corporation, also assisted with travel assistance for his wife to attend the ceremony.

Hau says that this is an example of why he loves living and working in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating Hau Than Huynh and his award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre Board of Directors

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping I would have been able to read my Member's statement yesterday, but today is a good day as well.

Like most of the Members of the House, I had the opportunity to travel to my home riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes on Saturday to help celebrate Ingamo Hall's 25th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday in my Member's statement, I advised my colleagues of all the good programs and services that the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre provides.

Today, I want to congratulate those members who make these programs so successful as the elected officials of the board. In the annual general meeting of the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre, Mr. Barry Greenland was acclaimed once again as the president. Ms. Shirley Kisoun assumes the role of vice-president. Rosa Kisoun remains as the secretary treasurer and Bernice Furlong as a member at large. Melissa Kisoun is the newly elected youth representative on the board. For those remaining board members, I encourage you to keep up your enthusiasm and dedication to the success of the hall.

Mr. Speaker, in any event, you will find a super efficient worker that makes an event as large as an annual general assembly succeed. In the background of this year's AGM, Ms. Veronica McLeod and her staff of volunteers were a tireless bunch of

workers, working hard in preparing the feast and providing snacks and refreshments during the old-time dance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge in the House today the efforts of the board, its staff and the many volunteers who make daily contributions to the success of this fine institution.

In closing, I want to congratulate those members who put their names forth to sit on the board, in which I know you will continue to keep the level of services intact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Annual Meeting of the Native Women's Association

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, as the Premier shared yesterday, the Native Women's Association held their AGM here in Yellowknife. Although I was here in Yellowknife I did not attend, because I had been invited as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women and did not feel that it would be appropriate to go.

Now that I have heard what a wonderful time was had, I am sorry that I was not there. I know from past experience what an enriching experience it is to get together with women. I have found the time that I have spent with the Grandmothers Council to be so rich.

When women get together, they are a force to be reckoned with. When those women are God-fearing women who believe in the power of prayer, then they really are a force to be reckoned with. Five such women are in the gallery today. If you represent one of these women in this Legislature, I can assure you that you are in their prayers and by that, you are very blessed. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a lady who is originally from Fort McPherson, but now lives here in Yellowknife, Ms. Annie Kaye. Welcome.

-- Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to recognize Muriel Betsina, a band councilor and a good member of the N'dilo community. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

MR. NTAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person we all know, no introduction is necessary, Mr. Rene Fumoleau from Lutselk'e. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. I would just like to recognize a couple of constituents: Florence Barnaby from Fort Good Hope and Alphonsine McNeely, in the gallery.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Any further recognitions of visitors in the gallery? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the other members of the Native Women's Association who are here with us. I would also like to recognize Rene Fumoleau who, many, many years ago, christened my son in the church here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Any other recognitions of visitors in the gallery? I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome to everyone who is here. I see parents of pages here, so welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Joe Handley. The Western Harvester Program that was in place a number of years ago helped a lot of people get back into trapping in the communities.

I would like to ask the Minister how long this program will be continuing if there is a request for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Western Harvester Assistance Program is a program that was established a number of years ago to give harvesters in the Northwest Territories the same level of benefits that Nunavut harvesters got as a result of their claim. That program has been going on a number of years. If communities have not accessed the program yet and are interested, there is still an opportunity to do it. There is no final date by which they would have to apply. It is a one-time funding that is made available. It has to be

matched. I would be happy to have the department give the details to any community interested. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This program helped my communities a lot in the past few years, and I had a request from one of the chiefs in my riding if they can introduce a similar program if they cannot continue with this one. Can I ask the Minister if his department would look into that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, this is a program that was meant to match a benefit that was given to Nunavut. It is one-time, the communities are only eligible for it once. The intention was that they would use the money to set up a trust fund from which they would take the earnings and reinvest that back into the harvesting industry. There are a number of other existing programs that certainly the harvesters can benefit from, but these are certainly not the magnitude of the Western Harvesters' Support Program. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure there are some communities out there that have not accessed this fund, and if there is a request from some other communities that really need the funds, can the department look at that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe most communities have, over the years, accessed the program, but if there are some who have not then certainly we would be pleased to work with them on putting in their application. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has told us that this is a one-time thing. Can the department look into introducing new programs that may help people out there

that want to continue trapping for their own economic reasons? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 160-14(4): Western Harvester Support Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly we would be interested in looking at new programs. If the Member has any suggestions, or anyone else does, I would be very interested in doing that. The harvesting and traditional economy are important to many of our people, and we would be very appreciative of any suggestions on how we can improve the programs. Thank you.

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

Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Transportation and relate to my statement about highways earlier today.

Could the Minister of Transportation tell us whether or not the unsolicited proposal that was made by the Deton' Cho Corporation and RTL to advance the construction on Highway No. 3 was given any consideration by his department?

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

Return to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, the proposal was considered by the department.

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

Supplementary to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister wants me to use up more of my questions. Can the Minister advise why that proposal was rejected?

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

Further Return to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe there were two main reasons why the proposal was not accepted. One of them was the time frame they put forward to do the job. There was a suggestion that they were going to complete the highway, rather than what we are suggesting here. Even with the accelerated plan we have proposed, we thought that the very minimum we could do this in would be three years. The plan that was proposed to us said two years. We did not think we could do that. It could not be managed in

two years. There would be a lot of outside equipment required in order to advance it to two years rather than three. A lot of the benefits of the project would have gone south rather than staying in the Territories.

The second main concern was the financing aspect of it. It was suggested that over a ten-year period we could finance this road through a financial scheme that was proposed whereby the Legislative Assembly would approve a financial plan and we would pay off the expenses of this project over a ten-year period. I believe the department put some thought into that, and that we would basically be in the same situation if we simply went out and borrowed the money ourselves. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that the department could go out and borrow the money and advance the construction on that highway without having the road toll?

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

Further Return to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is something that would have to be addressed more towards the Minister of Finance; but from the department's perspective and from the advice we were given, if it was a matter of borrowing, the government could probably get better rates themselves rather than having it financed through a third party. That did come into play.

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

Supplementary to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what the Minister has said though, it sounds like we could finance for the same amount of money that we have in the ten-year plan right now. For the same amount of money we could spread the program out over three years and this government could borrow the money and not have it cost any more. Is that what the Minister has agreed could happen?

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

Further Return to Question 161-14(4): Proposal to Advance Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the only plan the department was looking at was what we put forward through the highway toll bill whereby, rather than borrow simply on a system where we would pay back, we also had a plan where we were raising the revenue as well, and that would reduce the amount of borrowing.

The financial aspect of this whole plan to accelerate Highway No. 3 is not something that we were considering separate to what was being proposed by Robinson Trucking and the band. They were suggesting that we were going to do the job over two years and finance it through a borrowing process. We did not, as a department, feel that this would do any good. Thank you.

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

Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I spoke of day care programs and subsidies. I would like to know from the Minister what is required of an organization or an outfit that would establish a day care program, or a day care home? What are the requirements that need to be met and how are they monitored? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The applicant has to go through a needs assessment process, Mr. Speaker, and then they have to apply for a licence and meet the fire and health standards. They have to pass our department's inspection for such things as safety, provide \$2 million in liability insurance and provide statistics on the proposed number of children that they intend to use for the day care. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So then, in fact, there is actually a process that has gone through before a licence is given. The Minister said a needs assessment then pass an inspection. So there is an actual, physical inspection of these day care homes? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, yes, that is correct. There is an inspection process that they must go through.

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

Supplementary to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then inform us as to who would do those inspections? Are there people in communities? Is it regional level? What level would that come in? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the exact details as to the exact individuals in departments who would be involved, but let me tell you that our department monitors licensed day cares and it is monitored by our regional offices, Mr. Speaker. Headquarters provides the licences based on the information provided by the regions.

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

Supplementary to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us what is involved in a needs assessment for a group or an outfit to qualify for this? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 162-14(4): Requirements for a Day Care Program Application

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information with me here, but I will ensure that it is provided immediately to the Member after the session today or tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding my Member's statement, realizing the importance of our volunteer firefighters in our communities and the time the volunteers give at no cost to this government, the service we all realize is important in our communities. In that light, they put their lives on the line every time they respond to a fire.

I would like to ask the Minister, exactly what is his department doing to ensure that our volunteer firefighters are equipped and have the training that we require of them to fight these fires?

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

Return to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am pleased to advise the Member that the first step we are trying to do is take an inventory of all the firefighting equipment in the communities. Once we can ascertain that level of firefighting equipment and what it is intended for, we will then try to put into place some training programs and provide the volunteer firefighters with updated training programs and updated standards as required to fight any type of fire in their community. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we ensure that we have the equipment, as I mentioned in my statement. I know for a fact that we have fire trucks in most of our communities that are almost 20 years old. Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure we have the equipment and the resources in the communities, such as fire trucks, the tools so they can do their jobs.

I would like to ask the Minister, how soon can we see this equipment replaced in our communities, such as fire trucks and fire equipment, so they are equipped to do the job?

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

Further Return to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this is detailed, I would like to have some time to have our department, especially the fire marshal's office, do an inventory of the equipment and an inventory of the community needs, then begin to look at implementing training programs so that the volunteer firefighters will have the most up-to-date and efficient equipment.

As for the age of much of the equipment, we are finding that in the assessment of that equipment, it is seldom used. So I think the important thing is to get an idea of how often is it being used for a fire practice, and get an idea of the amount of time spent on it and see if we can at least get an idea of where that equipment is being used and how often. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister does not lose sight of the fact that we should also be talking to the volunteer firefighters themselves because I feel that they should have a say in what equipment they determine they require.

Right now, there are volunteer firefighters who are raising funds through bingos, bake sales, 50/50 draws, just so they

can purchase some of the equipment that they require. I would like to ask the Minister, exactly where do the firefighters themselves fit into your idea of ensuring they have the equipment to do the job?

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

Further Return to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we definitely want to review the importance of this item. The other Members of this House asked me last week what are we doing for the volunteer firefighters. There are a number of initiatives we would like to consider. Some of them are to talk to the fire brigades to see exactly what the needs are. It is difficult at this time to ascertain those needs.

Perhaps one of the good things I can announce today is that we want to put more funding into the fire protection for the communities so hopefully, that is part of the overall strategy we can employ. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we also have to realize that we do have a growing population in a lot of our communities. We have a lot of new infrastructure which, in most cases, is two or three stories high. I would like to ensure the Minister also takes that into account when he does this review and ensure the equipment that is there for the community also meets the need of the community in regard to exactly what infrastructure is there and ensuring they are able to do the job when they are fighting these fires.

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

Further Return to Question 163-14(4): Equipment and Training for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate the comment and the question because we want to put emphasis on training the volunteer firefighters to meet the ever-growing demands, the different type of structures coming into the North. There are very different building methods so we did get prepared for that, as well as trying to update our fire brigades on some of the new technology that is being introduced into the North as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pursue my question on the Member's statement I made earlier with respect to sports and recreation in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I am supposed to read anything into it, but the discussion paper the Minister handed to

us a couple of weeks ago did not indicate whether it was a strategy, a study or a policy. It just simply said, Recreation and Sports in the NWT. May I please ask the Minister as to what his plans are, what his department's plans are with respect to this document he sent out for distribution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Interjection

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the midst of this momentary confusion, can I ask the Member to ask the question again?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. For the benefit of Mr. Allen, please repeat your question, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if my colleagues are liking this time lapse here, but anyway, Mr. Speaker, my question was directed to Minister Allen and it has to do with the Recreation and Sports in the NWT document that he sent around for discussion. I would like to know what his plan is with respect to this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not taking the question earlier. Yes, the discussion paper is essentially that, to get feedback from the community, the sports partners, the recreation associations, all the interest groups out there so we can take the position later on and present it to all the sports partners, recreation partners, et al.

The intent was to share it with the Members and the communities and come out with a final draft so we can then implement some of the policy changes that are required to improve sports and recreation activities in the North. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to take a look at that discussion paper and I see no indication there about the elite program or any measure of help for those who are having to fund their children's private training programs. I wanted to keep it clear for the record that it is not that I think that this deserves more attention than any other area of need for sports and recreation programs, but I noticed that it was not included in that.

May I ask the Minister whether or not he had given any consideration to this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the Member that this program is already in place and, in effect, it is managed through Sport North. I could probably request further information, but there is a program already in existence through Sport North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is those programs are not accessible to everyone and especially not my constituent. I think what my constituent is looking for is something like a tax deduction or something aimed at those parents at a very low income who are funding students. I wonder if the Minister would be interested in talking to his colleague, the Minister of Finance, to see if there is anything that can be done in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am more than prepared to discuss this with the Minister of Finance. As I had indicated last week, I am prepared to discuss the very same idea that was raised in the context of how we should support the volunteer firefighters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to direct all my questions to one Minister so I would like to state as my final question that this report had no mention of any dollars attached. In fact, it states that there are no dollars attached.

May I ask the Minister to work with Cabinet and the government to put some serious dollars behind this so we can improve the sports and recreation program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 164-14(4): Support for Elite Sport and Recreation

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should talk about some of the processes we have considered. I think the important thing is to put this document in the Cabinet social committee, on their agenda. We want to work

interdepartmentally with other ministries so we can try to get as much support as we can for this document as well as perhaps take the lead in fitness and in youth. Thank you.

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

Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier in his capacity of the comprehensive review of legislation to look at the definition of spouse and equal rights.

In earlier sessions I have asked about proposals to change the Adoption Act of the Northwest Territories so that same-sex couples will be able to get legal recognition of their rights and responsibilities in raising their families. Last week, my colleague from Range Lake pursued the same question.

I would like to go to the Premier again on this issue, Mr. Speaker, and ask, does the government support the principle of amending the Adoption Act to reflect these progressive changes and the rights of same-sex couples? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a recent Supreme Court ruling on this issue and it is our government's intention to ensure that all legislation that is relevant to this ruling be reviewed and amended as quickly as possible.

Yes, the Supreme Court ruling must be complied with. Every government and jurisdiction across this country is undertaking the action to review legislation and come up with appropriate amendments to be brought forward by the respective governments to their legislatures. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, along with other Members, commend the government for taking the initiative to do that broad review. I would like to press the point about the timing of bringing this review forward. It is comprehensive, I believe the Premier said last week that there are more than 30 acts that could potentially require amendments.

I want to be specific to the Adoption Act. Can the Premier advise on whether he can advance the timing of an amendment to this act? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a particular concern to the residents of the Northwest Territories. The two pieces of legislation that have been identified are the Adoption Act and the Family Law Act, as the Member has said. So these two pieces of legislation, I believe, require immediate attention. We have identified that to the officials. They are looking at how they can make the appropriate amendments to these two pieces of legislation and to advise us on what those would be.

We are waiting for indication of when they will be brought forward to us so we can act on them. It is our intention to do that as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should have asked, to be very clear on this point, is it the government's intention to advance amendments to these two acts prior to the comprehensive review and bringing in for adoption other acts that are required? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have indicated we would like to proceed with amendments to these two pieces of legislation as quickly as possible. We hope that the advice we get from the officials to be that; that we can proceed without waiting for the outcome of the more comprehensive review.

I cannot say that categorically, but it is our intent. It appears our legislation is not consistent with the Supreme Court rulings and so they are under question. We need to comply with them as soon as possible and these are the two pieces of legislation that have been identified for quick action. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is helpful information for myself and, I think, people in the Northwest Territories who have a direct concern in this. My question, given that there are at least two people, one couple, two people, in the Northwest Territories who have indicated that they are prepared to go to court to test this legislation for the Northwest Territories, is it the government's preference that this be dealt with here on the floor of this Legislature as an issue of public concern and policy, or that it would be better dealt with in the court? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 165-14(4): Adoption by Same-Sex Couples

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the legislation we have is open to legal challenge, we believe, as currently drafted. It is necessary for us to do this review and to take action to ensure that our legislation is consistent with the Supreme Court rulings. It is not really a debate about whether we want this legislation or not. It is a Supreme Court ruling about rights and benefits that should flow to extending rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples. We are trying to comply with that.

Our legislation is, we believe, currently open to challenge and so we must comply as quickly as possible, and we intend to do that. That is the direction that Cabinet has given. Thank you.

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

Question 166-14(4): Closure of Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Antoine. Concerns have been brought to my attention, Mr. Speaker, following a meeting recently held in Yellowknife regarding drug and alcohol issues facing the youth of our community. The presenters at this meeting included addiction counsellors, members of the RCMP and also school personnel who work with youth at risk. There were presentations made by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving).

They had a lot of questions, Mr. Speaker, but the one I want to put to the Minister here today is, what is the rationale for the closure of the territorial treatment centre and when was this facility closed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Antoine, two questions there.

Return to Question 166-14(4): Closure of Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this question is specific for me at this point in time. I have to take this question as notice and get back to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister is taking the question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow up to my statement earlier, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of MACA. Mr. Speaker, the community development division of MACA is tasked with the development of volunteers, and it shows an increase in funding levels of \$67,000 compared with last year, according to MACA's main estimates. Can the Minister tell this Assembly what percentage of that funding is being spent on volunteer firefighting recruitment and training?

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

Return to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the specific details, as it appears to be a very technical question. I will try to get some of that information back to the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the department states that protecting lives and property of all Northerners is a priority for MACA. I would like to ask the Minister if he could explain how this worthy goal can possibly be a priority of his department when MACA cut budgets for the office of the fire marshal so drastically last year?

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

Further Return to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to respond in a very practical manner here. What we are attempting to do is to increase the budget for emergency measures services, and that will take a bit of time. The other thing I spoke about earlier is that we are trying to put extra money into fire protection services. That will place an emphasis on fire protection, training and also taking an inventory of all the firefighting equipment in the communities, whether it is foam-based or water-based. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the Minister would commit to increasing the resources given to the community firefighting services in order to ensure that the mandates of his department can be satisfied?

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

Further Return to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I am more than prepared, and I have the privilege of meeting once every three months with the department to try to set or re-establish some of the priorities. I will commit to the Member that we will discuss that as part of the overall priorities based on volunteer firefighters and also taking an inventory of the equipment. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister clarify his comment on meeting every three months with his department?

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

Further Return to Question 167-14(4): Funding for Volunteer Firefighters

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of our meeting every three months is to discuss policy and see how we can help improve the quality of service at the community level. Thank you.

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

Question 168-14(4): Review of Seniors' Tax Relief

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier in the House, our elders are a very vital part of our communities. Their contributions to our society cannot be overlooked. I would like to direct my questions to the Honourable Roger Allen, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Would the Minister please indicate if he would be willing to review the area of block funding to tax-based municipalities that would bring this funding more in line with funding of general taxation areas, whose residents do not pay property taxes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 168-14(4): Review of Seniors' Tax Relief

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a comprehensive review currently being conducted, and hopefully the results will be made available within two to three weeks. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 168-14(4): Review of Seniors' Tax Relief

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the previous sitting in this House in June of last year, the Minister was kind enough to provide me with a response to my previous questions on this issue. Within his response, the Minister indicated that his department was working on a review of the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act. Could the Minister indicate when this review might be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 168-14(4): Review of Seniors' Tax Relief

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program is being reviewed as part of the overall seniors' program review. As I said earlier, I would like to hopefully provide the Member with some indication of where the next steps are going to be taken as a result of this review. Hopefully I can provide that in the fairly near future. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 168-14(4): Review of Seniors' Tax Relief

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I spoke earlier, some seniors in Hay River have a spouse who is currently working and this puts the senior citizen in a position of being over the income threshold in order to qualify for property tax relief, although in some cases just barely, Mr. Speaker.

One possible solution would be to offer the affected seniors a 50 percent reduction in their property taxes, as opposed to the current 100 percent reduction. In keeping with the current funding arrangement, MACA could contribute 25 percent of the reimbursement and the tax-based municipality could possibly contribute the other 25 percent. This would allow for more flexibility, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister consider working with tax-based municipalities such as Hay River to arrange for a more equitable arrangement for seniors who have higher incomes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 168-14(4): Review of Seniors' Tax Relief

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that that is one of the considerations. As we know, we are trying to help the seniors with some relief. Thank you.

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

Question 169-14(4): Adequate Maintenance Funding for Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are again for the Minister of Transportation as a follow-up to my statement earlier today. During August and into September, I know that I received an awful lot of calls and letters from constituents talking about scary trips on the road between Rae and Yellowknife. I know that we had an unseasonable amount of rain and that led to unsafe conditions. We should never have that type of unsafe condition if we are adequately maintaining the roads, I would argue. I would say it is inadequate maintenance.

After this last summer, will the Minister commit to ensure that he brings forward a budget for next year that includes adequate funds to maintain that road properly even if we had another wet summer?

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

Return to Question 169-14(4): Adequate Maintenance Funding for Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I can assure the Member that it will be in the business plan. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, even this summer, in response to the very wet conditions we had to deal with and with the increase in traffic, including heavy traffic, we have increased the maintenance on Highway No. 3. We have put more equipment on Highway No. 3, including the use of contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 169-14(4): Adequate Maintenance Funding for Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister committing to bring those forward in his budget. Will the Minister also consider erecting road signs, particularly those electronic road signs we have seen in other provinces, that warn travellers about dangerous conditions ahead or advise of highway conditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 169-14(4): Adequate Maintenance Funding for Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we certainly will give the Member's suggestion more thought. I would like the Member to be aware that this has been discussed and brought up by other Members, proper signage on Highway No. 3, and as a result of this we have given quite a fair, serious discussion on the amount of signage on Highway No. 3. We have to take it and weigh it in regard to having so much signage that it becomes a distraction to drivers. We have taken all of this into consideration.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Member has a good suggestion, but there is only so much we can do.

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

Supplementary to Question 169-14(4): Adequate Maintenance Funding for Highway No. 3

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister committing to look at this situation, but I did not hear a timetable in there. Just for the record, I do not believe we have reached the point yet where there is too much signage that it is distracting on that highway.

Will the Minister commit to examine the issue of improved signage to warn of highway conditions in time that he can put it in this year's budget if it is found to be feasible?

-- Interjection

Mr. Speaker, I did not mean this year's budget, I mean next year's budget, if it is feasible, so they can be on the highway for next summer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair caught that. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 169-14(4): Adequate Maintenance Funding for Highway No. 3

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am referring to more than just ordinary warning signs. I am referring to the actual cones that we put up as warnings as well. There are a number of ways we have taken to warn the public of the conditions on Highway No. 3. They are distractions as well as assistance to the drivers, if there are too many. As a matter of fact, I have letters where some people have taken to counting the cones on the highways to see who can come up with the highest number.

We are taking all of this seriously, Mr. Speaker, and as the Member suggested, there is a point where it is not a matter so much of too much signage as it is, does it help the situation at all? We still have to address the problem with Highway No. 3 in that there is a fair amount of traffic increasing every year on Highway No. 3, and that is heavy traffic, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question goes back to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, following on my earlier questions about day care programs and subsidies.

I would like to know from the Minister, what is the criteria for someone who is applying for a day care subsidy? What is the criteria that they would have to meet? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a parent or guardian who attends school or who is working, but has inadequate income to meet their basic needs, including child care expenses, are the individuals who would be eligible, Mr. Speaker. There is a program to deal with after school as well as during school time, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister did include after school. Is there something that is, say for example, around the lunch time part of the day as well, in that programming?

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

Further Return to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The term after school is not defined, Mr. Speaker, and I am making an assumption here that it is after school closes rather than during the school day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be kind if the Minister could forward the information to the exact definition of that. Further in the area of the day care subsidy is, if a parent is applying for the subsidy program, do they have to be enrolling their child in a qualified day care program that is qualified by this government? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We provide subsidies in a variety of areas, Mr. Speaker. A licensed centre, a licensed day home, and for unlicensed child care as well, and for after school care. It applies in a number of areas, Mr. Speaker, not just in a licensed day care. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to the application rate? For example, how many people apply and qualify? What is that breakdown? Is there a good number of people who actually qualify or is there a large group who apply and do not qualify? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 170-14(4): Criteria for Day Care Subsidies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will certainly provide a lot more information to the Member that he can possibly use for his constituents. As I have stated, Mr. Speaker, the qualifications really are anyone, a family if both parents are working, or a single parent with children if they are working or going to school, and have inadequate income to meet the day care costs, those are the individuals this is meant for. The maximum, I believe, income earnings is up to \$36,000 and then it tops out at about the mid-\$60,000, Mr. Speaker.

In other words, the max is at, I believe it is in the mid-30's, \$35,000 to \$36,000, somewhere in there, and then it cuts off when the income earner is at about the mid-\$60,000 in earnings.

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

Question 171-14(4): Expenditure Report for NWT Highways

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation, the Honourable Vince Steen. I would like to ask the Minister if he can give me an updated expenditure report for all highways in the Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation -- that seems like a lengthy question, but I will allow you to take a swing at it. Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 171-14(4): Expenditure Report for NWT Highways

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a lengthy question. I will take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 6-14(4): Support for Youth Addiction Services

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jim Antoine. I wish to submit the following questions in a follow up to my Member's statement regarding support for youth addictions and treatment:

1. What is the rationale for the closure of the territorial treatment centre and when was this facility closed?
2. What are the current services available for youth who require addictions treatment? What is the waiting time to access the various services as compared to what they were when we had a local facility?
3. Can the department provide statistics on youth who require drug and alcohol treatment?
4. What is the department doing to address the issues of drug and alcohol abuse by youth and how much funding is allocated to address this issue?
5. What prevention programs are currently being undertaken by the department to promote alternatives to drug and alcohol use for youth at risk?
6. What funding for promotion of prevention/treatment is provided to educational institutions that are currently providing programming to address the issue?

7. Is there any additional funding or resources available for school or community groups who wish to provide programs for youth at risk or those requiring support for the addiction?
8. There is currently construction being undertaken on a young offenders facility. Could the Minister advise if there has been any consideration given to incorporate an addiction treatment program within this facility?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 4-14(4): The Proposed Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the proposed Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 535 signatures of Inuvik and Mackenzie Delta residents. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories rescind the proposal for a road toll. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. 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 Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 59-14(4): Letters of Support for Premier Kakfwi

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three letters from my constituency in support of Mr. Kakfwi staying on as Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 13-14(4): To Move Tabled Document 42-14(4) Into Committee of the Whole

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 1, 2001, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Tabled Document 42-14(4), Report of the Independent Commission on Members' Compensation, be moved into committee of the whole.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 12-14(4). The mover is not in the House so the motion will remain on the order paper for another 24 hours, at least. Item 16, motions. 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: Bills 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13; and Tabled Document 51-14(4), with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call committee of the whole to order. We have a number of issues to consider in committee. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend we consider Bills 5, 7 and 13, in that order.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will take a short break and come back and consider Bills 5, 7 and 13.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call the committee of the whole back to order. We are dealing with Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the act if he has any opening comments introducing the bill. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Education Act, implemented in 1996, establishes district education authorities and divisional education councils as governing bodies for education in communities and education divisions. The act allows the Minister to allocate various powers and duties to these governing bodies.

An oversight in the act has resulted in the Minister being able to allocate the power to education bodies to acquire both personal property and lands and buildings, but not the power to dispose of it.

This matter was brought to my attention by Yellowknife District No. 1 Education Authority. They were not able to register a transfer of land at the land titles registry because the power for them to dispose of lands and buildings could not be found in the act.

Mr. Chairman, the bill under consideration will correct this oversight by adding a power to dispose of personal property and a power to dispose of lands and buildings to the powers the Minister can allocate to education bodies.

Since the lands and buildings owned by the education bodies include schools, the bill requires written approval of the Minister before the education body can dispose of lands or buildings. This will allow me to ensure that adequate facilities for the delivery of education are maintained.

Mr. Chairman, the bringing into force of this bill to amend the Education Act will allow education bodies to dispose of property when necessary for the effective management of education in their jurisdictions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I will ask the committee responsible for reviewing this bill, the Standing Committee on Social Programs, if they have any comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social Programs reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act, at its meeting on October 17, 2001.

Members would like to thank the Honourable Jake Ootes, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and his officials who appeared before the committee during the public review of this bill.

Bill 5 will provide to an education body the power to dispose of personal property held by the education body and, subject to the approval of the Minister, the power to dispose of real property held by the education body. At present, while education bodies have the power to acquire such property, they do not have the power to dispose of it. This legislation will correct that oversight.

Because schools and other facilities are located on or form part of real property, the approval of the Minister would be required so that no facility is inappropriately transferred or disposed of.

This concludes the Standing Committee's comments on Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in several witnesses and I will join them at the witness table.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me on my right is Diane Buckland, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. On my left is Janet Grinstead. Janet is the senior policy advisor on legislation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments on Bill 5? Detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 5 is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 5 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, witnesses.

I will call the committee to order. We are going to be dealing with Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act. At this time I would like to ask the Minister responsible for this bill if he has any general comments to the bill? Minister Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act, for your consideration.

A power of attorney allows a person to appoint someone else to handle his or her financial affairs. At the present time, if a person becomes mentally incapable, any power of attorney that they may have signed becomes void. Their family must make an application to the court under the Guardianship and Trusteeship Act to become trustee. This is a complex and costly process.

This bill will allow powers of attorney to include a provision that the power of attorney can either continue in force if the person who signed it becomes incapable, in which case it is called an enduring power of attorney, or spring into force at the time the person who signed it becomes incapable, in which case it is called a springing power of attorney.

Some of the features of this bill are:

- It provides for the "grandfathering" of powers of attorney, which were signed before the coming into force of this legislation;
- It allows a person to designate one or more persons who can decide if they have become mentally incapable;
- It allows a person to designate someone to review the transactions handled by the attorney;
- It states the basic requirements for a valid power of attorney;
- It states the criteria for determining if a person is mentally capable of making a power of attorney; and
- It provides that a copy of the power of attorney may be filed in the office of the public trustee.

In drafting this bill, we have had the opportunity to review the legislation that has been enacted in Canada over the last few years and to adopt the best features of that legislation in a manner which we believe will benefit Northerners. This bill is strongly supported by the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society, which has been consulted and had input into the bill.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to describe this bill. I will be pleased to answer any questions from committee members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time I would like to ask the committee responsible for reviewing the bill if they have any general comments in regard to the bill. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs reviewed Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act, at its meeting on October 17, 2001.

The committee would like to thank the Honourable Jake Ootes, who appeared before the committee on behalf of the Minister of Justice. The committee would also like to thank the Department of Justice officials for presenting the bill and responding to issues raised by the committee.

Bill 7 extends the legal scope of powers of attorney to provide a person with greater ability to plan for the management of his or her financial affairs in the event of certain contingencies such as his or her mental incapacity. As a result, this new act will reduce the necessity for legal proceedings relating to trusteeship orders.

The committee also heard from Theresa Crane, a resident of Yellowknife, who spoke in strong support of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Chair, committee members may have questions or comments on the bill as we proceed. This concludes the standing committee's comments on Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my right I have Mr. Mark Aitken, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. To my left I have Larry Pontus, the public trustee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome witnesses. General comments on Bill 7? Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I will be speaking in favour of the bill. It is something that I have become more familiar with through constituents' appeals on this kind of legislation, and I commend the government for bringing it forward. It is as short and simple as that, Mr. Chair. It is good work and I support the initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Braden. General comments. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have heard the Minister introduce his bill and the committee speak to it, it sounds like this is a necessary procedure and act to implement to ensure that, as we have heard, the seniors of the Northwest Territories have a less cumbersome way of dealing with their belongings as things would progress when it comes to age and how they can deal with these matters, so I think it is a good thing. I just would like to know and ensure that, in fact, when we implement this act and pass this, that we are not on the other hand going to make it so cumbersome or so complicated that it would be difficult to follow the process.

I would just like to be assured that, as we implement this, that for those who are going to help and stand in for those that become incapable of handling their own affairs, it will not be so restrictive or become such a problem that it would make it difficult for, for example, family members who could take over some of the matters of finances and other things that require a person to make whenever they become incapable. Nowadays family members do sort of help out elders in situations like this, and I just want to ensure, and have the Minister state for the record, that as they take on these responsibilities through this process it will not be so much that the law would kick in that would put them in a position where it makes it restrictive for them to act on behalf of their own family members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Roland. General comments. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, I would like to express my support for this legislation. I think it is one that is overdue and is something that is very necessary for the benefit of those who for any reason become incapable of taking care of their affairs. I would like to commend the department and the Minister for bringing this forward, and the committee for putting it through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. General comments? Detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could, I would like to respond to the honourable Member, Floyd Roland, who asked for some reassurance from myself as the Minister responsible for this legislation. Through the office of the public trustee, Larry Pontus, we will be developing an information package. We will put together a modeling of how this legislation will actually be enforced. With the help of the NWT Seniors' Society, we will make sure that we try to accommodate the family members who, up to this point in time in many cases that I am aware of, have been involved with their seniors. That is going to be taken into consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you for that information, Mr. Minister. General comments? Clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are dealing with Bill 7, page 1, 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): Page 6, clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 9, clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 12, clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 25.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 13, clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 29. Page 14, clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 15, clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 7 is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 7 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Thank you. As agreed, we will now deal with Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for introducing the bill if he has any general comments. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to present Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, to the committee.

In February 2001, I announced in the budget address that effective with the 2003 tax year, the GNWT intended to change its personal income tax regime from one based on tax on tax to one based on tax on income. Tax on income refers to the fact that territorial tax will be calculated as a percentage of taxable

income, rather than as a percentage of basic federal taxes, as is now the case.

As the Members are aware, we have proposed that the time frame for implementation of tax on income be accelerated to 2001. As of the 2001 tax year, all provincial governments will have moved to tax on income. The federal government, for reasons of harmonization of the national tax system and administrative simplicity, would like the entire country to use one system. The three territories have thus announced they will be working towards moving to tax on income for the 2001 taxation year.

When I met with the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance for Canada, last March, he specifically requested that the Northwest Territories move to tax on income effective 2001.

Recognizing the strain such a move would place on our resources, he offered to provide the necessary technical assistance and to reimburse us for our transition costs if we move to tax on income in 2001.

This bill was drafted with substantial technical assistance from Finance Canada. In allowing us to structure our own tax brackets, rates and tax credits, moving to tax on income will give the GNWT more flexibility to design our own tax system to meet the needs of northern residents.

However, many of the characteristics of the existing system will not change. We will continue to use the federal definition of taxable income. The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency will still administer our income tax and NWT residents will still file only one income tax return.

In June when I advised the Legislative Assembly of the government's intention to change to tax on income in 2001, I made several commitments:

1. The change to tax on income will simply convert existing personal income tax rates. Individuals will pay no more tax in 2001 than they would under the current system. This legislation before the Assembly reflects this commitment.
2. If the federal government lowers its tax rates for 2002, I will bring forward the legislation necessary to amend GNWT tax rates so that NWT residents pay no more tax than they would under the current tax on tax system.
3. I also committed to establishing a Minister's Advisory Committee directed to consider options available to us under the new system and to come forward with recommendations for change by this fall. The committee has been working since May 1, and I anticipate being able to review its recommendations with Members before the 2002 budget.

We have also communicated with NWT residents to explain the change to tax on income. This summer, the Department of Finance distributed pamphlets explaining the change to all NWT households.

I believe this bill represents a change that is in the best interests of NWT residents. Moving to tax on income will give us more flexibility to design a made-in-the-Northwest Territories tax system.

Mr. Chairman, some minor technical amendments to the bill are proposed. These amendments will:

1. Correct references in the act to definitions, whose section numbers have been changed by the amendment in the NWT Income Tax Act.
2. Allow a credit of 45 percent of the federal credit for individuals with severe and prolonged physical or mental impairment to be transferred from an individual outside the Northwest Territories.
3. Allow a credit of 45 percent of the federal credit to be transferred to a relative in the Northwest Territories by a student who is a resident of another province or territory.
4. Ensure that mutual fund trusts receive a refund of NWT tax in the amount of 45 percent of the federal tax refunded on capital gains under Section 132 of the federal act.
5. Correct wording in the French version.

Mr. Chairman, these amendments are necessary to ensure that all taxpayers in the Northwest Territories pay the same NWT tax under tax on income as they would under the old tax on tax system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the standing committee responsible for reviewing this bill if they have any comments. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight conducted a public review of Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, on Monday, September 10, 2001.

The committee would like to thank the Minister of Finance and his officials for presenting the bill. The bill will change the income tax system in the Northwest Territories from one that calculates income tax on the amount of federal tax payable to a system that calculates income tax on the amount of taxable income.

This bill also makes technical changes to the territorial Income Tax Act to clarify the language and to update references to the federal Income Tax Act.

During discussions on the bill, the committee expressed concerns that the amendments will result in:

- an increase in the amount of income tax payable;
- a decrease in the level of NWT tax credits; and
- a more complex tax filing exercise from the current tax system.

The Minister advised the committee that the proposed change to tax on income would simply convert existing personal income tax rates. Individuals will pay no more tax in the 2001 tax year than they would under the current tax system. The committee expressed concerns that although our territorial tax rates may remain the same, our territorial tax credits may not.

The department assured the committee that people will be entitled to the same tax credits available under the current system. The only change to our territorial tax credits is an

increase to our northern cost of living tax credit, which was approved earlier by this Legislative Assembly.

The committee also observed that under the proposed tax system, it may be more complex for tax filers to complete an income tax return. The Minister replied that the proposed tax system would result in a different calculation, but it is not any more complex and may be simpler to use than the current system.

Bill 13 was amended in standing committee to renumber two French sections of the bill. As well, clause 4 of the bill was amended by striking out "on the last day of taxation" in that portion of the English version of the proposed subsection 2.3(4), preceding paragraph (a) and by substituting "on the last day of the taxation year."

Mr. Chairman, following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, to the Assembly as ready for committee of the whole as amended and reprinted. Additional comments or questions of the Members may be posed as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Dent. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes I will, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me are Ms. Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance; Mr. Pawan Chugh, manager of tax policy, Department of Finance; and Ms. Diane Buckland, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments. Are there any general comments on Bill 13? Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be voting in support of the Bill. There is one area that may have been covered in committee, but I think it is something that I would like to bring out, and that is the aspect of where and when the government deems that a change in the tax rate is required. I note that the commitment is there that nothing would take place before the 2002 budget. When a change is required or proposed, could the Minister describe for the committee what the process is by which that change is implemented? Does it go through some kind of public review or assessment? Is it done by regulation? What is the mechanism there so that the public can see when and how changes to tax rates are made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, any change like that would have to be made through a change in the bill, so it would have to appear before the House in the same process, certainly with the opportunity for public input.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. General comments. Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 1, 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): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: There are three proposed amendments or changes to clause 4.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister, are you making an amendment?

Committee Motion 24-14(4): To Amend Clause 4 of Bill 13-14(4): An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes, there are three changes. I will go through the first one first. The first one is that clause 4 of Bill 13 be amended by striking out "quotidien" in the French version of the proposed paragraph 2.13(4)(c) and by substituting "quotient."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister, are you making a motion to amend?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I thought I did, but if I did not, then I move that clause 4 be amended as read.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? I do not recognize a quorum. We are dealing with a motion in committee of the whole. I will ring the bells.

I recognize a quorum. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion to amend. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 4 as amended. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 25-14(4): To Amend Clause 4 of Bill 13-14(4): An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A second amendment:

I MOVE that clause 4 of Bill 13 be amended by deleting proposed section 2.24 and by substituting the following:

- 2.24 For the purpose of computing an individual's tax payable under this part for a taxation year, there may be deducted an amount equal to the specific percentage of the amount that the individual may deduct under section 118.3 of the federal act for that taxation year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. Clause 4 as amended. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 26-14(4): To Amend Clause 4 of Bill 13-14(4): An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, a third amendment to this clause:

I MOVE that clause 4 of Bill 13 be amended by deleting proposed subsection 2.3(3) and by substituting the following:

Restriction on Credit (3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), for the purpose of section 118.81 of the federal act, as that section applies for the purposes of this act, where a person did not reside in the Territories on the last day of the taxation year, the tuition and education tax credits transferred for the taxation year by the person to an individual shall be equal to the specific percentage of the amount determined in respect of the person for the taxation year under that section.

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. Clause 4 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 5. Mr. Handley.

Committee Motion 27-14(4): To Amend Bill 13: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, by Adding Clause 5.1 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman,

I MOVE that Bill 13 be amended by adding the following after clause 5:

- 5.1 The following provision be amended by striking out "subsection 3(5)" and by substituting "section 2.1":

(a) paragraph 6.1(6)(b);

(b) subparagraphs 26(2)(a)(ii) and (iii) and that portion of subsection 26(2) following paragraph (b);

(c) paragraphs 56(17)(a) and (b).

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. Clause 5 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 6. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 28-14(4): To Amend Bill 13: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, by Adding Clause 6.1 (Carried)

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman,

I MOVE that Bill 13 be amended by adding the following after clause 6:

6.1 Paragraphs 9(1)(a) and (b) are repealed and the following is substituted:

(a) the highest percentage, as defined in section 2.1 of this act,

is of

(b) the percentage referred to in paragraph (a) of the description of "a" in the definition "refundable capital gains tax on hand" in subsection 132(4) of the federal act for the year.

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 against? The motion is carried. Clause 6 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, I believe when we approved clause 5, the wording was clause 5 as amended rather than 5.1. I do not know if that is a problem, but my legal counsel tells me we should see if it is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Everything is in order. Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 13 is now ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 13 is now ready for third reading as amended. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask, what is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act; Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2; and I would like to report progress with five motions being adopted. Bills 5 and 7 are ready for third reading. Bill 13 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre seconds the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment today, tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Territorial Leadership Committee, and at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 31, 2001:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 12-14(4): Submission of Letters of Resignation From Premier and Cabinet
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002
 - Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act
 - Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act
 - Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act
 - TD 51-14(4): Investing in Roads for People and the Economy: A Highway Strategy for the Northwest Territories
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Education Act
 - Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act

- Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act,
No. 2

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned to Wednesday, October 31, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

