



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, May 29, 2013**

Pages 2655 – 2684

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

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**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

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*Minister of Human Resources*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Hon. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe)

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*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

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**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

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(Hay River North)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**

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**Mr. Daryl Dolynny**

(Range Lake)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**

(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**

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(Yellowknife South)

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*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and*

*Intergovernmental Relations*

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*Status of Women*

**Hon. Robert C. McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

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*Community Affairs*

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*NWT Housing Corporation*

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**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**

(Nahendeh)

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger**

(Thebacha)

*Government House Leader*

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*Resources*

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*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Alfred Moses**

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(Deh Cho)

**Hon. David Ramsay**

(Kam Lake)

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister of Transportation*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, May 29, 2013****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back as we reconvene the Fourth Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Two thousand thirteen and 2014 will be an exceptionally busy year for all government and the Legislative Assembly. With great assurance, I can say that all Members are engaged in a significant amount of work while the House recessed. A majority of the work was geared towards committees and constituent duties. In the midst of all the activities, I hope Members found an opportunity to spend time with their families and loved ones.

It was an honour this month to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament. I was honoured to meet all 19 youth members, and I can tell you, colleagues, that the future of the Northwest Territories does look bright. The youth took your seats in the Chamber, and with poise and confidence made Members' statements, Ministers' statements and debated four very interesting motions.

These young people also enjoyed recreational time networking with other youth from the North and increasing their knowledge of this vast territory. Thank you to the students for showcasing leadership skills and making this program a success. Thank you to their parents and teachers for providing support, and to our public affairs staff for delivering an interesting Youth Parliament 2013.

Members, today I would like to honour the memory of a woman who was an inspiration to many. On Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Canada lost an inspirational female athlete and a sporting trailblazer. Shirley Firth-Larsson passed away in her home in Yellowknife with her family. She was 59.

As you know, Shirley grew up in Aklavik and Inuvik as a member of the Gwich'in First Nation. Shirley, together with her sister Sharon, was the first Aboriginal woman to be a fourth-time Olympian and a member of Canada's National Ski Team representing Northwest Territories and Canada in cross-country skiing in the Olympics from 1972 to

1984. They received multiple national and territorial awards and were inducted into several halls of fame.

Marcel Aubut, president of the Canadian Olympic Committee, paid this tribute: "Olympian Shirley Firth-Larsson lived an inspiring life, filled to the brim with accomplishments the likes of which many athletes can only dream. As a 29-time national champion and four-time member of the Canadian Olympic Team, she proudly represented Canada and the North, serving as a shining example of excellence to Aboriginal women everywhere. Her contribution to sport and to Canada will not be forgotten."

After retiring from competition, Shirley and her family spent 23 years in France and returned to the Northwest Territories in 2005.

The North has lost an amazing person. She will be missed by many people. Shirley has left behind a legacy for all NWT athletes, residents, and all of Canada. She is a role model that will be remembered for her dedication to sport, supporting a healthy lifestyle. Shirley was a strong advocate for women and mothers and believed in the importance of pursuing education no matter your situation or age, but also that anyone can accomplish anything they set their minds to.

Shirley was not only my executive assistant but was a good friend. It was an absolute honour to work with her.

Members, please join me in sending sincere condolences to the family of Shirley Firth-Larsson. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal condolences and condolences across the Northwest Territories to families who lost loved ones in the past few months since we've been here.

Colleagues, it is now my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads:

Dear Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, and Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, during the

Fourth Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.  
Yours truly, George L. Tuccaro, Commissioner.

Thank you, colleagues. I know you are eager to tackle the work at hand, so let's begin. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

### Ministers' Statements

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 56-17(4): SESSIONAL STATEMENT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honour to welcome back my colleagues of the Legislative Assembly as we convene for our spring sitting. I trust all our Members have enjoyed some memorable time with their families and constituents.

Mr. Speaker, this may not be a long sitting, but it will be a busy one, an ambitious one, and an important one. This session will see several of the strategies the Government of the Northwest Territories has been working on come forward, and it is also our plan to bring a motion on the proposed Devolution Agreement to Members for their review and discussion.

This Legislative Assembly has a vision of a territory where strong individuals, families, and communities share in the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable, and prosperous territory.

We want to see a Northwest Territories where our people can thrive and be healthy, where a well-managed environment contributes to our economic well-being and quality of life, and where a strong economy provides jobs and opportunities for our communities and money for government programs.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to achieving this vision of economic development, social progress, and environmental sustainability built on a foundation of strong consensus government.

In the coming session, Mr. Speaker, Members will hear about work the government is doing to grow and diversify our economy, support our people, manage our environment, and make government more effective and efficient.

While that is the work of 13 separate departments, Mr. Speaker, the work is not separate. Our efforts are connected and guided by our shared vision, and progress in one area often serves to support progress in another.

A strong territory that supports its people starts with a strong economy, Mr. Speaker, and the Northwest Territories has the potential to be an economic powerhouse. We have a wealth of mineral resources, including diamonds, gold, tungsten and rare earths.

We are home to world-class oil and gas reserves in the Deh Cho, Central Mackenzie, Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea. We have hydro potential that could rival James Bay.

Based on this potential, the Conference Board of Canada has predicted that the North's GDP will double by 2020. There are seven mining projects currently in the works that could attract more than \$2 billion in new investment and add over 2,000 new jobs in our territory.

Development of the oil resources in the Central Mackenzie and predicted increases in the price of and demand for Arctic natural gas could help to re-establish the economic viability of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

That project could contribute \$68 million to the Northwest Territories economy, \$86 billion to the national economy, and create over 200,000 person years of employment. Oil and gas companies have committed to spending \$635 million in the Sahtu and \$2.2 billion to develop offshore leases in the Beaufort, with more parcels coming up.

Clearly, the future for our territory and its people is bright. Managing and guiding that potential so that our residents can benefit from jobs and economic opportunities far into the future is one of the most important tasks we face as a government.

That is why we are developing the Mineral Development Strategy, which will support increased mineral exploration expenditures, ensure long-term sustainability of the minerals sector, maximize resident employment and business opportunities, and increase value-added opportunities for our territory.

It is why we are working on the Economic Opportunities Strategy, which is being developed with the input and assistance of leading experts, stakeholders and the public. It will guide our actions and identify approaches and options for growing and diversifying our economy, providing opportunities for our residents in all our communities and regions.

A strong economy needs access to affordable energy, and we are working on an energy plan and plans for developing our hydro resources and transmission lines that will help support economic growth and help replace expensive diesel with less expensive, renewable energy.

We are also working to further diversify the economy.

Responsible management of our economy means not putting all our eggs in a single basket. That is why our government is providing support and programming for activities that add value to Northwest Territories products and services, build business capacity, and expand the skills of NWT residents and businesses.

Creating a strong, diversified economy is one of the best ways we have of supporting our people. A strong economy creates sustainable and vibrant communities. It provides jobs and opportunities so people can support themselves and their families, realize their aspirations, and avoid poverty.

But we are not saying that people must do it all on their own. We recognize that the government has a role to play in helping people achieve personal success.

We need to create an environment of education, of good health that enhances the ability of all individuals to participate in the economic growth that we are generating. We must work to build a strong and caring society that provides for its residents fairly and justly, creating the conditions for success and offering support and assistance where it is necessary.

During this session we will be tabling our Anti-Poverty Strategy, developed in collaboration with Aboriginal governments, business and industry, and the NGO sector. This strategy will help to focus our government's ongoing efforts to support our people, particularly our most vulnerable people, with dignity and respect and address the root causes of poverty in our territory.

We will bring forward recommendations from the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness. Their recommendations will help us develop practical, community-based approaches to dealing with this issue that still challenges so many of our fellow Northerners.

During this session our government will bring forward a renewed Early Childhood Development Framework. The early years are when our children develop the physical, thinking, language, emotional and social abilities that will stay with them for a lifetime. Supporting children at this stage in their lives is one of the best ways that we will be able to ensure that Northerners are healthy, educated, and free from addictions and mental health challenges.

You will also be hearing about our new Community Safety Strategy during this session. Sustainable communities that support our residents are safe communities. With this strategy our government will support communities to develop their own plans for identifying and addressing their priorities for community safety.

Our government believes in responsible stewardship, Mr. Speaker. A healthy environment sustains healthy people, and the land has long been a source of wealth for our residents. We have a responsibility to manage our natural resources sustainably for the long-term benefit of the people of the Northwest Territories.

We continue work on a land use and sustainability framework that will guide how land management decisions will be made after devolution, a critical

factor in sustainable development. During this session we will be tabling a report on our consultations with the public and Aboriginal governments on this framework.

Members will hear during this session about the efforts we have made to conserve energy in government buildings. We have a Solar Strategy and an updated Biomass Strategy, both released late last year. We are actively engaged in the negotiation of transboundary water agreements to ensure sustainable management of shared resources. We have a proposed Wildlife Act that is currently before committee. We look forward to the passage of this bill as a further testament to our balanced and responsible management of our rich natural heritage.

The reality is that our prosperity is, and will be, founded in our natural resource wealth for the foreseeable future. Our land and waterways are critical to our prosperity and our quality of life.

To benefit from our resources, we must develop them; but to ensure today's prosperity endures for future generations, we must do so responsibly. Our collective challenge will be to find a way to develop our resources responsibly, sustainably, with due regard to the value that Northerners have always placed on the land and environment. I have no doubt that we are up to that challenge.

I should note, Mr. Speaker, that these strategies have been shaped by our government's ongoing discussions and engagement with residents, communities and Aboriginal governments. This is how we do things, and this is how we will continue to do things. This territory is built on partnerships and collaboration, and central to this approach is our tradition of working together with our Aboriginal governments.

Our Aboriginal Engagement Strategy and our continuing record of reaching out to Aboriginal governments demonstrates our commitment to be inclusive and collaborative in all that we do.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the honour of leading a delegation to Ottawa, a delegation that included all Members of our Cabinet and a large number of Members from this House. We worked to raise awareness of our territory but also, more specifically, to draw attention to a number of our priorities: the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley fibre optic line, the importance and challenges of northern housing, the importance of responsible environmental stewardship, and the vast resource potential of our territory.

Of course, we also promoted devolution. I personally spoke with the Prime Minister about devolution and urged him to see our negotiations through quickly to a mutually beneficial conclusion.

Two months ago we had the pleasure of hosting Prime Minister Harper and the leaders of the

Inuvialuit Regional Council, NWT Metis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Gwich'in Tribal Council and Tlicho Government in Yellowknife. During that visit we had the honour of announcing with the Prime Minister that our governments had concluded our negotiations toward a Devolution Agreement. As the Prime Minister said that day: "The heavy lifting is done, the issues are resolved, and negotiators have reached consensus on the terms of a final Devolution Agreement."

Since that time the Government of the Northwest Territories has been engaging residents across the territory to hear their views of the proposed agreement. We are prepared to take a major step in the development of our territory, and we want to make sure people understand what is in the deal and what it means for all of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, devolution will be the most significant event this House and its Members have considered since division. With devolution, we, the people of the Northwest Territories, will have control over our land and resources. We will have control over our resource royalties. We will have greater control over our destinies. We will have the fiscal foundation and means to legislate and govern better, in the interests of our people, and to advance their priorities in a more responsive manner.

We will be making decisions here, in the Northwest Territories, for the people of the Northwest Territories. We are coming of age and fulfilling a process of increasing northern control that began in 1967 and has continued over the years. This territory, which has been a cradle for much of Canada – with multiple provinces and territories having arisen out of it over the last century – will soon be taking its rightful place in Confederation. Our time has come.

Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to introduce a motion seeking this Assembly's support for the approval of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement. Should this motion pass, we will then proceed to sign the agreement that will see new responsibilities transferred to us on April 1, 2014.

Our government is already actively working and planning for this transfer. We have been leading engagement with the Government of Canada and with Aboriginal governments to develop effective post-devolution relationships. These include bilateral negotiations with participating Aboriginal parties on the development of a post-devolution arrangement to co-operate on land and resource management issues. It also includes work on arrangements to share a quarter of the resource revenues we earn from development on public land with participating Aboriginal governments. This is an arrangement that is not seen in any other

province or territory and speaks to our commitment to building a strong, prosperous territory in partnership with Aboriginal governments.

New responsibilities will require a new and amended legislative framework, and we will be looking to the Members of this Assembly to work with us on the introduction and passage of the many pieces of legislation we will need to have in place in time for April 2014. It will be hard work and may well require extra effort on the part of all of us, but the work will be worth it, and I hope I can count on Members' support as we take this major step in the evolution of our territory.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this House come to each session with the interests of their constituents and of the territory in the forefront of their minds. Our collective dedication to the well-being and prosperity of all residents of the Northwest Territories is what binds us as political leaders and representatives of the people.

I know that each Member of this House takes their responsibilities very seriously and in the coming days will be called upon to make some critical decisions for the future of the people we serve. No matter where we stand on the issues before us, there is no doubt that we must be prepared to stand up and represent our constituents to the best of our abilities. There will be areas of disagreement but I hope no discord as we are all here by the choice of the people and it is our sworn duty to represent those people with forthright and respectful debate.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great territory, and we share the privilege and responsibility of governing it. The North is the future. The North's day is just dawning. We have the people, the ingenuity, the resources, and the resolve to lead Canada and lead the world as a place in which to live, work, raise a family and find prosperity.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I and all Members of this Assembly are going to be making history for our people. As we debate devolution, we will be debating and assenting to the birthright of our people. We will be voting to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of the NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all Members for their hard work in support of the vision of this Assembly and the plans of the government. I look forward to working with them in the important weeks and months ahead. This will be a time to remember, and devolution will be a gift to our children and grandchildren. It will be a legacy to be forever inscribed in the story of this great land, and we should be honoured to have a part in it. Thank you.



---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members, before we continue, I'd like to recognize former Commissioner, Speaker, Minister, MLA, Sergeant-at-Arms, Honourary Naval Captain, and Honourary Clerk of the House: Anthony W.J. Whitford. Tony, welcome back to the House.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Bouchard.

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HAY RIVER HOMECOMING 2013

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise with great excitement that in Hay River on June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> we are having the Hay River Homecoming. It's an event that people are busy in Hay River right now organizing and getting things ready. We have 550 signed up on the website, and the website is hayriver2013.ca.

If you are from Hay River or you have ever lived in Hay River, we are looking for people to come back to Hay River and visit with the folks that have been there and have enjoyed the community.

We also are acknowledging some of the events and anniversaries. It's been 50 years since the great flood in 1963. Forty years ago the DJSS, our famous purple school, was built. We just had a new renovation to it, so we are having a reopening of the facility.

As well, a couple of large companies in Hay River, long-standing companies that have been there for 40 years – Kingland Ford and Ring's Pharmacy – are celebrating their anniversaries.

Along with all those people that are coming, we also have some celebrations that are going on. I'd like to acknowledge all the hard workers. We have Kandee Froese, chairperson for the Hay River Homecoming, and her team of people that are working.

We also have many events going on. On Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, we have registration and meet and greet. Saturday, we have pancake breakfast, the reopening of DJSS, exhibition ballgame, a fish fry at the Hay River Fisherman's Wharf, and on Sunday we have a fun-filled day. There's a church service, blessing of the fleet and a golf tournament. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, obviously, the busy day there where we have the flag raising event, Canada Day parade, show and shine, street fair at the Fisherman's Wharf, high tea at the museum.

It's a great event and we're looking forward to seeing some of the 550 people that have signed up to this list and some of the honoured guests that are coming, Mr. Earl Jake Covert. Dr. Covert served there many years. Some of the other

people, Steve Brookes. There are many on the list and they're all on the website, so I urge people to look on the website and get to Hay River on the long weekend.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MEDEVAC RESPONSE TIMES

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my sympathy to the Jumbo family of Trout Lake who lost a much-loved elder in a recent boating accident. The tragedy has been a very difficult one for everyone in the community. After the accident, CPR was done at the scene and the victim revived. She was transported to the health centre, but in the end her injuries were too severe.

I really want to thank everyone who made such a great effort to save her. You're an example to us all.

While many people are now grieving, this accident could have been much worse. Three other people survived the crash. One had to be medevaced to Yellowknife for treatment at the Stanton Hospital.

I wish I could also offer praise and thanks to our Health department and medical travel system, but the reality is it was not responsive at all, especially considering the circumstances. People in Trout Lake were shocked by how long it took for help to arrive. No one at the Fort Simpson Health Centre picked up the emergency phone; four times they were called. Finally family called the RCMP to advise the health centre of the emergency in Trout Lake; and after this delay it took five hours for the medevac plane to get to the community. I don't know how much more time passed before the patient arrived at the hospital, but it is safe to say it took far too long.

This kind of response time is unacceptable. It undermines our residents' faith in the medevac system and our health system. Everyone should have the comfort of a medevac system that is reliable and responsive not only for Trout Lake but for all communities in the NWT.

I think the Minister should find out what went wrong. I will be asking those questions in the House later today. There have to be changes made to ensure that this never happens again.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT OPTION COURT PROGRAM

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been approached by a constituent in my community with an idea which I am completely in favour of, and that is to extend the Domestic

Violence Treatment Option court program to Hay River. This is another innovation that is so far only available in Yellowknife but could also be done elsewhere.

A person who is charged with violence against their spouse can take responsibility for their actions and enrol in a treatment program. To be accepted, the offender must plead guilty, the Crown and defence lawyers must agree that diversion from Territorial Court is appropriate, which means low-risk cases. The offender attends a pre-court meeting with the treatment team, the lawyers and bail supervisors. If all goes well, the offender begins an eight-week treatment program. It is designed to address the emotional and psychological causes of domestic violence. Additional counselling is available to work on related programs such as drug or alcohol addictions. The offender and the treatment team must report progress back to the court. The offender's progress is fully reviewed by a judge before sentencing.

This program has great potential. It is all about rehabilitation, changing destructive behaviour, and rebuilding families and communities. I would like to see the Domestic Violence Treatment Option court expanded to Hay River, which would also benefit the nearby communities. In order to be successful wherever such a court is set up, it must have the resources necessary to assist the offender with rehabilitation. It must be effective. It cannot become a way for chronic abusers to reduce their sentences without changing their behaviour.

I do have faith in people and in the innovative work being done by our Justice department and courts, and would like to see Hay River benefit from the expansion of this program to the South Slave.

Later today I will have questions for the Minister of Justice on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EDMONTON MEDEVAC AMBULANCE FACILITY

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not more than two weeks ago, the residents of NWT woke up to the new GNWT medevac program for patients who normally would be transferred to the downtown Edmonton municipal airport were now being taken to the new air ambulance operations at the International airport. What is interesting is that our Minister of Health and Social Services, in a recent press release announcing this new service, indicated that they have achieved their goal in improving the quality of patient care. I'm not sure about you, but adding over 35 minutes to the backend of patient travel is not, in my mind, improving one's chance of survival. I believe the

Minister owes the public an explanation on how this service is somehow improving our quality of care.

Furthermore, the residents are now reassured that the Alberta Health Services air ambulance facility is located in the same building as the STARS Helicopter. One would only assume that our critical patients will be whisked away to the nearest hospital by helicopter, right? Well, it appears that since the launch of this program, the STARS Helicopter has not been used once for any critical care residents. One has to ask, why use the soothing sounds of such an opportunity when in reality it is really only lip service?

Adding insult to injury, our Department of Health and Social Services and our Minister have also failed us in not addressing some of the other key barriers of this so-called new quality of patient care. What about the continuity of patient care? We now have multiple paramedic practitioners during the patient transfer. What new risks are we now exposing the patient? What about the increased risk of communication errors? Multiple practitioners, multiple patient records, multiple verbal communications all add new exposure risks to the patient transfers.

What about the lack of cultural needs for our patient? Northern patients have northern cultural needs. Our patients are unique and will these southern paramedic practitioners understand these challenges?

Finally, what about all the extra undue stress for their patients? The entire medical event of leaving the North, your home, your language, and being handed off like an orphan at the door is very traumatic in itself. Will this new magic carpet triage centre offer and create the same trusting environment of the original door-to-door service we once had? Many do not think so.

The residents of NWT deserve better. We are not orphans to be abandoned at the door of the bus stop. We deserve top-line health care, not Third World health care.

Of course, I will have more serious questions on this topic later today for the Minister of Health. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MOTIVE FUEL PRICING REGULATION

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Northerners continue to be held hostage. This is a reality and it is far too common to hear this question. Why isn't our government standing up for our northern people? The government would tell you they are fighting and working hard on the cost of living problem. Talk is certainly cheap. I can tell,

from looking around here, that it must have been on sale too.

We live in a time of ever increasing energy costs. Last week Northerners experienced rate shock at the pumps. Why? Because they could. That is why. No one holds them to account. Normally a free market being left up to itself is the best way to go, but I believe it only works in a vast world market. As this government continues to watch this problem go by, they do nothing.

As we all know, petroleum prices are tied to global markets and certainly to the pocketbooks and profits of those people in charge well beyond the individual jurisdiction or certainly any nation's control. Given our remote location, our average Northerners pay some of the highest fuel prices in Canada, whether you live in Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River or Yellowknife. We pay and we continue to pay. Why? Because they can.

Northerners will benefit just like five other jurisdictions and provinces who decided to take charge of their motive fuel sites problem by regulating their fuels. Why? Because they care about their citizens. For example, as I have said before, New Brunswick began to regulate their fuel prices back in 2006. They regulate the ceiling price to help protect their consumers. Retail is required by law to show how much they are paying at their pumps. Why? To spur on healthy competition. That does not exist here in the North. Many northern residents will agree that we need a strong regulated system. Collectively we're collecting signatures on the Government of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly's on-line petition site because we need to hear Northerners' voices. This government will continue to watch this issue float by. Why? Because they want to do nothing.

So, later today, I will be asking the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs what is he prepared to do on fuel price regulation. It may not be known as the perfect solution, but it definitely shows Northerners we're fighting back against big oil and we care about our residents. That's why.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS  
PRIVACY ISSUES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2011-2012 report of the NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner was recently tabled in the House, and I was particularly struck by the references within the report to complaints about the lack of privacy of our medical records. Not a new problem, as many people know. Only this time the problem was not with faxed records but with electronic medical records.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner reported on her very comprehensive investigation of a complaint about access to electronic medical records by health authority staff, a situation which was especially troubling for her. As a result, the 2011-12 report contains recommendations made with a view to improving access to the electronic medical records system to ensure that it works to allow better integration of services, at the same time allowing the individual client or the patient the right to control access to his or her most sensitive, personal information.

The Commissioner recommends that legislation be put in place to better deal with privacy issues around medical records. During my time here at the Ledge, there's been talk of legislation, a new act, a Health Information Act to deal with just this problem, but to date we have nothing more to show than that: talk and an idea hanging in the wind. There's still no indication from the Department of Health and Social Services as to when the legislation might be introduced.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, ATIPP, does not go far enough in the provision of privacy around health records. Too many health situations cannot be addressed through ATIPP. It's well past the time for NWT legislation, which recognizes the right of the individual to informational privacy, privacy as defined by the Supreme Court of Canada and enshrined as a right in our Charter of Rights. A Health Information Act can ensure and enforce that privacy and it really must be made a priority.

I fully support the new technology in use in the NWT health system. Electronic medical records, properly managed, can significantly improve health services for our residents, but any access to electronic medical records must ensure, as stated by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the patient's right to determine for himself when, how and to what extent he will release personal information about himself. Not every employee in a health clinic needs access, nor should they have access to a patient's full medical file.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** Only some staff should have full access to medical records, doctors and nurse practitioners for instance. There is a demonstrated need for legislation to address privacy protection around health records, yet there's been no progress on this act since the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

I have to ask the Health Minister: When will Members see a Health Information Act presented in the House? Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
SAHTU REGIONAL TRADES CENTRE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last month I've been to the Aurora College grad ceremony in Fort Smith and I've been to the one here in Yellowknife, and my hat's off to the graduates, the instructors and to the Aurora College institution for graduating a fine round of people who are going to make a difference in their lives in the Northwest Territories.

As I sat there in the graduation, I was just imagining what it would be like to have a graduation at that type of magnitude in the Sahtu region for our own people. This is what I want to talk about.

The Sahtu needs a training centre now because of the excitement that I saw, feelings that I felt, and the words of the families and friends when they got up and received their diplomas.

Careers in trades offer a wealth of opportunities to people in these fields. As mineral and oil and gas development picks up across the North, the demand for skilled workers increases. Already there's a shortage of skilled trades workers across Canada. Companies are competing to attract individuals with strong qualifications. Even within our own government we are, and still will be, in competition for these individuals.

In order for companies to reach the targets in socio-economic agreements, the Northwest Territories needs a healthy, educated and strong workforce which includes training in trades in our communities where people already make their lives and where the economics has huge potential for long-lasting and sustainable prosperity.

For example, training in workforce preparation was a major component of pipeline readiness when we talked about the Mackenzie Gas Project. It doesn't look like the pipeline is happening in the near future, yet there are things that are there. Workforce training has a very high profile when you talk about the oil and gas readiness in the Sahtu. We want the same opportunities we see in mining activities in this area, no more and no less.

The Sahtu needs a training centre now because as oil and gas development starts to pick up, we need to be ready. For example, the school in Tulita offered a welding class this year. Students got to learn basic welding techniques and make simple projects. Courses like this could be offered in all the Sahtu schools in conjunction with a trade training centre. Students will be motivated when they have the opportunity to become qualified for trades at a local training centre.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Can you imagine a community that is self-sustaining and self-determining in its own right? Anything is possible when we believe in our people.

Our people are ready. We need to be ready. There are some great opportunities in the North. We've got to get a trade centre in the Sahtu now because we support our vision, a vision of the territory where strong individuals, families and communities share the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustaining and prosperous territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
INUVIK GAS SITUATION

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the last time we sat in this House, I've had a lot of meetings with our constituents back home in Inuvik and also other organizations in the NWT. As much as all of the concerns that were brought to my attention were very important, there's one that's always going to be very important to me and the constituents and residents of the community I reside in, Inuvik, and that's the situation we are dealing with right now, and that's the gas situation.

In January, February and March, we saw really high fuel prices for those that are on the synthetic natural gas system. In fact, in some cases their fuel bills doubled. As a result, it affected their daily lives; it affected their mental health; it affected their family lives as well. This is something that needs to be addressed and we need to find a solution, a short-term and long-term solution that will put the residents of Inuvik at ease in the upcoming winter that they're not going to be paying an arm and a leg to heat their homes and live comfortably when our winters are getting a lot colder.

As a result, what I have seen in Inuvik is a lot of homes going up for sale. I'm seeing a lot more leasing spaces. We are actually seeing that people who have these high fuel bills are actually being put on a payment plan to pay their fuel bills. That is ridiculous. Not in this day and age; not in the community of Inuvik. This needs to be addressed and needs to be changed and the sooner we can do it, the better.

Over the summer, I see no doubt that after the experience of January, February and March, there are going to be people who don't want to live in Inuvik and are going to be wanting to move, which will result in the prices of whatever gas we're on, we're going to have to find those prices to offset the storage and transportation costs. So we do need to find a solution, like I said, sooner than later.

In the budget address made by the Minister of Finance for the 2013-14 budget, he did mention that there was \$100,000 that was being put towards a feasibility study on liquid natural gas. I will be asking the Minister of Finance questions on the status of that, where we are, and what we can do moving forward.

We talk about devolution; we talk about decentralization. Nobody's going to be wanting to come to live in Inuvik, working in those jobs with the high cost of living already and the high gas prices. They need to be addressed. We need to let people know that we are working on finding a solution and that that solution will come, hopefully, before the winter months and the cold months.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACKENZIE DELTA FUEL PRICES

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome everyone back to this spring session. Back home in the Mackenzie Delta right now we have a lot of people out harvesting. Over the last month people have been out trapping muskrat, beaver and also hunting geese, swans and ducks.

I wish everyone a very safe season this spring. I know we have high water in Fort McPherson right now, and the community of Aklavik is preparing for a flood this spring. With the increased amount of snow that we've had this winter, the community is preparing.

Also, the community of Tsiigehtchic is very concerned with the fuel prices we've had since May 24<sup>th</sup>. The community is paying \$1.92 per litre for one litre of gasoline. We're not supposed to use pennies anymore. I'm not sure if this government is aware of that, but we might as well say \$1.95 a litre. But this needs to be addressed, and I will have questions for the Minister of petroleum products later today.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LOW EMPLOYMENT RATES IN DEH CHO COMMUNITIES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Microphone turned off] ...among the most scenic, accessible, promising regions of the NWT. It is rich in resources, home to a world-renowned national park and named for one of the earth's most majestic rivers, and now we have a completed bridge.

However, the potential of the Deh Cho area remains underdeveloped. The unemployment rate in Fort Providence was 30 percent in 2009, while the average for the NWT was closer to 10 percent.

NWT residents are consistently among the highest wage earners in Canada, but at the same time, 32 percent of households in the Deh Cho report incomes of no more than \$15,000 per year.

Seasonal employment is more common than in any other parts of the territory. Jobs remain concentrated in Yellowknife where the employment rate is around 80 percent, while higher in other communities, and even compared to the national average, suggesting things in the NWT are way out of proportion.

These trends are not sustainable. Quality of life suffers in our small communities where there are limited opportunities for employment and the people feel increasingly forced away from traditional ways of life. Youth look for jobs and education elsewhere, and more times than not permanently leave their home communities. Too often we look to rapid-paced, large-scale industrial development as a quick fix to some of these problems, but we see how that can only lead to boom and bust in areas and more unsustainability.

Fortunately, these trends are reversible. Many resourceful individuals throughout the Deh Cho and the NWT are dedicated to making the most of opportunities available to them. Already we are seeing grassroots initiatives in areas such as local biomass, tourism, agriculture and small business. The GNWT should do all it can to motivate and encourage these efforts and control the pace and scale of industrial development.

Devolution presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take charge of our lands and resources, put government jobs into regions and collect some of the wealth from non-renewable resource development. I look forward to the ways the GNWT can support the conclusion of the Deh Cho process. Also, at the same time, I will look with optimism that eventually the Canadian Zinc will one day become an operational mine.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. NADLI:** With cooperation, collaboration and sustained effort from all sides, the Deh Cho will become one of the most prosperous and attractive regions of the NWT. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier.

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to recognize my wife, Melody. We have been together for a long time. Thank you.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a wise and knowledgeable constituent from Inuvik whose support and dedication to his family is one of high standard, a strong role model, community leader and an elder and a leader in his own way, my father, Mr. Winston John Moses. Welcome.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** It gives me great pleasure to stand and recognize Mr. Paul Currie and his wife Jennifer. Mr. Currie is here to receive the St. John Ambulance Member of the Order Medal. He is also a recipient of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Medal and NWT Fire Service Merit Award, and the you'll notice he as well has a chest full of medals because he is a 20-year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces with service in Croatia, Rwanda, Bosnia and the Persian Gulf, currently back in Fort Smith, returned home and he is now working in the community. I would like to thank him for all of his years of service. He is an outstanding volunteer, and his wife, Jennifer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people. First I would like to recognize a constituent of the Great Slave riding, Mr. Brandon Albert. I would also like to recognize my father in the gallery, Dick Abernethy.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Mr. Winston Moses, who I had the opportunity to apprentice with back in 1980. I worked with him. I had an opportunity to work with Alfred. I won't tell them about the driving lessons nobody wanted to give you back in 1980.

---Laughter

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize and acknowledge a few people in the gallery. You can never recognize one of our favourite Yellowknife people, who is Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford. When you read out his bio earlier, I think it alone could have been a Member's statement for how many titles he has had, but I think you missed one where he is a marriage commissioner as well.

As well, I would like to acknowledge Ms. Lydia Bardak. She is the executive director of the John Howard Society. I would also like to acknowledge,

as well as the Premier has, Melody McLeod. I have known her so long she once was described as a den mother to some of us, superintendent to others and certainly warden of Akaitcho Hall as we went there. I think Mr. Lafferty will remember those memories fondly. In all seriousness, she is a wonderful lady.

Finally, the last person I would like to recognize, sitting in the very front, is Sean Hougan. She is my summer student. She will be working around here at the Legislative Assembly. It is great to have her here on board. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to recognize a Frame Lake constituent, Barb Wyness, who is here today. She is the public relations and research officer with UNW. She attends most of our beginning sessions to try and get the scoop on where we are going. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I would like to recognize a delegation of senior management in our public service. It looks like a group of deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers who have joined us here today. Having been in this Legislature for 18 years, there are some days we have a hard time just understanding the briefings until we are very happy to see the deputies walk in the room. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to welcome my daughter here today, Kirstin. It is always good to have one of my children taking care of me. Thank you.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 251-17(4): MEDEVAC RESPONSE TIMES

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a follow-up on my Member's statement about the tragedy and non-response about our medevac plane into Trout Lake. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I would assume that there are targets for response times for medevac flights to each community. What is or would be the emergency response time target for the community of Trout Lake? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. The response time would depend upon what type of

craft would be needed. In this case, they determined, after contacting the medical people in the Deh Cho, that a Twin Otter was needed. So a Twin Otter was configured as quickly as that can happen to get to the site would be the response time.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I agree with the Minister that when they get there would be the response time, but what I am really after here is we should have set targets, that if there is an emergency in the community of Trout Lake or any of our communities in the Northwest Territories, once that call is made, there should be a specific plan and time frame to get that medevac plane there.

It seems to me that there really is no targeted response times or standards for medevac or getting to our communities or responding to medical emergencies. Will the Minister make sure that there are emergency response time targets and standards for each community that ensures that failure to meet these times are documented? This seems critical to improving our systems in the future. Mahsi.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Again, depending on what type of craft is needed, what type of vehicle would be needed for the medevac would depend upon the response time. What I can advise the Member is we can ensure that when the call is received, that the medevac people are out as quickly as possible, as soon as they can get into the air. That is supposed to be the standard. As soon as the people are mobilized and the plane can be in the air is the time we're trying to achieve. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** It hardly seems professional to have a medevac system such as this where it's almost like a roll of the dice. If you put in your call and then say when they get there, that that's the response time, that's not enough for our people that want a safe and reliable medevac system and the comfort to believe in our health care system.

So, once again, maybe I can ask specifically: Is there a standard or what standard are we using to ensure that all residents of the Northwest Territories are taken care of when we're using our medevac system? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** All of the standards for the medevacs are laid out in the contracts between Stanton and the people that provide medevac services. Again, it would be difficult to put an actual time period in any specific community because it would depend largely on what type of craft would be needed.

In this specific case, the plane that would be ready under normal circumstances to pick up a medevac was not suitable to go into Trout Lake. They had to reconfigure a different plane. That took some time.

I agree with the Member that there was too much time at the outset contacting the medical people,

and we are working between ourselves, Stanton Health Authority, and Deh Cho Health and Social Services to determine what had occurred there and why there was nobody available to take the call immediately. We are debriefing to find out what exactly happened, and we will be addressing those issues. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The medevac system has to know what type of airport was at Trout Lake. I'm not too sure what's going on there.

My final, short supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is to ask the Minister to investigate the medical travel system's response to the recent emergency in Trout Lake and publicly report its findings not only to this House but also to the community of Trout Lake, who is still extremely upset about this whole ordeal. Thank you very much.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I can commit to doing that. I will commit to doing that. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 252-17(4):

##### EDMONTON MEDEVAC AMBULANCE FACILITY

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about the many shortcomings of the recent changes in our GNWT medevac program in which our family and friends are now being dropped off and orphaned at the new Air Operations Centre at the Edmonton International Airport. Admittedly, like many of you, I was led to believe that in preparation of this new service all was good, that patient care was paramount and that full communication would be shared with Regular Members of this House and residents of the NWT during its process.

Well, with little advanced notice and only two weeks into this new program we are now seeing the exposed results of this new secretive investment, which is now begging some serious questions that need to be asked of our Minister of Health and Social Services.

During a recent press release, the Minister of Health and Social Services stated, "I believe we have achieved our goal and in fact have improved the quality of patient care."

Can the Minister please explain to this House, how is adding over 35 minutes of patient transfer time, in any way, shape or form, an improvement of quality patient care? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact that the Edmonton Centre Airport closed down was not a decision that laid with this government. The fact that there is more time to fly to the International Airport is because it happens to be further away than the Municipal Airport. However, what I was referring to was the care once the person arrived. We are able to move the person that is being medevaced to Edmonton into an ambulance service that would take them through the city and we are able to hand them over at the airport instead of outside, or having a contractor that we were contracting from here pick them up outside of the Municipal Airport and bringing them to the hospital. We're using that service that all of Alberta is using, the ambulatory service that all of Alberta is using, we're tying into that and we figure it's a good service and we figure that's an improvement. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** On the subject of handing over our patients to a contractor, we've all heard that this new Air Operations Centre is in the same hangar space of the so-called STARS helicopter. So can the Minister indicate to this House how many times has this STARS helicopter been used in the last two weeks to transport our NWT critical care patients to Edmonton hospital emergency wards?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I don't have that information, but the Member did mention that it was not used. So I'm assuming that there was no requirement for a STARS helicopter to be used to transport patients from the Edmonton International to the hospital. So likely it hasn't been used at this point. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** In my statement earlier today, I spoke about the new barriers of effective patient transfer that we're now exposed to. Many of these barriers dealt with the lack of continuity of patient care, increased communication errors potential with multiple patient or practitioner interventions and the patient's undue stress with these new imposed drop-off services. Can the Minister indicate how his department is dealing with all of these shortfalls? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** If we thought there were shortfalls, we wouldn't be putting in such a system. We feel that this is an improvement. We're handing a patient over the same way that all of Alberta that medevac people into Edmonton hand their patients over. We think we're handing them over to the Alberta Health Services at that point and we think that the patient is getting good care, excellent care from the time that they arrive. They're able to go into the terminal, they're able to turn the plane around quicker, the medevac plane can have a patient waiting there, delivered there by Alberta Health Services and the transfer can be done in the hangar at the International Airport and the plane

bringing back the patient can be turned around a lot quicker. Thank you.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure you that the rest of Alberta is having the same concerns as many NWT residents have in terms of the quality of the care in this transfer program. It's not just the NWT.

Finally, we have the issue of contract and cost, with this new Alberta Health Service's offering. Can the Minister indicate what the so-called new, improved drop-off services is costing NWT taxpayers and how long is this contract?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** There is no contract. They are doing this under an intergovernmental agreement with Alberta and it's costing \$600,000 a year.

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

QUESTION 253-17(4):  
ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS  
PRIVACY ISSUES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to keep the Minister of Health and Social Services jumping up and down from sitting to standing and ask him some questions.

I spoke about the need for a Health Information Act in my statement, and I'd like to ask the Minister, considering that we are increasingly using electronic medical records within the NWT, and considering we have an increasing number of complaints around the privacy of patients' info regarding medical records, whether or not... I feel that this government does not recognize the importance of adopting legislation to protect residents' privacy relative to health records. I'd like to ask the Minister what priority does a Health Information Act have in the department's legislative agenda.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health Information Act is top priority for the Department of Health and Social Services, and we would be hoping that the bill will be ready for introduction in the 2013 fall session.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for that update. I guess I would like to ask the Minister, he says he hopes that it's going to be ready by the fall. Normally committee receives some indication of what the bill is going to contain in advance, so can the Minister advise when committee is going to get some indication of the content of this new act?



**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The act will go through the regular process. We are targeting the fall 2013 session. I did say hopefully that will happen. Provided nothing goes sideways, we're expecting that the bill will be provided to committee prior to that, at the appropriate time prior to the time that it's introduced in the House in 2013, the fall.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I guess I'm having trouble. The Minister of Health and Social Services is starting to sound like Minister Miltenberger and talking about the fullness of time.

Committee will have to wait with bated breath for this information, which may or may not come in the fall, and I do hope that it does.

A number of jurisdictions within Canada do or are currently now... They've either gone through a review or they are currently going through a review of health, of health information acts.

I'd like to know from the Minister whether the work that we are doing on our Health Information Act is looking at what's going on in other jurisdictions and trying not to reinvent the wheel.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I will assume that the Territorial Electronic Medical Record Project Team will be looking at best practices across the Territories and then put the information together for the act, and also that they had also reviewed all of the Privacy Commissioner's recommendations, and through the review they have addressed the concerns of the Privacy Commissioner pertaining to this area.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister, that's a great segue into my next question. I was going to ask about the recommendations in the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report, and the Minister has advised that these have been considered. But the Commissioner also advised committee when we met with her that the health authority has not accepted all of her recommendations and has not made the changes that she recommended. Can I ask the Minister why not? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yellowknife Health and Social Services has responded to the information, the Commissioner, of privacy concerns. If certain recommendations in the report that the health authority did not agree with, that may have been the reason that they have not responded to every concern, but every concern that was put out there where the health authority felt that required a response or a change, that has been made. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 254-17(4):  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT OPTION  
COURT PROGRAM

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today, I had some questions for the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister, how is the Department of Justice measuring the results of the Domestic Violence Treatment Option court program that currently exists in Yellowknife. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The DVTO court has been in place since March 24, 2011. Since that time we have had 22 participants go through the program – 17 male, 6 female – who have successfully completed the program. When we first put the program in, we indicated that we were going to do a review and we are actually in the process of signing a contract right now to have a review done. That review is anticipated to be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what kind of results has the DVTO court achieved so far. Until such time as this review is done, perhaps he doesn't have concrete answers, but perhaps he could tell us what the department's general feeling is on the success of this program. Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Before we can say anything concrete, we do have to wait for the report to come in, but anecdotally, the response that we are getting back is quite positive, so much so that the courts have actually indicated that they'd like to expand this program and move outside of Yellowknife to Inuvik and Hay River, which is something we are interested in doing. We want to wait until we see the July 31<sup>st</sup> report so that we have concrete information. We are looking and considering moving this court outside of Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. It is very good news to hear this. There are a lot of things we want in Hay River. This is one of them, just one on a long list.

What resources are needed to expand the DVTO program to the regional centres? What kinds of resources, other than money, are required to be in place in the community in order for this program to work? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, part of the program is that we require some expertise on the partner program that goes along with the DVTO courts. Now, in Hay River I believe that those resources and that expertise exists. So it is going to be money. Basically we need money to make this

happen outside of the Yellowknife centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the July 31<sup>st</sup> report has been delivered and has been reviewed, could the Minister put some kind of a time frame on when we can conceivably see something like this in operation in Hay River, perhaps by the fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say the fall, but we do need to go through an O and M budgetary process to identify the resources that are needed to deliver this court. It will be part of the normal budget process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 255-17(4):  
SAHTU REGIONAL TRADES CENTRE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the Sahtu being at a critical point in training its workforce. I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about the opportunity to get a Sahtu training centre in our region, due to the increase of oil and gas exploration. Last year there were 150 workers that were hired outside of our communities to come in and do work there, and also there are more and more people now taking advantage of these training opportunities.

Can we have something like a larger centre like Smith, Yellowknife and Inuvik, where now we can have a training centre in our region?

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Sahtu region training centre has been a topic of discussion for a few meetings we have been to. We have regional training representatives, as well, to identify the training needs of the Sahtu region. We also have the college involved in the process of our discussion. Just recently I also delivered the interesting, high-profile Sahtu when it comes to training, how the college can get involved so it can be a training centre for the Sahtu region. Those are the discussions we are currently having, and I will inform the Member as we move forward on a progression plan. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Husky is building an all-weather road for \$30 million/\$45 million. The application for Conoco through the hydraulic fracking is going for a review, and if that application is approved, certainly you're going to see an increase in employment activities in the Sahtu.

If that continues with the potential of billions of barrels of oil that needs to be extracted from the Sahtu lands, in light of this, can the Minister give me a commitment to say that yes, we will start working on a capital plan infrastructure so at the end of this Assembly we should be looking at the training needs assessment, the requirements, the program, and we can start putting something together that would say we can have a Sahtu trade centre in the year 2018 or '19, something like that? Can the Minister provide me with that type of commitment?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is the very reason why we need to reach out to the community representatives, so they can provide us feedback on what is required at the regional level. Part of the discussion involved the local leadership as well. The chiefs made remarks on Trades on Wheels, mobile trades training similar to Beaufort-Delta. How can we integrate that into our discussion for the Sahtu region? So we are talking about partnerships. That's what it comes down to.

There have been various partnerships driven by the community of Inuvik and also surrounding communities in the Beaufort-Delta. So we're going to be having similar discussions with the Sahtu region and other regions, as well, about the high-profile training demands that will be happening.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The Sahtu has been committed to spend over \$635 million, close to \$700 million. This year there's more lands coming up, and we decided on September 17<sup>th</sup> there will possibly be more money spent in there. So this is telling us that this government needs to look at a trades centre. We need to get these learning centres into more than upgrading. We have to have cooking, welding, carpentry.

Can the Minister give a commitment to say we are in competition with maybe the Yellowknife Campus here for schooling? We have to look outside the box. I want to ask the Minister, can he provide an overview as to what it will take to get this into the capital planning process for a Sahtu trades centre. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I would see this as an opportunity as opposed to a competition with the college. The college is on board and they want to do as much as they can, even beyond what they currently deliver at the college campuses, whether it be Inuvik, Yellowknife or Fort Smith and now the Sahtu region. At the same time, I would encourage the Member to voice, as well, with the industry.

We understand that there is upwards of \$700 million going into the region and how industries can take part in that, whether it is the centre or training programming. It will be based on industry standards as well. They have done that with the diamond industry. It's been very successful. If we can get them on board, I would encourage the Member and

we will do the same with our department as political leaders around the table, to push that forward with the leaders and also the industry leaders as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How is his department working with the oil companies to identify and meet the training needs for local workers? I have been voicing with the oil companies. Unfortunately, I am not in the position to make that kind of final decision to say yes, we will commit. The Minister can do that. He's in that position. So I want to ask the Minister for his direction and leadership. How can you tell me you're working with the oil companies and they can commit to a Sahtu needs training centre?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. That's the very thing we're doing right now with the committee representatives. I do believe there are industry representatives. I can double-check on that. Those are discussions we are currently having with the leadership in the Sahtu region. I'll provide the Member with the latest update on our discussions and we'll continue to drive that with industry because they need to be on board. The whole economic boom that is happening, they need to be part of that as we are. So we'll continue to push that forward. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 256-17(4):  
INUVIK GAS SITUATION

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement earlier today about the situation that we're dealing with in Inuvik, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, or the Minister of Finance. He made a statement in his budget address for the '13-14 fiscal year, and he had mentioned that there was \$100,000 that was allocated to advance the liquid natural gas solution for the community of Inuvik with the situation that they find themselves in right now. I'd like to get an update on how that \$100,000 has been spent and where we are in terms of where we are in finding a solution to that. Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are on track to have liquid natural gas in the community of Inuvik by this fall, running the electrical requirements through the Power Corporation, and all the pieces are in place for various contracts. There's some construction work to do. LNG contracts have been signed. So we're on track to provide that through NCPC. As well,

we're working with the town to see if there's an opportunity to piggyback in terms of supply, should the community itself want to look at changing from synthetic natural gas to liquid natural gas. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** I think that's great news for the residents of Inuvik that in the fall time we should have something up and ready.

In terms of storage, I think we had about 20-some days where the road was closed during the wintertime. I'd like to ask the Minister, with this liquid natural gas in terms of storage, what is the plan on putting to storage and how many days can we see this LNG be stored for should we have a road closure? How many days will we have a supply of liquid natural gas to the community of Inuvik? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The requirement for storage is going to be minimized partially by the extension of ferry service in Inuvik, which is going to keep the ferries open much longer than what has normally been the practice up until now, because of the improved equipment that's going to be used there. We also have full redundancy with diesel. So, once again, the requirements for expensive storage of liquid natural gas are somewhat mitigated by those two factors. We're looking at storage of up to a month, if necessary. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** A lot of really good answers there and very positive. The situation, as I mentioned, January, February, March were almost disastrous to some of the families that have to deal with the high costs that they experienced. I guess my next question is the timeline. The Minister did mention the fall time, but for any residents, we want to put them at ease. Is there an exact date? Are we looking at August, September, October that we'll have this type of system in place before it gets cold and we start experiencing the cold of the winter months? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Power Corporation intends to be on-line with liquid natural gas by October, providing everything rolls out smoothly and it looks like all the pieces and planning are proceeding at a pace to hit that date. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 257-17(4):  
MOTIVE FUEL PRICING REGULATION

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 28<sup>th</sup> this House passed a motion regarding fuel price regulation, to investigate and evaluate the possibilities of gas price regulation here in the Northwest Territories.

My question to the Premier of our Assembly here is: What has this government done to date in preparing for the 120-day response over gas price regulation for the people of the Northwest Territories?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very sensitive area. We are working to find solutions, and we're trying to find out why a carbon tax is embedded in the high prices for gasoline.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I'm not sure what carbon tax has to do with anything on this. My question for the Premier, once again, is: What work has been done to date preparing for the official response to the House on gas price regulation, which the request was to investigate and evaluate that possibility?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As usual, we're doing our due diligence. We're going out to look at best practices. We're going out to all of the provinces to see how successful or how well they're doing with regulating the prices. I think that we always feel that, let the private sector do it; the private sector can do a better job. We don't want to get in a situation where we regulate industry and then government is going to have to operate all of the service stations. We're checking to see how well other provinces are doing or if there is something there that we can emulate.

**MR. HAWKINS:** When I hear the Premier how he feels about this issue, I mean, to be quite frank, I don't care how he personally feels. But it sounds as if the decision has already been made on that biasness, and there are five provinces who already regulate as very good and simple models.

What type of public input has the Premier gone to beyond his personal feelings, or the government's feelings, of price regulation? What type of public input on what the people would like on this issue? That's ultimately the question here is: Is price regulation needed in the Northwest Territories, and is it wanted by citizens?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We haven't gone out with a survey or... I would imagine that everybody wants lower prices, so I think it's a given that the people of the Northwest Territories want lower prices. The MLA from Tsiigehtchic indicated they're paying \$1.99 for gas, so obviously, that's something. We want to find a way to reduce the cost of living in all of the communities in the Territories.

When you look at some of the prices that are regulated – I think PEI is one of the places – and the last time I checked, it was something in the neighbourhood of \$1.31 a litre for gasoline, and that's a regulated price in Prince Edward Island. We are looking at different approaches, and as part of our business planning, we will see what we can

propose to try to find a way to reduce gasoline prices.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think even our own economic opportunities group that was doing a study on creating a robust environment for business cited concerns about the difficulty in prices around fuel in every region.

Would the Premier provide an opportunity for the public to provide some public input on their feelings on this particular issue? Will he reach out to the public as they build a government position? As the Premier knows, I have an on-line petition. Will the Premier be willing to help promote that to ensure we get public input on this issue that's so important?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I thought the Member didn't care how I felt. Definitely, we will find a way to get public input.

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

#### QUESTION 258-17(4): MACKENZIE DELTA FUEL PRICES

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned briefly in my Member's statement that residents of Tsiigehtchic are now paying \$1.92 per litre for gasoline and also \$1.87 for diesel and \$1.73 for heating oil. I thought our fuel prices are supposed to be subsidized. How is the department subsidizing the fuel prices for Tsiigehtchic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The Department of Public Works, through the petroleum products division, does not subsidize fuel. In fact, through the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund Act, we are required to recover full operating costs from the retail sale of our fuel products. So there is no subsidy, but there is also no profit added on.

When fuel prices are calculated and determined, it is based on the actual product cost to the GNWT, transportation costs to the GNWT, a slight sales commission that goes to the local provider, O and M expenses, some evaporation loss, and taxes. But under the act we have an obligation to do a full cost recovery, no profit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, there has to be some profit there. The community of Fort McPherson, which is 57 kilometres away, is paying \$1.65. There is a big difference there. How is that price difference of 57 kilometres roughly 30 cents more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I am not currently familiar with the actual price of fuel in the community of Fort McPherson. There are a couple of things to consider. Often, when people come to us and express concerns about the fuel prices, they are referring to the price of regular fuel. We do not purchase regular fuel in PPD. We purchase mid-grain, which is usually three to four cents higher than the regular.

With respect to the prices in Fort McPherson, they are a for-profit organization. We don't know any of the criteria they use to price their fuel, but ours are based on actual purchase price for the GNWT, the actual transportation costs, sales commission which goes straight to the provider in the community, as well as some evaporation loss and taxes. We don't have any profit margin on the fuel that we are providing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to return to item 3 on the orders of the day.

---Unanimous consent granted

### Members' Statements (Reversion)

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FEDERAL LAND LEASES ON WALSH AND BANTING LAKES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, colleagues. I appreciate the opportunity to give my Member's statement here today. For the past four years, I pushed for sound recreational land use planning in the Yellowknife block of land transfer area surrounding Walsh and Banting lakes and beyond. We had a premature draft plan released by MACA and a promise for a completed policy framework by this March 31<sup>st</sup>, but thanks to recent and outrageous action by our federal land management partners, we can forget about that document or any worthwhile plan for now.

Walsh and Banting lease holders are steaming over AANDC's recent granting of both hunting and fishing leases on the lakes. According to reports, building materials have piled up on the new lease site with a busy construction season in store on leases that are temporary leases for five years of casual occupation.

The MACA Minister has described a close and consultative relationship with the feds over land permitting. At my urging, he wrote to the federal Minister in 2012 to stress the need for information sharing, co-operative action, and enforcement to discourage squatting. Despite glowing descriptions of consultations to keep both sides in the loop, our government was apparently blindsided by

constituent report of the new leases, 85 new leases across the NWT with many more applications in this area, a federal track record of zero enforcement on squatting and compliance with lease conditions. What is the point of our new plan when the feds throw in a highly suspect game-changing lease rampage?

Along with the residents of Walsh and Banting, I'm fed up, Mr. Speaker. Coming up to devolution, this government is afraid to breathe on land issues such as Protected Areas Strategy. On the federal side, there is disregard and apparently even contempt for our efforts at responsible land management. The Minister says the feds knew we had a new recreational lease management plan in the wings, yet they toss off new leases in the exact area where we're trying to manage responsibly.

Just as our plan was to be finalized, the Minister now acknowledges we need yet a new density study. With the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, this continuing alienation of land rights in the absence of a claims settlement is insulting, arrogant, and crippling to the prospects of a just settlement. Enough is enough.

I ask the MACA Minister: How could the feds have so contemptuously disregarded our announced actions and saddled us with these unplanned tenures in the months leading up to land management transfer?

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BROMLEY:** With my colleagues' co-operation again for returning to the next item on the orders, I will be asking the Minister's assurance that he will make clear that come devolution day, every hunting and fishing leaseholder will be rigorously held to conditions for no creation of permanent structures. Mahsi.

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

### Oral Questions (Reversion)

#### QUESTION 259-17(4): POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT IN DEH CHO COMMUNITIES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made the comment regarding the employment rates in Fort Providence. My question is to the Minister of ITI.

In the Deh Cho riding – of course we are located in the southwestern part of the NWT – we pride ourselves on being located to the gateway to the North, gateway to Denendeh. The big thing that we come across when we drive the highway, of course,

is the iconic Deh Cho Bridge. This government has invested millions of dollars, and we need to ensure that we begin at some moment in time to enjoy the benefits of the investments that we've made and at least enjoy the major infrastructure costs of the bridge.

So my question to the Minister of ITI is: What are some of the plans that the department is working on to try to capitalize on the Deh Cho Bridge as a major tourist attraction? Mahsi.

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had started out working with the community on plans for a community celebration for the Deh Cho Bridge. We hope to be involved in that ceremony this summer. We had talked to NWT Tourism about promoting the bridge in their literature, and we want to continue to work with the community of Fort Providence in advancing tourism initiatives in the area.

We believe that there is a lot of potential there with the bridge, and I've mentioned previously as a Regular Member and as Minister, it would be a good idea for us to work toward some type of bison interpretative centre close to the community of Fort Providence to take advantage of the new traffic that's going to be coming across the Deh Cho Bridge. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** Following up on that, there are three other communities, including Enterprise, Hay River Reserve, Kakisa, and my riding. I want to get an indication from the Minister, what are some other ways the department is working to ensure we develop a capacity for promoting tourism? Also at the same time, there are some opportunities that some entrepreneurs are beginning to raise interest in, and I wanted to know how the department is planning to support capacity. Mahsi.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** We are working very hard on an Economic Opportunities Strategy. We have been working toward that. We have to establish an action plan by this fall. I hear the Member. We have to tackle the high unemployment rates in some of our smaller communities. The communities in the Member's riding are of particular concern.

We have lots of opportunity here if you look at forestry, tourism, agriculture, and we've also got, as the Member mentioned, Canadian Zinc mine. We've got the recent significant discovery by Lone Pine near Fort Liard.

So there are opportunities there, and we have to work in partnership with the communities in the Deh Cho region to advance those types of opportunities. We also have to work with Education, Culture and Employment on training opportunities for residents

there to take advantage of the jobs that are coming. There are going to be opportunities.

When we were out at Prairie Creek Mine last summer with the Premier and a couple of other Ministers, we saw firsthand some of the young people from the communities in the riding working at Prairie Creek getting that type of training, and it was really nice to see. We need to see much more of that around the Territories to address the high unemployment rates in our small communities. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** I wanted to ask a question in terms of partnership and working with communities. I think it's essential to ensure that lays the basis of the relationship, especially with communities that are basically categorized as have-nots. One of the recent initiatives that have come about is the initiative to establish a wood pellet plant in my riding. What kind of support capacity is the department undertaking to ensure that it does come to a successful reality and is one day operational? Mahsi.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** We certainly look forward to the day where we can have a biomass facility in the Member's riding. We are supportive of that happening. We've worked with the proponent there for, I believe, close to two years. We're hopeful that at some point in time we will see that plant go ahead so that we can harvest some biomass in the Member's region and other regions around the Northwest Territories and produce biomass here in the NWT. So we continue to work toward that.

At the end of the day, investment decisions will have to be made by the proponent. There are a number of agreements that the proponent would have to come up with with the various community groups. It is all about partnerships and building solid relationships. I think they've worked hard at doing that, and we've worked alongside them on trying to see this proposal come to fruition. Thank you.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is encouraging to hear from the Minister that one of the steps that he begins to perhaps contemplate is an immediate step of an action plan to ensure that the Economic Development Strategy moves forward. I want to see if there could be assurances from the Minister that he'll commit to ensure that some initiatives that are badly needed in the have-not communities, like the communities that I represent in the riding, will happen.

Would the Minister commit to ensure that the partnership will continue, especially with the wood pellet industry initiative that's ongoing? Mahsi.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** I give the Member and other Members the assurance that the Economic

Opportunities Strategy is built on solid relationships and establishing those relationships and ensuring that the Northwest Territories economy is going to be one that is diversified.

We will have big projects and opportunities like we do in the Sahtu and perhaps on the offshore, but we can't lose sight of the smaller things, the things that are more important, and that is small business, tourism, agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Those I think will be key as we move the Economic Opportunities Strategy forward because those smaller things have much more opportunity to get people employed in the smaller communities.

At ITI we continue to support the traditional economy. We think there's a future in trapping. We support programs like Take a Kid Trapping and the Harvesters Assistance Program, and we continue to do that. Fur continues to fetch high prices at market, and that's money and jobs that get right back into the smaller communities here in the NWT. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 260-17(4):  
FEDERAL LAND LEASES ON  
WALSH AND BANTING LAKES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement with some questions on the Recreational Leasing Policy. First of all I want to clarify who knew what on the issue of the many so-called hunting and fishing leases granted by AANDC, particularly those on Walsh and Banting lakes.

Can the Minister confirm whether his department was informed by our federal land management partner of its intention to grant new leases in the exact areas and lakes where we are trying to introduce comprehensive land use management? And really, for that matter, can the Minister confirm whether any public process providing equal opportunity to applicants was carried out, or if these leases were a total surprise to everyone except the chosen few? In other words, what do we know about both the internal government-to-government business and the external reaching out to the public process?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were unaware that they were going to be putting these leases out. Of course, we were quite concerned with all the work that we were doing, as far as the density study goes, around those areas. As far as the public process, I mean, I can't speak to how AANDC does their business, but I think we would have all known in this building

today if there was a public process as to the leasing of their lots. I can't speak to what they were doing. I can only speak to what we knew and what we didn't know.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Obviously, that's not good. A government-to-government relationship you'd expect a lot better than that, and I think we also have a responsibility to try and be aware of what our residents are being exposed to or not.

As the Minister's December 2012 letter to AANDC Minister John Duncan said, with the signing of the Devolution AIP, it's more important now than ever before that our two organizations work together, and I appreciate the Minister saying that.

The Minister's letter briefed the federal Minister on the work underway to develop the recreational leasing policy framework. But what is the explanation from the federal government on why these leases were granted in the very area we are trying to bring order to?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** In a letter received back from Minister Duncan at the time, he reinforced our need to work together. That's why we were quite surprised at the number of leases that were letting out. I followed that up with a letter to the new minister, Minister Valcourt, explaining to him our disappointment and the fact that all these leases were let while we were doing all this work and how we thought that might undermine the work that we're doing.

I have not received a response back from Minister Valcourt. The letter just went out recently. We have asked the Minister to cease any applications that are being taken for federal land until we can do our work. I am waiting for a response. Once I get that, I will share it with Members of the House.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks to the Minister for that response. The information that I received from our Minister indicates that AANDC has a heap of applications on file, so the potential is large for a lot more of these to be happening in the area that we're trying to manage responsibly.

I appreciate hearing that the Minister has been in touch with the federal government on this and let him know that we'd like no further leases. I understand there is no response yet, but does the Minister agree that the next recreational leases granted on lands should, in fact, be decided by this government and not the federal government, given the pending devolution situation?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We were doing all the work because we knew that devolution was coming and we would have to have responsibility for all Crown land that is transferred over to Commissioner's land. We had updated our regulations. We had done a lot of good density study work, and our regulations would have applied to any new leases that may be coming.

I do tend to agree with the Member that with devolution coming we would have assumed that they would have put any new leases on hold until after devolution, and then those applications could then come to the Commissioner and be regulated under our Commissioner's Land Act. Again, we've expressed our disappointment with the fact that they let all these leases, and are eagerly waiting for the response to see if they will discontinue any lease applications.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for that response. My constituents include the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and many of the Akaitcho people. Every new land alienation in the Chief Drygeese territory makes it more complex and difficult to finally conclude a just land settlement for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. The federal government seems to interpret their fiduciary role here in a very strange way. I am surprised YKDFN hasn't thrown up their hands and told the federal government they will see them in court.

If YKDFN does decide to go to legal action to halt this erosion of their land base, will this government voice its support for their assertion of rights? Mahsi.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** It's up to the YKDFN to use whatever avenues that are available to them. If that includes court action, then that would be a decision they would have to make.

We as a government and as a department will use the avenues that are available to us. We have tried to work very close with the YKDFN in identifying some of their traditional areas out there too. They have been very receptive to working with us. They were just made aware recently, I think, of the federal leases that were being let on Crown land in their territory.

It was a difficult question for me to answer. I'm not going to try. They use whatever avenues are available to them. We use the avenues that are available to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 261-17(4):  
ROLE OF YELLOWKNIVES DENE IN  
FEDERAL LAND LEASES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mr. Bromley for raising this issue. I certainly wanted to give a first shot at it. I think he did it very well. This problem out there on the Ingraham Trail is not just a problem here in Yellowknife, it is certainly a problem in other regions. The bigger issue here is that it is affecting this region quite hard. One of the issues raised here today was

about the relationship with the YK Dene and certainly that this new issue has fallen on their lap.

I want to know what the MACA Minister is doing to help maybe build a relationship with the YK Dene on this particular issue. Like the old saying goes, there is strength in numbers. That may draw better attention to this issue to Minister Valcourt, if we are working with the YK Dene who may eventually be the final stewards of this land and the GNWT may be temporary stewards of this land until their land claim is done. It would be a great benefit if we work as a relationship, fight together, strength in numbers. Will the Minister reach out and lead this initiative? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has reached out to take the lead in this. We, as I mentioned to Member Bromley, have had good discussions with the YKDFN. We met with them out in Detah. The Member makes a good point that there is strength in numbers, if we can all relay our concerns to the federal government as to the number of leases that were let out there. The majority of them, there are 122 and I think 35 of them are here in the capital. There are a few out in the other areas of the Northwest Territories, but the issue is not as problematic there as it is here because there is a lot of private land up there that people that want cabin leases go through. We have reached out to the YKDFN and we are looking forward to working with them as we move this forward. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, if I heard the Minister correctly, and from what I have heard on the ground, through the land advisory relationship process, the YK Dene were caught by surprise. Even the GNWT was caught by surprise. If it wasn't for some of the screaming, well-tuned-in public, most of us probably would have been caught by surprise even worse than what has been happening now.

From the Minister's perspective through process only, obviously, were there any gaps here? Why wasn't there proper feedback from the feds on a relationship of the land advisory process? I believe the GNWT is party to this. I believe the YK Dene are somewhat party to this. Did the feds make a mistake? Did the process fall off the wheels? What can we do to get it back on track so these things, if we have disputes, we can get them on the record and slow them down where necessary? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We had attempted to form a working group, and the YKDFN were going to join us on the working group. We extended an invitation for AANDC to be part of this working group as we were doing our density study.



Again, we were quite surprised when we started getting calls on the activity that was going out on Crown land. So we will continue to try and work with AANDC and the YKDFN, because this is an issue that I think we need to resolve quickly before devolution takes place because we are going to be inheriting all the leases on Crown land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** If I understand the process correctly, the feds, in allowing these leases, at present it's outside of our control and they are following the process until they wish to. They are steamrolling until theoretically April 1<sup>st</sup> when we take this over.

I am wondering if the MACA Minister sees this as a potential problem for enforcement. I've even heard rumours that people are building two-storey cabins or whatever the case may be. Who knows what they are building out there? So I guess there's going to be an enforcement type of issue that is going to fall on the shoulders of the NWT government, as well as their long-term devolution partners, the Akaitcho region or the Yellowknives, in particular.

So, what is the MACA Minister going to propose to help strategize to get ahead of this problem that I can already foresee as going to be a major problem? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I'm not quite sure what the conditions of the federal leases are. I believe it's a 100-square metre building. It could be one or two storeys.

To the Member's question, we are trying to update our regulations. We are going to have good regulations in place, good density studies in place. More importantly, we are going to have good enforcement in place.

I have directed the department, through the proper business planning process, to come forward with a request to possibly bring on more enforcement people, knowing that as of April 1<sup>st</sup> we are going to be inheriting the enforcement of all Commissioner's land. These leases, the hunting and fishing leases, are good for five years. So at the end of five years, my understanding is those leases will then become Commissioner's land leases, so they will have to abide by our regulations and we'll have all the proper enforcement in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Hawkins, that was your final, short supplementary. I just forgot to tell you.

---Laughter

I checked with the Clerk. Thank you very much.

---Laughter

So sorry. Order! Item 8, written questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

## Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 26-17(4):

SAHTU REGIONAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, my written questions are directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. Would the Minister provide the Sahtu Regional Training Partnership five-year plan and the milestones that have been accomplished to date?
2. Would the Minister provide details on how the senior officials from the departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Environment and Natural Resources, Transportation, and Education, Culture and Employment plan to work together to meet the people's training needs in the Sahtu region?
3. Would the Minister provide the final copy of the skilled workforce needs assessment in the Sahtu region?
4. Would the Minister provide a plan to show how the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment are working together to effectively meet the training needs of Sahtu residents and industry? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

## Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 15-17(4):

HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Ms. Bisaro on February 25, 2013 to the Honourable Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services regarding Housing Audits for Adults with Disabilities.

The numbers listed below provide the number of residents currently on a waitlist for supported or independent living, according to the most recent data from the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority and the Territorial Admissions Committee. Please note that the numbers could not be broken down further, to protect the privacy of the clients.

The number of clients currently on a waitlist for a supported living placement is as follows:

- total of 19 clients on waitlist from the following communities:
  1. Yellowknife
  2. Behchoko
  3. Fort Simpson

4. Fort Resolution
5. Nahanni Butte
6. Fort Providence
7. Fort Good Hope
8. Lutselk'e

- total of six clients on waitlist from Inuvik region
- total of six clients on waitlist from Hay River region.

The number of clients currently on a waitlist for an independent living placement is as follows:

- total of eight clients on waitlist from the following communities:
  1. Yellowknife
  2. Behchoko
  3. Fort Simpson
  4. Fort Resolution
  5. Nahanni Butte
  6. Fort Providence
  7. Fort Good Hope
  8. Lutselk'e
- total of three clients on waitlist from Inuvik region
- no clients on waitlist from Hay River region.

Independent living is defined as:

- seniors or persons with disabilities living in public housing or their own homes and that do not require supports.

In contrast, supported living is defined as:

- seniors or persons with disabilities living in public housing, their own home, or seniors residences and that require some supports from home care.

Home care is provided to individuals in their homes who need assistance with daily activities including individuals requiring supported living. Assisted activities may include, but are not limited to:

- foot care
- personal care
- mobilizing
- management of medications, and/or
- monitoring of chronic diseases.

Unlike independent living, supported living provides 24 hour support and supervision for vulnerable individuals who generally do not have medical needs or require nursing care.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 16-17(4):  
LOCATION OF HIGHWAY 4 REALIGNMENT  
OVER UNDERGROUND  
ARSENIC STORAGE CHAMBER

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Bromley on February 26, 2013, regarding the location of Highway 4 realignment over underground arsenic storage chamber.

In his first question, Mr. Bromley asked what the purpose of the highway realignment was and what issues or concerns the highway is being realigned to address.

The section of Highway No. 4 that has been scheduled for realignment has needed to be changed for safety reasons that predate and are separate to the closure of Giant Mine. Between kilometre 2 and kilometre 5.2, the highway is being aligned for safety reasons to address issues of sharp curves with limited visibility, steep roadway slopes, and narrow shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians.

The highway near kilometre 4 is being realigned to accommodate the surface infrastructure for freezing the underground arsenic storage vaults related to Giant Mine. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) continue to coordinate activities to ensure that any realignment has minimal impact on the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP).

In his second question, Mr. Bromley asked how the road alignment route was chosen so as not to interfere with the remediation project and to avoid damage to underlying arsenic storage chambers.

The GNWT Department of Transportation and the GMRP team have worked close to ensure that any realignment options would not impact on the remediation activities and, if possible, would complement the remediation goals. Given the surface and underground workings of the mine site, however, it is almost impossible to avoid all constraint areas. Constraint areas include open pit areas, tailing ponds, mine shafts and adits, proposed underground arsenic storage vaults, areas for surface freezing infrastructure, and proximity or depth of crown pillars for underground stopes and travel ways. The GNWT has undertaken assessments of the risks and has provided AANDC with the results of the assessments. Using this information, AANDC approved the establishment of the highway corridor in its present location.

In his final question, Mr. Bromley asked how the safety of routing the highway over the underground arsenic chamber labeled Reach 6 is assured.

GNWT and AANDC have worked on identifying potential constraint areas during the highway realignment process for the past three years, and the realignment was selected based on the most suitable alignment that would avoid as many of the constraint areas as possible, which included the rock and geotechnical assessment of the crown pillar over the UBC stope. AANDC has approved the highway corridor through the Giant Mine lease as proposed and under construction. The GNWT is not aware of any further constraint areas or areas where the alignment crosses over top existing or potential arsenic storage vaults that have any

potential safety issues. It should be noted that the existing highway currently crosses over arsenic storage vaults.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 17-17(4):  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT  
CORPORATION ACTIVITIES

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Ms. Bisaro on February 26, 2013, regarding Business Development Investment Corporation activities.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a document entitled "Business Development and Investment Corporation Activities."

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 18-17(4):  
GNWT DEPARTMENTAL  
TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Bromley on February 27, 2013, regarding GNWT departmental travel expenditures.

I would like to provide the following information:

1. What factors are taken into account in managerial review for approval of travel requests to ensure managers determine with certainty that travel is required and that businesses cannot be carried out by alternative means before travel is approved?

In approving duty travel, a manager requires written justification for the need for the duty travel. In deciding upon whether or not to approve, the manager will consider the reason for travel; the cost of the travel; the benefit in undertaking the travel; and an assessment of whether the travel is necessary, in the GNWT interest, and if the business need cannot be addressed by alternative means. Once this has been assessed, a manager decides on whether to approve or reject the travel.

In the case of international travel, justification has to be provided to the responsible Minister for their consideration. For other travel outside of the NWT, the responsible department head is provided with justification for the travel.

In addition to the managerial review, employees consider the need to travel; consider the reason for travel; the cost of the travel; the benefit in undertaking the travel; and an assessment of whether the travel is necessary, in the GNWT interest, and the business need cannot be addressed by alternative means.

2. On the basis of a thorough analysis, including a review of controls used in other jurisdictions, what policy and procedural improvements could be introduced to ensure that travel is approved only after verification that other communication means have been considered and determined to be impractical?

We examined travel policies and procedures in 10 of 13 provinces and territories and the federal government. There was no indication that any jurisdiction implemented any extraordinary internal procedural controls to verify that other communications means have been considered and determined to be impractical.

Only two jurisdictions make specific references to alternatives to travel. The federal government and the Government of British Columbia provide some policy direction.

From the federal government:

"Departments have effective oversight mechanisms and controls in place to ensure that travel, hospitality, conferences and associated expenditures are managed in an effective, efficient and economic manner.

Travel, hospitality and conference expenditures incurred are necessary to achieve departmental mandates and priorities.

The most economic and efficient alternatives for travel, hospitality, conferences and associated expenditures have been considered."

From the Government of British Columbia:

10.3.2 Travel Approval

The means of travel chosen need to be operationally feasible, cost-effective and consider travel methods that will mitigate the production of greenhouse gas emissions.

The relevant GNWT policy is FAM 2001:

4.2 Authorization for Duty Travel and Related Expenses

4.2.1 A duty traveller shall use the most direct, practical, and cost-effective mode of travel. A duty traveller who uses extra travel time during normal working hours shall record it as vacation leave or leave without pay (not sick leave) unless the extra time is practical or cost effective for the government.

4.3 Responsibilities of Duty Travel Approving Officers and Duty Travellers

4.3.1 Unless permitted otherwise in this policy, the approving officer shall do the following before duty travel begins:

- a. Determine that duty travel is necessary and, in writing on the specified form, authorize the travel plan and the mode and class of transportation.

It is implicit in 4.3.1 (a) that alternatives to duty travel have been considered and deemed impractical. That particular section could be made more explicit in terms of specific factor that have to be taken into account.

3. On the basis of a random sample of several hundred travel claims from across departments:

- a) What is the proportion of full fare versus excursion fare tickets?

It is not possible to answer this question based upon the ticketing regime that currently exists. Airline seat costs are now very fluid, and fares change almost daily. They also vary depending upon how far in advance the ticket is bookended. Therefore, there is no longer the ability to compare ticket costs against a published fare.

In addition, fares may vary depending upon the particular flights that are booked. The lowest cost on a particular day and route may not be the best choice as it is at a time that impairs the traveller's ability to perform their work or may result in the need to overnight, incurring additional travel costs and loss of time.

In addition, the "fare class" information is not provided on invoices/receipts provided by travel agents or airlines. Therefore, it is not possible to review travel claims and determine what fare class was purchased.

- b) What is the frequency of ticket changes incurring additional costs?

We examined 144 travel claims and noted 10 where a change fee had incurred. This represents a rate of 6.9 percent. The additional cost attributed to the change was the change fee itself, and there was no additional cost of the airline ticket. In all but one case, the change fee was \$50. The one exception was a \$100 fee which was attributed to the original travel arrangements which required the change of two tickets.

The reasons for the change were for the following general reasons:

- postponement of travel
- meetings ended sooner than anticipated
- meetings extended

Public Works and Services had the largest incidence of ticket changes; however, these are attributed to the activities related to project inspections which can be delayed if contractors' work is not ready for inspection.

We did perform a high level analysis of travel by GNWT employees for the 2012-13 fiscal year. During the year, there were 1,522 individual employees that undertook 8,907 trips.

A significant number of trips which occurred in the NWT were undertaken by road and therefore attracted no airfare costs. Similarly, for the most part, air charter costs are not included. These figures do not present travel related to recruitment or employee medical travel benefits.

Later today I will table a report "Government of the Northwest Territories Departmental Travel Expenditures."

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 20-17(4):  
NWT MENTAL HEALTH ACT TREATMENT DATA

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Alfred Moses on March 4, 2013, regarding Northwest Territories Mental Health Act treatment data.

The number of times that ministerial approval was provided for an extension of time for involuntary patient period of detention applications is as follows:

- 2011-12: 34
- 2012-13: 30

Under Section 18 of the Mental Health Act, the number of certifications of involuntary admission that have been completed in Northwest Territories hospitals and health centres is as follows:

- 2011-2012: 87
- 2012-2013: 99

Under Section 18.1(1) of the Mental Health Act, the number of patients that had to be transferred outside of the NWT is as follows:

- 2011-2012: 4
- 2012-2013: 5

These numbers only reflect involuntary patients. In order to determine the total number of patients that went outside of the NWT, individual patient files would have to be reviewed.

At this time, the Department of Health and Social Services is unable to identify the number of times that substitute consent has been given on behalf of a voluntary or involuntary patient under Sections 19.2(1) (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of the Mental Health Act. Furthermore, the department can only provide information for 2011-12 and 2012-13. Form collections from previous years would have to be extrapolated manually from all the health and social services authorities, which would take approximately six months to collect.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 21-17(4):  
RE-PROFILED FUNDING FOR  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVES 2012-2013

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Ms. Bisaro on March 4, 2013, regarding re-profiled funding for early childhood development initiatives 2012-2013.

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) funding includes the \$1 million funding re-profiled from the inclusive schooling budget as well as \$250,000 re-profiled from the closure of the Western Arctic Leadership Program.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table "Re-Profiled Funding for Early Childhood Development Actual Expenditures 2012-2013." This document lists the initiatives completed in 2012-2013, including engagements such as the elders sharing circle and the ECD roundtable, which informed the renewal of the Early Childhood Development Framework, the two pilot child and family resources centres, phase one of the ECD public awareness campaign, and the implementation of the reviewed NWT Child Day Care Standards Regulations.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 22-17(4):  
NWT MENTAL HEALTH ACT TREATMENT DATA  
– PART TWO

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Alfred Moses on March 5, 2013, regarding Northwest Territories Mental Health Act treatment data.

At this time the Department of Health and Social Services can only provide information for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. Form collections from previous years would have to be extrapolated manually from all the health and social services authorities, which would take approximately six months to collect.

Data for voluntary patients that apply for hospital admittance in the Northwest Territories, in accordance with Section 6.(1) and (b) of the Mental Health Act, is not collected in the emergency departments. However, patients in need will not be denied admittance to a hospital due to lack of space.

In accordance with Section 8.(1) of the Mental Health Act, the number of cases in which a medical practitioner had to make an order for the detention of a patient for a psychiatric assessment is as follows:

- 2011-2012: 128
- 2012-2013: 188

In accordance with Section 8.(3) of the Mental Health Act, the number of reports received by the Minister's mental health delegates and the department is as follows:

- 2011-2012: 128
- 2012-2013: 188

In accordance with Section 15.(1) of the Mental Health Act, the number of times a medical practitioner applied to admit an involuntary patient is as follows:

- 2011-2012: 87
- 2012-2013: 99

Under Section 16.(1) and (2) of the Mental Health Act, all applications examined by the mental health delegates were approved. The number of applications examined is as follows:

- 2011-2012: 87
- 2012-2013: 99

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 23-17(4):  
INCARCERATION RATES FOR NWT  
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Moses on March 7, 2013, regarding incarceration rates for NWT correctional facilities.

The Member asked about incarceration rates of inmates who were sentenced with alcohol and/or drug-related crimes in the NWT from the 2011-12 fiscal year to present. From April 1, 2011, to February 28, 2013, there were 889 sentenced offenders admitted to custody. Two hundred of those offenders had committed offences related to alcohol or drugs. Of the 200, 130 inmates had alcohol-related offences while 70 had drug-related offences. Offences referred to as alcohol and drug related are impaired driving, liquor offences, and drug offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. We do not always know if alcohol or drug use was a factor in an offence, likely resulting in the underreporting of this information.

The Member also asked for statistics about incarceration rates of inmates for the 2012-13 fiscal year to present on a month-to-month basis for all NWT correctional facilities. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table historical data on the monthly average and peak counts for the 2011-12 fiscal year and the number of inmates who have participated in an alcohol and/or drug-related prevention program from the 2011-12 fiscal year to present.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 24-17(4):  
INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS  
AND PAYMENTS

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Moses on March 12, 2013, regarding Income Support Program applications and payments.

1. Number of approved income assistance applications for each community during fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table "Income Assistance Distinct Cases and Expenditures," which lists the number of approved applicants, also known as distinct cases, who received income assistance, by community, in fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13.

2. Number of income assistance applications that were declined for each community during fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Currently the department tracks only those applications approved for assistance. The number of declined applications is not available.

3. Total amount of Income Assistance Payments per community for fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13.

The document "Income Assistance Distinct Cases and Expenditures" referred to earlier also provides income assistance expenditures by community for fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13.

4. Number of appeals by community for fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table "Income Assistance Appeals," which provides the number of income assistance appeals held in the NWT, by community, in fiscal years 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 25-17(4):  
SINGLE PARENTS RECEIVING INCOME  
SUPPORT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on March 14, 2013, regarding single parents receiving income support.

1. Provide the total number of single parents receiving assistance under the Income Support Program.

The total number of single parent family distinct cases who received income assistance in fiscal year 2012-2013 is 726.

2. Provide the various ranges that single parent clients receive under the Income Support Program.

One of the main principles of all income security programs is to target benefits to those most in need. By assessing overall need and providing adequate benefits, the Income Assistance Program encourages single parents to become self-reliant, participate fully in society and, in turn, improve their quality of life.

Currently the Income Assistance Program provides set amounts for basic and enhanced benefits based on an individual's overall needs, household income, family size and community of residence. The full range of amounts is included in the Income Assistance Policy Manual, which is available on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment website.

3. Provide details on the support single parents are eligible for under the Income Support Program.

The Income Assistance Program provides financial supports for food, shelter, utilities, and enhanced needs such as incidentals, clothing, child care, furniture and educational assistance.

In addition, income assistance can also assist with expenses related to education and training such as school supplies, textbooks, bus passes, special

clothing or musical instruments when required as part of the school curriculum.

4. Provide a breakdown by constituency of the number of single parents receiving assistance under the Income Support Program.

The department tracks income assistance single parent distinct cases by community. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table "Single Parent Families Receiving Income Assistance in 2012-2013," which provides the number of single parent distinct cases who received income assistance in 2012-2013 by community and associated constituency.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ramsay.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 62-17(4):  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT  
CORPORATION ACTIVITIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 63-17(4):  
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 8-17(4),  
SECONDARY DIAMOND INDUSTRY

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 17-17(4), I wish to table the following document, entitled "Business Development and Investment Corporation Activities."

I also wish to table the following document, entitled "Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 8-17(4), Secondary Diamond Industry." Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

TABLED DOCUMENT 64-17(4):  
GNWT DEPARTMENTAL  
TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 18-17(4), I wish to table the following document, entitled "Government of the Northwest Territories Departmental Travel Expenditures." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 65-17(4):  
RE-PROFILED FUNDING  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2012-13

TABLED DOCUMENT 66-17(4):  
INCOME ASSISTANCE DISTINCT CASES  
AND EXPENDITURES

TABLED DOCUMENT 67-17(4):  
INCOME ASSISTANCE APPEALS

TABLED DOCUMENT 68-17(4):  
SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES RECEIVING  
INCOME ASSISTANCE IN 2012-13

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 21-17(4), I wish to table the following document, entitled "Re-profiled Funding Early Childhood Development Actual Expenditures 2012-2013."

Further to my Return to Written Question 24-17(4), I wish to table the following two documents, entitled "Income Assistance Distinct Cases and Expenditures" and "Income Assistance Appeals."

Lastly, further to my Return to Written Question 25-17(4), I wish to table the following document, entitled "Single Parent Families Receiving Income Assistance, 2012-2013." Mahsi.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 69-17(4):  
CORRECTIONS STATISTICS 2011-2013

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to Return to Written Question 23-17(4), I wish to table the following document, entitled "Corrections Statistics 2011-2013." Thank you.

TABLED DOCUMENT 70-17(4):  
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION,  
FINAL REPORT, MAY 2013

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, I wish to table the document, "2012-2013 Final Report, Electoral Boundaries Commission. Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

TABLED DOCUMENT 71-17(4):  
RESPONSE TO PETITION 1-17(4),  
CREATION OF A TERRITORIAL ORGAN  
AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTER

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a response to a petition provided by the Honourable Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services, in response

to a petition tabled by Mr. Daryl Dolynny on March 11, 2013. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 13-17(4):  
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON  
OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Robert Bouchard, be appointed as a deputy chairperson of Committee of the Whole.

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

MOTION 14-17(4):  
PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE  
NUTRITION NORTH CANADA PROGRAM

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Legislative Assembly calls on the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the Nutrition North Canada Program, and to report his office's findings and recommendations to the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

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

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 11:  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND  
PUBLIC AGENCY STATUTES  
(BORROWING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 11, Financial Administration and Public Agency Statutes (Borrowing Provisions) Amendment Act, be read for the first time.

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

## BILL 12:

## AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time.

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

## BILL 13:

## AN ACT TO REPEAL THE CURFEW ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act, be read for the first time.

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

## BILL 14:

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE PAWNBROKERS  
AND SECOND-HAND DEALERS ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-Hand Dealers Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Minister of Justice, Minister Abernethy.

## BILL 15:

GUNSHOT AND STAB WOUND  
MANDATORY DISCLOSURE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act, be read for the first time.

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

## BILL 16:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, be read for the first time.

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

## BILL 17:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PROTECTION AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that

Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act, be read for the first time.

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

## BILL 18:

## APOLOGY ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 18, Apology Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Abernethy.

## BILL 19:

MISCELLANEOUS STATUTES LAW  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2013

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, I will move that Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statutes Law Amendment Act, 2013, be read for the first time.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the deputy chair of Committee of the Whole motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**Motions**

## MOTION 13-17(4):

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON  
OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,  
CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. WHEREAS there is a requirement of the naming of two Members to hold the positions of deputy chairpersons of Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Wendy Bisaro, has resigned from her appointment as deputy chairperson of Committee of the Whole to assume the role of chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Thebacha, that the honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Robert Bouchard, be appointed as deputy chairperson of Committee of the Whole.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Congratulations, Mr. Bouchard. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second



reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Thursday, May 30, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

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

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

