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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, November 29, 2007****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Hon. Norman Yakeleya

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 6-16(1): Importance Of High School Graduation**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, preliminary data shows there were 365 secondary school graduates in the NWT in 2006-2007, which is one less than the total number for 2005-2006 when we had the highest number of graduates.

---Applause

Of these graduates, 164 are aboriginal...

---Applause

...98 are from small communities, 83 are from regional centres and 184 are from Yellowknife. Final graduation numbers will be available at the end of December 2007 and I look forward to sharing those with you.

Graduation from high school is a key step in a successful career and life plan. Northwest Territories graduates participate in the same curriculum and diploma exams as their Alberta peers. Our students have demonstrated the ability to excel in these courses. As an example, this year, three northern students tied for the Ministerial Award for Academic Excellence in Pure Mathematics, with a score of 100 percent.

There are different course levels that lead towards graduation and it is important for students to begin thinking about their career goals and aspirations as early as in junior high. Early planning is necessary so that students take the courses and course levels that match their post-secondary goals, whether planning to attend college or university, entering a trade or going right into the workforce.

We need to work together as family and community members to ensure our young people and our returning mature students are motivated, supported and prepared to graduate and succeed. We all need to encourage students to attend class. Attendance is a key to success. Parents and family should talk to their children about plans for the future and should be involved in the career planning and course selection process.

At the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, we are working to find ways to share information with the

public about what is involved in course and career planning. Together, we can ensure that northern students have planned and prepared for an exciting future and that we have the right supports in place to help them succeed. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

Minister's Statement 7-16(1): National Adoption Awareness Month

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is National Adoption Awareness Month. It is an opportunity to recognize adoptive families in the Northwest Territories who have opened both their hearts and their homes to children in need of a family.

Adoption provides a child with permanence and security. All children need roots and a feeling that they belong to a family. This feeling of belonging affects a child's sense of self-worth. It helps to determine how children see themselves in relation to others and to their communities.

The face of adoption has changed over the years and there are now children of all ages being adopted in the NWT, including children with special needs. Many hopeful adoptive parents believe that children will enrich their lives and they have found that the experience far exceed their expectations.

More importantly, children's lives are positively changed forever when caring people commit to meeting their needs and accepting the rewards and challenges of parenting.

A department-lead adoption is when a child who in department custody of the director of child and family services is matched with a family seeking adoption. A private adoption occurs when the biological parent(s) and adopting parent(s) agree between themselves and, subject to the approval of the director of adoptions, go through a legal process to adopt a child. An aboriginal custom adoption occurs according to the custom of the local aboriginal group or band. The process includes the review and approval by Commissioners appointed by the Minister and the adoption is filed with the Supreme Court.

In 2006-2007, there were 44 adoptions; 35 were aboriginal custom adoptions and the remaining nine being department and private adoptions.

As we recognize National Adoption Awareness Month, let us celebrate adoptive families and the children who benefit from these adoptions each year in the NWT.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 8-16(1): Youth Centres Initiative

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with information on a new youth program in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

In August 2007, the Youth Centres Initiative was created to provide financial support to assist with operating costs of youth centres and community-based facilities offering positive youth programs in the Northwest Territories. This program was made possible by \$250,000 in new funding that was included in the department's budget through the last supplementary appropriation.

Through this initiative, the department will provide funding to 18 communities in 2007-2008 to assist them in operation of their youth centres. Each of these eligible youth centres will receive \$13,800 towards their operating costs.

Over the years, community youth centres have offered a wide range of positive programming for youth in most communities. However, one of their greatest challenges has been finding stable ongoing funding sources to support core operations.

Youth, and the organizations who provide services to them, have been asking for help to offset operating and staff costs. They often comment that access to programming dollars is not always the issue. Many times it is finding the funding for their day-to-day operations that presents the biggest challenge.

As Members may recall, this issue was also raised by youth who participated in the 2007 Youth Forum held in Yellowknife.

The Youth Centres Initiative provides an effective response to this challenge by offering financial assistance that helps communities provide youth with positive and healthy lifestyle programs.

Today's youth are entering adulthood in a rapidly changing world. Often they feel they need a place of their own where they can be themselves and seek support from their peers and mentors. The Youth Centres Initiative will help to ensure that these needs are met. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ministers' statements. The Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Creative Approaches To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the highway systems that we have in the Northwest Territories are a critical component to connecting our communities, people, our programs and services that we deliver, and also to ensure that we are able to deliver government's programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot lose sight of the conditions of our highway systems throughout the Northwest Territories,

especially in regards to Highway No. 8, the Dempster Highway, our ice roads that connect the communities of Tuk and Aklavik to Inuvik, but also, more importantly, not to lose sight that those road systems are the crucial part of our infrastructure that delivers our infrastructure by way of building materials, foods, goods and services and fuel products into our communities. But it's important, Mr. Speaker, to note that we don't lose sight of the condition of those roads and doing everything we can to connect all our communities to our highway systems and the communities of Aklavik, Tuk and elsewhere.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think, more importantly, we have to realize that we have a fundamental challenge by way of global warming, which is having a very detrimental effect on the condition of our roads; highways have been collapsing, roads have been collapsing, we have had accidents on our highway systems. I think, as a government, as the 16th Assembly, we do have to find a better way of how we maintain our infrastructure by way of looking at alternative means, such as chipseal or even looking at the possibility of pavement. But yet, Mr. Speaker, we do have to find an alternative means of maintaining our most important asset that connects us to our communities, which are our road systems.

But again, Mr. Speaker, I think it's crucial that we, as government, have to think outside the box and continue to put gravel on top of road systems and realizing that our road systems are critical to our system. But also we have to have a safe system for people to drive on. I think it's important to look at statistics where we have seen a lot of accidents, especially on the Dempster Highway in the last couple of years. I know my colleague from Inuvik Twin Lakes helped raise this issue in the House during the previous Assembly and I'd like to thank him for that, because I do drive the highway a lot and I realize that the road conditions in the last year were probably the worst I've ever seen.

So I'd just like to, at the appropriate time, ask the Minister of Transportation some questions on the Dempster Highway. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand again today the technical evaluation of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River and I could stand up here and make a nice speech and list off all the things that are wrong with that school but, you know, I am sick and tired of talking about the substandard school that we have in Hay River. There are so many things in this report that would indicate that we are expecting our teachers to work in a substandard building, we are expecting our students to be educated in a substandard building, and this is a shame. This should not be allowed to continue.

I have stood and talked about it in this House many times. We've had every Minister, we've had the Premier, we've had everybody go there and go through that school and see the things that are wrong, and I want to know why it's

not in the capital budget to be replaced. Do we have to have somebody start a fire and fill the school with smoke, or do we have to have a roof cave in? What do we need to do to get in the line here for a proper school for our high school students in Hay River?

I mean, it's very, very frustrating. This school was built in 1972. It's had no major work done to it since. There are security and safety issues associated with this school and it needs to be addressed. Now we have a new Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, so, of course, I have hope. You can't give up hope.

But I want to tell you that I am extremely frustrated. No other building, other than what's owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories, would be allowed to operate in this kind of disrepair. There are code issues. Now, there are some things that are satisfactory and they have a 10 to 15-year life expectancy, so maybe it is just a renovation that we need, but we need something, Mr. Speaker. I will invite the new Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to come to Hay River to see this, but we've got to get in the line-up. This has to be a priority. This school is 35 years old; it is time for a retrofit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Member's Statement On Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the 15th Assembly, the Department of Health and Social Services committed to completing a comprehensive human resource plan for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. The development of the human resource plan was intended to be inclusive and involve input from all staff. To do this, a comprehensive statistics-based recruitment and retention survey was conducted and completed by most of the staff within the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

To build upon the findings of the first survey, a second, more detailed survey was conducted with a smaller number of staff selected at random. This second survey was conducted by way of individual interviews, usually 30 to 60 minutes long, where staff had an opportunity to identify all of their areas of concern as well as things that they, as an individual, believe are working.

It's my understanding that both of these surveys were completed over the past summer. It's also my understanding that these surveys, in addition to other statistical information such as national reports, statistical summaries on sick time, and other information provided by the Department of Human Resources, were to be used to help identify the real challenges to the recruitment and retention of health and social services professionals within the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

The recently appointed Social Programs committee has discussed this matter and are advised that the comprehensive human resource plan for the authority was to be prepared and shared with the committee by the end of summer of 2007. That has not happened.

As a new member of the Social Programs committee and as a Member of this House who is concerned about the morale of hospital staff and the effectiveness of the public services in general, I wonder about the status of this human resource plan. Clearly, the challenges facing the recruitment and retention of health professionals and social service professionals are high, given the national and international shortages of these professionals.

I look forward to receiving this report in the near future and to discussing the resulting recommendations. I hope that it will be a tool that will help to stabilize the workforce at Stanton Territorial Health Authority and that it will demonstrate the respect and commitment that this government has for its employees. They are our most valuable resource. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Member's Statement On Development Of Small Business Opportunities

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Small business accounts for a large proportion of employment in both Canada and the North, but it could do much more for northerners. Mr. Speaker, we seem to focus on mega development by a few of the world's largest corporations. The result is a raging but precarious economy that causes us to import workers from afar while local businesses suffer. The main benefit of money is pipelined to the South and local dollar gains are not embedded within a healthy society.

Small businesses provide a venue for self-sufficiency and self-reliance and ways for owners and operators to contribute to their family and community. They engage people in our society.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business reports that the biggest challenges are finding new customers in markets, dealing with paperwork and government regulation. In the North, adult literacy and, recently, availability of workers pose additional challenges. To develop small business, the GNWT needs to invest in research and pilot projects to continue building our adult Literacy Program and to provide relevant and effective training.

A focus on small businesses that deal with local and regional needs, such as food production and distribution, safe drinking water, tourism, energy efficiency and renewable energy and the arts, provides many benefits, including the strengthening of local communities. Value-added products, the manufacture or refining of products from raw materials, increase these benefits. Buckley's is a good example in the Weledeh riding. They harvest fish in Great Slave Lake and sell to local Yellowknife markets, including restaurants such as Bullock's Bistro, that advertise and benefit from access to fresh local fish.

We need focus on businesses that use and develop local expertise, that use renewable resources with value added, and that contribute to self-sufficiency. We need continued support for the project to produce heat from Yellowknife's abandoned gold mines and to expand that to other locations, and we need support for local purchase and

provision of goods and services, including reduced taxes on NWT businesses and artists that help meet our basic needs of food and materials with local resources.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we need to seek and involve the expertise of others from similar environments and societies, such as the Scandinavians, to leapfrog forward into progressive beneficial developments with proven technologies and approaches. I look forward to working with the government on this priority. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Transportation Issues In The Beaufort-Delta Region

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like my colleague from the Mackenzie Delta, I, too, today would like to talk on the state of the transportation in the Mackenzie, or the Beaufort-Delta. As someone from McPherson tells you the road is the worst that he's ever seen, then I think it's our paying attention.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely dusty and unsafe driving conditions. As a matter of fact, we had another death on the highway this summer. A father of three was killed while working on the highway. We had a culvert collapse at Caribou Creek. Why did the culvert collapse? Are these things not inspected? Again, luckily nobody was hurt or killed, because it was something that you couldn't see if you were driving down the road. I got a phone call from a constituent who just happened to be at the scene and it was like 30 feet wide and 20 feet deep and luckily he wasn't driving, otherwise he would have ended up at the bottom of that culvert. He called me because I had brought up the issue of the state of the road before and he thought I should know. I appreciated that.

We have, Mr. Speaker, an ice making machine that's supposed to be flooding ice at Tsiigehtchic. It's sitting at James Creek by the Yukon border. It's 150 kilometres away. I'm sure they're not going to be making any ice bridges up there.

Mr. Speaker, you're getting the picture here that the right side of the brain doesn't seem to be communicating with the left side of the brain, because we got a marine storage yard sitting right at Tsiigehtchic that this machine could be sitting in. We have industry that's waiting on both sides of the ice bridge to get to work and the sooner that industry can get their materials up in the Beaufort-Delta and go to work, then the sooner our people can go to work and the sooner our shelves can be restocked again and the prices might start going down.

Industry has committed millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, into the Beaufort-Delta and we can do our part by making sure that our infrastructure that we're responsible for is looked after and ready to go. It's called working together, Mr. Speaker, and maybe it's a novelty that we're going to have to try.

We shouldn't let, Mr. Speaker, personality conflicts get in the way of our commitment to working for what's good for the people that we represent. This continues to happen, Mr. Speaker. We may have to have a serious look at it

and if changes need to be made, then we have to make the changes because, first and foremost, our commitment is to the safety and well-being of the people we represent. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Member's Statement On Condition Of Highway No. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker...(English not provided)

---Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be speaking about the deplorable condition of Highway No. 6 and the serious safety issues affecting the residents of Fort Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the road is very soft in some spots and which, as you know, may cause rollovers. The roadbed is below grade in many sections, which means the road does not drain freely and gets very slippery with a little bit of rain and a little bit of snow.

I want to make it clear that I know the highway workers do their best to keep the road in a passable state, but, in this day and age, just keeping the road passable is not acceptable. It is called Highway No. 6. That means it should be a highway, not a trail.

Mr. Speaker, the other area of concern to me is that if the Tamerlane project goes forward and the people and business that are employed at the mine site will be using the highway to a greater extent from Fort Resolution to the mine site, this makes it even more imperative that safety issues with Highway No. 6 be addressed as soon as possible.

We need to do more than band-aid fixes to just keep Highway No. 6 open. It is time to spend some serious money on the reconstruction. Perhaps now that the mine may be opening, the government may take a closer look at spending money as they did on Highway No. 4 when the diamond industry opened.

I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. ABERNETHY.

Member's Statement On Coordinated Approach For Government Support For The Northern Arts Sector

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to add to Mr. Hawkins' Member's statement made yesterday on the arts. Specifically, I'd like to talk about the disconnect I perceive between the support provided by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to artists and the lack of follow-up with these artists, whether they are musicians, painters, writers, sculptors, or involved in crafts, by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, who may be able to partner with these artists to promote the NWT and strengthen tourism across

the Northwest Territories. If we give people a reason to come to the Northwest Territories, they will come. Arts and culture are certainly a draw which should not be ignored.

Currently, Education, Culture and Employment provides grants to northern artists through the NWT Arts Council. Although the support provided is significantly lower than other jurisdictions, such as the Yukon, and should be increased, they do help. A large number of northern artists have taken advantage of the program. There are books, there are CDs and other impressive projects that are completed that are available for public consumption. Once produced, the only requirement from Education, Culture and Employment is that the artist provide some sort of public showing. After that, there is no continued relationship between the artist and the GNWT.

Rather than miss this opportunity to provide continued support to the artists and to increase awareness of the NWT arts scene, which can certainly enhance tourism, I believe that the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment should work together and share information on these different artists. The two departments should break down their silos and work together for the mutual benefit, benefit for tourism, benefit for the arts, benefit for the North and all of its people.

I'll be asking the Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment and the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment questions on this topic during question period. It's time that we worked together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Member's Statement On Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, back in October, my first speech concentrated on the issues that I heard during my campaign in the community of Paulatuk. Residents are very concerned with the fact that many public housing units are infested with black mould. Mr. Speaker, we all know there's enough health problems associated with overcrowding in public housing. Units that have the presence of black mould will just compound these issues and the problems.

The children and the elders in particular are at risk as they are more likely to be unable to fight the infections. I have heard that black mould may be caused by design flaws or by contractors using shoddy construction practices in building the Housing Corporation housing packages. If this is the case, our government has a responsibility to deal with the issue quickly. It is not acceptable to do a study or to spend the next time trying to decide the party.

I'm not here to point any fingers and blame anybody, Mr. Speaker. The issue needs to be dealt with as soon as possible to protect my people of Paulatuk. Mr. Speaker, the first question I asked the Premier on October 19th were the actions the government planned to take addressing the black mould issue in Paulatuk. He assured me that the NWT Housing Corporation would look into the problem.

I will be following up with that commitment with the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Deh Cho Travel Connection

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking on transportation as well here today. I would like to talk about the beauty of the Deh Cho and the great opportunity that we have with the Deh Cho Tribal Connection. I am talking about the Deh Cho trail and portions of Highways No. 1 and 7 that make a perfectly round trip on the lower NWT for tourists coming from Alberta passing through Hay River, through several smaller Deh Cho communities providing a connection to Fort Simpson before winding down beside the Liard River and Fort Liard to British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, this portion of our public highway system is what is promoted as the Deh Cho Tribal Connection to national and international visitors. There is a brochure and map about this trip on the ITI's website. It is even translated into French and German. That is how important this road connection is for this government. The Deh Cho Tribal Connection is promoted as a drivable wilderness, which begs the question, Mr. Speaker, is this highway supposed to be drivable or wild? As we all know, after the turnoff to Yellowknife, it becomes less drivable and turns into a gravel road.

Mr. Speaker, our roads are not only used by tourists but residents of the Deh Cho and Nahendeh riding. They travel frequently within this region and to the larger centres. They use the highways year round and probably also enjoy the beautiful scenery along the road. They are very much concerned about the safety of the road. This brings me to the point that both residents and visiting users of the Deh Cho trail have in common. They are concerned about the road conditions of Highways No. 1 and 7 and they are concerned about their safety when driving through this drivable wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of road safety and for the benefits of promoting highway tourism in the NWT, we need to make sure that our gravel road is at least properly maintained. Soft spots and potholes create road hazards for the drivers of these highways. An immediate action we need on Highways No. 1 and 7 is to be frequently and properly graded and compacted and maintained, as well. Mr. Speaker, I see I am running out of time. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. We also need to address the issue of the road deterioration beyond that immediate action. The Deh Cho connection needs to be improved and upgraded. A logical solution for a proper upgrade is to look at the chipsealing of all this Highway No. 1 and 7, then we could

truly speak of connecting the Mackenzie Highway and the Alaska Highway.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to have road safety for Deh Cho residents improved and hope to see the improvements to Highways No. 1 and 7 identified as a priority and identified in any capital planning that this government may have. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Consumer Protection Laws

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to address an issue of growing concern in my constituency and the North. In the booming market of real estate, cars and telemarketing, it is obvious that the NWT legislative framework to protect consumers from scams does not go far enough. This leaves consumers vulnerable and allows for dishonest practices to go unchecked in the NWT. Consumers need to be fully protected. Current NWT laws do not require disclosure on the integrity of a house or used car and there are no regulations for telemarketing. Our protection laws are minimal and we are behind the times. We are putting residents at risk and some have already been stung by this lack of protection.

Other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States have comprehensive consumer protection laws covering a variety of disclosure requirements and spell out consumers' rights and unfair practices. For example, Ontario's law also addresses rights and obligations for Internet and remote purchase agreements and provides for a cooling off period when consumers enter into contracts. Consumers have rights and remedies should they find out that they bought a lemon car or they bought a house that has a leaking roof or a cracked foundation. There are serious consequences for previous owners who do not disclose this kind of information, Mr. Speaker, when they sold the house to that buyer.

It is nice to see the consumer affairs division within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs offers consumer tip sheets. The information is so general that it can be used by the entire company so there is no reference to specific laws, rights or any type of remedies. The problem is that we have no laws that require disclosure and consequently there are no remedies because, as we all know, if the person did not receive the goods that they were promised, or bought the house that they were sold, it is their own tough luck. It falls on their own shoulders.

The Minister indicated to me that he and the department are aware of this increasing concern regarding lack of consumer protection and that he will look into it. We need to catch up to the times, Mr. Speaker. We need to catch up to the other Canadian jurisdictions as to what they have been doing for years. We need stronger comprehensive disclosure laws to protect our consumers. I urge the Minister to create a proper disclosure law as a priority in this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. Reports of standing and special committees. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Paul Andrew, a resident of Tulita and also recipient of the national aboriginal award that is going to happen in Toronto in 2008.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a former constituent, Sarah Gargan, that used to live in Fort Providence. She is now living in Yellowknife, I believe. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. Acknowledgements. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 8: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this technical review that I am making reference to with respect to the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River was completed in August 2006. Might I compliment the Department of Public Works and Services for actually a very comprehensive and thorough review of the school. However, I don't know what has been done with this information since. There aren't too many pieces of infrastructure or buildings that would be allowed to go into this state of disrepair. There are health issues. There are safety issues. There are code issues. This is a piece of infrastructure and a building that is owned by this government. I would like to know from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment or PWS, I guess whoever feels responsible, to tell me what has been done since this report was compiled to address the deficiencies that are identified here which are too long a list to even stand here and list. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Member is right about the evaluation report that has been conducted in the community of Hay River. Based on the technical report, it is estimated that it will cost approximately \$22 million plus in, of course, July 2006 dollars at that time, to upgrade the facility. But at the

same time, this does not take into account the relocation of the students and also the alternate location while the work is being done. Of course, there will be additional costs here. But, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to highlight that as we move forward in the 16th Assembly, we will be discussing this as part of our capital projects among other projects for the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

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

Supplementary To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a way of assessing our priorities when it comes to capital planning in this government. It is the protection of people and the protection of assets. I would like to suggest that the people are not being well served by this building. I would suggest that this is an unhealthy building to go to school in and to work in. The asset is not being protected either, because it is being allowed to go further and further into disrepair. There are some basic, not-too-costly things that could be done to at least maintain the school until a major retrofit is done. I would like to ask the Minister, who is responsible for coordinating the maintenance of this facility? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the report again does highlight the deficiencies and also the work that needs to be done in Hay River, on the Diamond Jenness School. Also with moving forward we need to identify this as part of capital project planning. That will certainly be our discussion here with our government as we move forward and with the setting of priorities and planning which area should have the most priority for the Northwest Territories, because we do have quite a few capital projects that are in line. This will certainly be one of the issues that we will be tackling in the near future. Mahsi.

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

Supplementary To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I want to hear today is that this school is a priority on this government's agenda. That is what I want to hear today: a priority. Now, I know there is a lot of competition for capital projects, but we have had an increase in our ability to borrow money. It has gone to \$500 million now, I think. I would suggest that this is important enough that if there are competing projects, the government should borrow money to fix this problem as opposed to letting it languish. But in the meantime, will the Minister commit that the things that can be addressed will be addressed immediately? I am not talking about the major retrofit for \$22 million, but the small things will be addressed immediately. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this report is in front of us. Our department will certainly look at it with the Cabinet and will be highlighting the key areas where there needs to be some renovations happening here and there. The major project, if that needs to take place, we will certainly look at that, as well. At this time, I cannot make a commitment to say we will move forward with this. We need to identify our priorities with the colleagues, as well, priorities for the 16th Assembly. Which capital projects should we pursue? At that time, we are open for discussion and moving forward with that. Mahsi.

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

Supplementary To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, if I owned a building that had code deficiencies like those listed in this report, somebody who is an inspector in the government would be all over me. Who can I call to report the disrepair and the code deficiencies in this school? To whom shall I report it if it is a government building? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 60-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, this is one area that we will certainly look into with our department. We will certainly be getting back to the colleague that is asking the question. These are technical areas that we will certainly look into, as well. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Question 61-16(1): Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement earlier, I referenced the comprehensive human resources plan for Stanton Territorial Health Authority and the fact that it was supposed to be completed in the summer of 2007. My question is addressed to the Minister of Human Resources. I would want the Minister to please advise me as to the status of this particular human resource plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Return To Question 61-16(1): Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to report that the preparation of the Stanton human resource plan is well underway. Two surveys have been conducted since the human resource committee was formed in February of 2007. Data from both surveys have been summarized and have been released to all Stanton employees as of October 4th. A staffing working group has been formed. A staff forum

was held on November 9, 2007, in order to provide feedback on the results. We are taking that data and the feedback and are working on developing a human resource plan. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 61-16(1): Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information from the Minister. That is more than we had previously. But I would like to ask the Minister when the Standing Committee on Social Programs can expect to receive this report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 61-16(1): Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working towards having a draft prepared by January 2008. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 61-16(1): Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

MS. BISARO: Thank you again. I would like to ask the Minister, at this point now that the information from the surveys has been accumulated and drafted into some sort of an initial report, whether or not and when the Standing Committee on Social Programs can receive copies of the surveys which were sent out.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 61-16(1): Stanton Territorial Health Authority Human Resource Plan

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood that this information has been sent out to all Stanton employees. I am not sure whether that means it is public information. I think I will probably have to get some authorization from the HR committee and, once I get that, I am sure I can share it with the standing committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro. Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions surround my Member's statement in regards to the maintenance and disrepair of our highway systems in the Northwest Territories. I think we do have to look at how we maintain the highway systems we have. The practice to date has been applying calcium, continue to grade and apply more crushed gravel to the surface and continue on trying to be able to maintain that system, but yet, Mr. Speaker, it is not working. We are realizing our climate is changing. We are seeing more rain. We are seeing more permafrost separation by way of roads

shifting and culverts collapsing. I think it is crucial that we look at an alternative. Mr. Speaker, I believe the alternative that we have to look at is chipseal or looking at eventually permanent pavement on our highway systems.

Mr. Speaker, there has been pavement in Inuvik for quite a few years. You drive the Alaska Highway; it is paved pretty well all the way to Whitehorse. You can drive from Whitehorse to Dawson City which is chipseal and even parts of the Dempster Highway in the Yukon is chipseal. I would like to ask the Minister, is he willing to consider looking at a different way of maintaining our highway systems by implementing a territorial-wide program that will chipseal all of our gravel highways so that we can bring our highway systems up to the standards of other jurisdictions in Canada? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Yakeleya.

Return To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Mackenzie Delta for the question. Mr. Speaker, I had driven last year on the Dempster Highway. I know what the Minister is talking about first hand in terms of the conditions on the Dempster Highway. Mr. Speaker, our department's first priority, of course, to all residents who are travelling our highway, is safety. Safety is number one in our books in terms of our transportation system. I would say that we didn't do any work on the Dempster Highway in terms of putting calcium coating on the surface of the Dempster and the reconstruction of the Dempster to bring it up to some standards to where we can look at further investments into the Dempster Highway.

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

Supplementary To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is crucial that we do come up with a territorial change in regards to how we maintain our gravel highways in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister again, would he ask his department to work with other departmental agencies? We have a chipseal program in regards to MACA that we've just piloted, and I believe it's a good start but I think we have to expand that to include our roads throughout the Northwest Territories. So I'd like to ask the Minister, would he take an in-depth review of the maintenance program we presently follow and see if we can apply a chipseal program throughout our highway systems in the Northwest Territories?

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

Further Return To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our staff and our contractors are doing an exceptional job in terms of maintaining our infrastructure, especially on the highways. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the suggestion from the Member here in terms of part of our

view in terms of priorities and infrastructure within the Department of Transportation is to look at areas where we can ensure and commit investment in terms of improving our highway systems like the Member is suggesting; looking at the chipsealing of the Dempster Highway. I would take that as a suggestion in terms of when we look at long-term priorities of our highway systems.

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

Supplementary To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to remind the Minister that there used to be a major undertaking by way of applying calcium to our highway systems. There was a major cutback over the last number of years where on very few sections of our highways calcium was being applied. Again, we talk about dust control. But right now that is the only option that we have in front of us to provide the public with safe driving conditions that they can drive under. But yet it's not...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a question Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to ask the Minister, would he seriously look at the possibility of implementing a territorial program to chipseal our gravel highways in the Northwest Territories?

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

Further Return To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the suggestion that the Member has referred to is a huge task on all of us within government in terms of the limited amount of money that we have in terms of our infrastructure needs in the North here. It's about balancing our funding to protect and also to fix up our existing facilities, like Highway No. 8, and even to respond to new needs of other areas that do not have a highway. I have other areas to look at also, so I would again take the Member's suggestion very seriously in terms of looking at his suggestion as one of our areas for long-term infrastructure needs as part of our planning priority process. I would certainly like to have full discussions with the Member to that point.

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

Supplementary To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have implemented the main street maintenance program through MACA. I believe it was a pilot project. Again, I believe it's a good start, but we're not going to be able to accomplish our communities. However, all I'm asking for the Minister to consider is a pilot project for our highway systems to look at, not any major capital dollars, but applying it on our different highway systems to see exactly how we can improve our highway systems for the

general public. So, again, I'm asking the Minister, we know we got \$38 million of infrastructure funding, let's use it. We got a raise in regards to the amount of borrowing limit we have, so let's fill in that gap. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can act on this matter as soon as possible.

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

Further Return To Question 62-16(1): Creative Approach To The Maintenance Of Highway Infrastructure

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I can commit to the Member is that I would like to drive the Dempster Highway to see it first hand the issues and challenges into the issues here. Because, you know, safety of the travellers is our most important goal here with the department. I would take, again, his suggestion in terms of reviewing the Member's suggestion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in my Member's statement I spoke of the deplorable condition of Highway No. 6 and the fact that my constituents in Fort Resolution take their lives into their hands when they drive that road. Can the Minister tell this Assembly whether there is any plan to do any reconstruction on Highway No. 6 in the near future? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Yakeleya.

Return To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the need for capital reconstruction of Highway No. 6 to Fort Resolution is identified in the department's 20-year capital needs assessment. The first 32 kilometres of the old Pine Point townsite has chipsealed surface, Mr. Speaker. I will, again, look at this issue here with the Members, as I also indicated to the Member for the Mackenzie Delta.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

Supplementary To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to do something to that highway before it disappears into the muskeg or, worse, before a bad accident occurs on that highway. Can the Minister commit to having his officials look at the situation taking into account the potential impact of the Tamerlane project that is being considered right now on the other side of the area of the highway from Fort Resolution due to the potential for high volume traffic for employees at Tamerlane? Can the Minister advise if there will be anything moved up in the capital plan to cover the 56 miles of gravel highway leading into Fort Resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. A couple of questions there. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Yakeleya.

Further Return To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Member for Tu Nedhe that my officials will continue monitoring all the infrastructure of highways, marinas, airport facilities in the North, and that Highway No. 6 is one of the areas that we are paying close attention to. The challenge, of course, is to find the funding to improve our existing highways and respond to the demands of all our needs in the Northwest Territories. I look forward to discussing transportation funding priorities with the committees when we have that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

Supplementary To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently there is \$34 million in the capital plan for chipseal and pavement overlay. Can the Minister tell me how much of the \$34 million has been earmarked for Highway No. 6, if any?

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

Further Return To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, chipseal and pavement overlays are only considered on sections of our highways that we have reconstructed and the road base and improved the alignment, otherwise we would lose the service of improvement. Mr. Speaker, I want to get back to the Member with more information on the planned future work of Highway No. 6 in terms of chipsealing in that area.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

Supplementary To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to taking a drive with me to the community during the summer months to see the highway first hand, Highway No. 6? Hopefully it will be raining then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 63-16(1): Condition Of Highway No. 6

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to gladly take up the Member's offer. I'm planning, actually, to see if I can drive all the highways in the Northwest Territories. I also plan to sit down with the Member and have a discussion about the future work that may happen in Pine Point. I look forward to working with committee on advancing some of the infrastructure needs with this government here. Certainly, the committee Members

would be most important to my department in these types of discussions we have on infrastructure.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Question 64-16(1): Operational Grant For The Host Society Of The Arctic Winter Games

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this question is addressed to the Minister of MACA. Ms. Bisaro spoke earlier this week about the Arctic Winter Games and the benefit the 2008 games will provide to Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. One of the biggest challenges for the games has been the need to raise enough funds to host the games as expected by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. The budget for the games is \$6.6 million. Of that, \$2.6 million has been contributed through various other government organizations -- federal, territorial -- which leaves \$3.1 million. Fundraising for \$3.1 million has been done through businesses both in the Northwest Territories and Canada, which leaves a shortfall of \$901,000. The host society is projected to raise an additional \$476,000, which leaves us with a total shortfall of \$425,000. Some months ago, in June, the host society submitted a request to MACA for an additional operational grant in the amount of \$425,000. As of today, there's been no response to this request. The host society has entered into a critical period of cash flow and needs the GNWT to respond to the request and provide a cash grant as soon as possible. So my question to the Minister is, will the 2008 host society receive approval for the necessary operational grant and when can they expect to receive the cheque? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Return To Question 64-16(1): Operational Grant For The Host Society Of The Arctic Winter Games

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the host society for the Arctic Winter Games has been doing a very good job and they've done a good job in raising a lot of the funding that's been required. A request has come forward, as the Member has indicated, in the latter part of the summer. We are now bringing it forward to my Cabinet colleagues for discussion and we will be reporting back to the host society sometime in early December. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 64-16(1): Operational Grant For The Host Society Of The Arctic Winter Games

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further, to the Minister, the host society is in a planning phase; they're going to be delivering the games in March, which really isn't that far away. If they could get some sort of commitment that they will be receiving the money, then they can continue with the planning. If they're not going to be getting the money, they're going to have to cut programs, which is going to affect the overall delivery of the games. So I would like a commitment from the

Minister to get some sort of response to the host society as soon as possible, as early in December as possible.

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

Further Return To Question 64-16(1): Operational Grant For The Host Society Of The Arctic Winter Games

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had that discussion with the host society. We have indicated to them that we will respond early in December and we're having those discussions ongoing right now as we speak, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 64-16(1): Operational Grant For The Host Society Of The Arctic Winter Games

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is approved, when do you think the money might be able to flow, or when does the Minister think the money might be able to flow to the host society? Because, as I said, they need the money; they need to get going and we want this to be the best games possible, so cutting the money would be a real disappointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I don't know if the Minister wants to give his thoughts on that. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 64-16(1): Operational Grant For The Host Society Of The Arctic Winter Games

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, that is a hypothetical situation and question, and a loaded one at that. Mr. Speaker, we've indicated to the host society that we're dealing with the issue right now. Hopefully we'll have an answer as soon as possible; early in December. They've conveyed that they need an answer and we hope that the results of our discussions is not going to result in them cutting back programs. But at this point I can't confirm that we will be providing the money; we're having those discussions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a lot of the statements I give, or some of the statements I give, I speak to the fact that, you know, we may have lost someone. I do that, Mr. Speaker, to put a human face on to some of the decisions, or lack of decisions, that we make, and the consequences. Sometimes, unfortunately, the consequences are not as we would like them to be. I use that just to point out the fact that we do have some problems with some of the programs that we deliver and there is a human cost to it. The reason I bring that up, Mr. Speaker, that being said, I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation, earlier this summer there was a culvert collapse at Caribou Creek and luckily with that one there was no human cost to it; there may have been, there could have been, but there was none and that's fortunate. I'd like to ask the Minister, has he received a report as to why this culvert collapsed? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the collapse in the Caribou Creek -- it's on the Dempster Highway -- is a culvert that has been put in some years and throughout the existence of our culverts and bridges, there's a continuing lifecycle and inspections and this is one infrastructure that came...Time ran out, I guess, on the integrity of the structure and it's lucky that nobody was injured when we had the collapse of the culvert.

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

Supplementary To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if regular inspections are done on the condition and the age of these culverts. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated earlier in my questions to other Members, that safety is a priority for the department and through the department's maintenance and operation lifecycles that inspections are made on all our facilities in the Northwest Territories throughout; well-checked, well-operated...(inaudible)...in terms of all of our facilities and existing infrastructures. Yes, these inspections were carried out in accordance with our department's safety policy.

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

Supplementary To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The priority is to have these infrastructures inspected. Our priority is the safety of the people and I'd like to ask the Minister if he knows when the last time this culvert was inspected and what were the results of that inspection? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bridge was inspected...Sorry; the culvert was inspected in 2007. As with any infrastructure, it's kind of hard to crystal ball if something is going happen within a certain time frame. I believe that our department did look at all our culverts and bridges and sometimes, for unknown circumstances, events are beyond our control and things do happen. This time it happened to be the Caribou Creek culvert.

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

Supplementary To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the condition of culverts and the inspection should not be beyond our control. It's something that we should be able to control. I would like to ask the Minister, obviously the culvert was inspected and was deemed to be safe; but it collapsed. I'd like to ask the Minister, at the end of the day someone was responsible for inspecting and passing this culvert as being safe. Has his department looked at who is responsible for this and if any actions were taken? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 65-16(1): Culvert Collapse At Caribou Creek

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the members of the public that the department does due diligence in terms of inspecting all of our facilities, all our highways. For example, yesterday, because of the low water in the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence, we were unable to operate our ferry because there are things that are beyond the department's control. Ultimately, I am responsible, as the Minister of Transportation, and I certainly treat our operations as very professional and in that we have read good reports. This culvert was inspected. We're looking at future plans in terms of how we're going to do our work on other inspections and, Mr. Speaker, I believe that everything was followed according to plan in terms of our safety of our operations for the travelling public of the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Question 66-16(1): Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I spoke of a black mould problem affecting the public housing in Paulatuk. I'm concerned with the health and well-being of my constituents. I'm not interested in assigning blame; I'm interested in addressing the problem. Can the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation tell me what the corporation has done to date on the black mould issue in Paulatuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 66-16(1): Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the need to inspect and remediate the black mould in Paulatuk was dealt with through a call for tenders. Arctic Builders out of Inuvik, who are certified specialists in this area, got the tender. They've been in to Paulatuk; the houses have been inspected and work is underway to remediate the houses that have been identified with black mould. It is anticipated

that the project will be complete, I understand, by the end of December.

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

Supplementary To Question 66-16(1): Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell the Assembly whether the corporation has given any consideration to developing a territorial-wide action plan to deal with this issue of black mould in the NWT Housing Corporation housing stocks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 66-16(1): Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to share with the Member the reports and the findings of the Arctic Builders as they did their house inspections and the work that was required. The Member will note in the report that the majority of the black mould was due to non-structural reasons, but it is an issue in many other communities, as well, and, yes, we are trying to come up with a way to identify and deal with this issue before it becomes severely problematic. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 66-16(1): Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister commit to coming to Paulatuk and discussing this with my local housing authority? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 66-16(1): Black Mould Problems In Paulatuk Housing Units

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I discussed with the Member that we would like to, in the new year, schedule time to tour Nunakput and all the communities in his constituency, including Paulatuk where I'm sure we'll have an opportunity to discuss that particular issue with the Member and with the community members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just would like to follow up to questions on my Member's statement to the Minister of Transportation, just with respect to, and also support, the Member from Mackenzie Delta's idea of pursuing a territorial highway strategy which includes chipsealing of all our highways. I just would like to ask the Minister what exists in our current

strategy. Does it include a movement towards chipsealing of all our territorial highways? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Yakeleya.

Return To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our long term, eventually in the long term of highways in the Northwest Territories, we certainly want to look at communities that do not have highways. I mean, right now we're talking about highways on existing facilities and existing roads. So in the long term, certainly we do have the funds, we have the support from other sources of funding who would look at highways that do require good roads and good drainage and reconstruction of chipsealing. We also have to look at communities and regions that do not have a highway. So we certainly have to start balancing our investment across the North. Mr. Speaker, certainly that's something that the department is open to and the amount of resources we have, we just have now looking at our own existing dollars that do have paved highways right here.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, we could probably debate if we could have 2,000 kilometres of bad road or 600 kilometres of good road where we allocate our expenses. But we are freeing up some money by not spending money on Highway No. 4 and I'd like to ask the Minister, what is our strategy, and if chipsealing all our territorial highways can and will be part of it? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also say, you know, we can have bad roads and existing roads, but some regions have no roads. So I'd like to look at that also in terms of how we do our investments of highway strategies in the Northwest Territories. Certainly, we'll continue to improve what we have in the Northwest Territories in terms of a highway. There will be some areas that we need to do some reconstruction. We need to do some dust control. We need to do some further maintenance on some of the paved roads. Certainly, providing that we get the support from the House here and working with committee, we'll certainly look at other areas that if it requires chipsealing in some of the areas. However, we're going through the process and hopefully we're going to have that discussion with committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was asking the Minister that we do have existing roads that do need improvement and I'd like to ask the Minister, are we developing a territorial strategy? I just want to point out as well there, Mr. Speaker, if you allow me, that the Minister is talking about new highways and building new roads, but that's the mandate of the federal government. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you. I really thank the Member, because I certainly like to be reminded that the federal government has a part here. Similar to the parts that now the regions that do have highways, that certainly was the federal government's responsibility, but I'm certainly looking forward to committee work, looking forward to my department in terms of long-term strategy in terms of chipsealing existing roads in the Northwest Territories. Again, I need to work with my department. I certainly like to welcome working with committee in terms of investing in our existing roads in terms of how we see that in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to point out to the Minister that if he moves towards a territorial strategy of chipsealing all our roads, I don't think he'll have very much objection if he moves this in the House and I'd like him to consider that and what stages can he do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 67-16(1): Territorial Strategy For Highway Surfaces

HON. NORMAN YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would rely on the Member's support when we started looking at these types of a strategy. However, Mr. Speaker, I need to remind the Members, and remind the people in the Northwest Territories, that we need to continue investing down the Mackenzie Valley in terms of all our infrastructure and sometime we need to go back to the very basics of looking at the regions that do not have any type of all-weather road into the communities. However, I will keep that in mind when we come to that discussion when we have our regular meetings with committee in terms of putting together our plans and our strategies for the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wrote the Minister of MACA some time ago about my concerns about our lack of disclosure laws and consumer protection laws. The Minister wrote me back yesterday and I want to first thank the Minister for agreeing with me, because it's quite obvious that the Minister denial training program hasn't taken full effect yet because he did agree with a Member without a big study of saying no, no, nothing's wrong. I see the Premier looking now.

---Laughter

Wait a minute; he's going to recall the letter. But in the letter, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of MACA pointed out that they're well aware of this concern about the lack of disclosure and consumer protection and they're currently working on it, taking note of the fact that when someone buys a house or a car, they're typically the largest purchase that a person will ever make in their lifetime, yet they seem to have the smallest amount of protection. So when the Minister says he's working on this and they're well aware of this problem, what do they know and what are they actually really doing by action? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I was part of the Ministerial denial program that existed. I must have been bypassed by that. Mr. Speaker, there's a number of areas that need to be improved in the area of consumer protection and we are looking at how we can provide better services, improve our services and improve our resources. The Real Estate Agents Licensing Act does have a statutory provision for disclosure that only applies to the salespeople and the agents. It doesn't trickle down to the private sales. We need to improve in that area. We have to look at how we can do that. It's going to require new legislation and will require new resources. We have to be able to identify that. That needs to be discussed with our colleagues here in the House as we set our priorities, if that's an area we want to look at and invest in. We also need to look at the consumer mediation services. We also need to look at the additional demands being placed on us to increase our forms again. So there are a number of different areas and this is one of them that we have committed to looking at. We, however, have to see it as a priority from this government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, again, if you buy a house, it's probably the largest purchase you'll ever make. But if you find out, later on, the foundation's cracked, it's full of mould, and you've been sold a song that it's the best house in the world and all of a sudden you find out that, you know, no one will ever want to buy your house again and the fact

that you can't get insurance, you may run into trouble even getting a mortgage. Mr. Speaker, there's no protection for these large purchases and that could break a hard-working family. So would the Minister agree that this is an important issue that could cripple a hard-working family, and would he tell me when they plan to move forward on this huge issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we'll have to have discussions on priorities of this new government. This is an issue that we'd like to see further discussion on. We're not sure how much priority we can place on it. We haven't received any complaints in this area about this full disclosure issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, if the Minister would like, I could provide him, too, as soon as we go upstairs, my couple of constituents. But the fact is, it isn't so much that as we should be making sure we're protecting our constituents. If this isn't a priority, I don't know what one is, Mr. Speaker, especially when he knows how difficult it can be. So the fact is, can the Minister bring back, before February, some kind of discussion paper to correct this problem, this lack of protection that we have for our consumers out there? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, this is a priority for the Member and I think we've heard the same radio, CBC Radio report and we can probably contact those people that spoke. Our office has not had any complaints along full disclosure. I'd certainly be willing to sit down and have more discussion with the Member. We need to hear from the Members of this House where the priorities are in terms of investment. This is going to require new legislation, new investment, new resources, and an ability to police it. So we need to have that all packaged so that the Members could understand it and see what it's going to cost. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, no one's suggesting we have to reinvent the new wheel. This type of law exists all over Canada, all over the U.S., so I'm not sure what we're going to sort of reinvent. The fact is, this Minister could agree to a discussion paper before February so that we can fully address this issue and build it into the priorities. So would the Minister agree to commit to building a discussion paper so that we can look at the fullness of the issue and how it can possibly be implemented in this term? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 68-16(1): Consumer Protection Laws

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we already agreed that we need to have further discussions. Mr. Speaker, I should point out that we are having discussions with other jurisdictions. We are talking with our federal and provincial counterparts, discussions on some of the Canadian Motor Vehicle Arbitration Plan and the Consumer Measures Committee and others to see how we can move forward on this, to see what other jurisdictions are doing, and I'll be glad to start looking and bringing something forward for committee to consider. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue to ask some more questions about the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River. Maybe this time I'll direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Public Works. We have a lot of capital infrastructure as a government and there's kind of an alarming trend I'm seeing here which I don't like. When we have a building, we are the stewards of that building. We are required, like any homeowner or anybody who owns anything, to maintain that. Now, if we're not going to be tearing down the Diamond Jenness Secondary School and we're going to be renovating it, why are we letting it go so far into disrepair? I mean, the roof is leaking, the pipes are inappropriate, there's rust in the water. I mean, there's so many things wrong with it. Why are we letting it go so far? Some of these are not big ticket items to fix. Why can't we do more maintenance on it? Do we have enough PWS tradespeople and resources in Hay River at the current time to maintain and keep in good repair the buildings that we have there? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Return To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we did do a technical review and identified a number of areas that there are deficiencies on this infrastructure piece in Hay River. We've scoped out the project; we've put a price tag in 2006 dollars at \$22.5 million. That information has been passed on to the Department of Education. This is a fairly old building. It was built in 1972. There has been a number of renovations since then. The latest one was in 1995 where we replaced the roof and did some work in the student service area and home economics room and resource centre. So we're doing ongoing maintenance of the facility; however, it needs a serious retrofit and we've made those recommendations to the department and are waiting for their response. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is, do we have enough staff and enough resources in Hay River to try and maintain this building so that it does not deteriorate further and fall into further disrepair? If we're going to do a retrofit on it, wouldn't it make sense to try and stop damage from getting worse, from deterioration occurring? I mean, that's kind of how I think. We're supposed to be stewards of these resources that we have. That would make sense. Take the hospital, for example. They have a dedicated maintenance staff. There's at least three or four people at the hospital who are dedicated to maintenance only. Who's responsible for maintaining the high school and would it be worth looking at a dedicated maintenance person in that school? I mean, obviously the janitors can't do the maintenance, the teachers can't do it, so who's going to do it? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're not talking about minor repairs here for a facility. We're talking about a major midlife retrofit for this facility. That has to go through the capital planning process and that's what we're proposing to do. We're waiting for a response and would like to move forward on it. Until then, all we can do is the minor repairs as they are identified. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know a little bit about building maintenance and let me tell you, some of the pictures in the review there, there is a penetration through the wall in the boiler room where pipes and where holes are that haven't been filled and there's nothing in the hole anymore. It's just a breach of the firewall in the boiler room. Surely for the price of drywall and something to seal around a pipe we could do a little preventative maintenance, fill that in, so if there was a fire in the boiler room it wouldn't spread to the whole school and burn it down. Those are the kind of things I'm talking about. Those are not expensive items. Those are basic...

MR. SPEAKER: Question, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: ...abandoned light fixtures. Let's take them down. That is not big ticket stuff. Can we maintain the school, at least?

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

Further Return To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. I would beg to differ that that stuff is not being done. I would also commit to having our staff going and looking at what the minor repairs that may be being neglected, as the Member has

indicated. If there is anything that is minor repair that we can do through Public Works, we will do it. However, the major retrofit has to go through the capital plan and that's what this facility needs, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, my point is that if we take care of the minor things, the major retrofit will be less of a challenge. Would the Minister of Public Works and Services commit to forming a working group between perhaps the MLAs, the local school authority, somebody from Education, to take a look at this facility and see what kinds of things that we could identify that we could do now while we're waiting to get a major retrofit done? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 69-16(1): Diamond Jenness Secondary School Retrofit

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'd be glad to look at the facility and see what could be done. If there's other people that want to work with us on it, if the Member can identify who they are. The retrofit is still in the works. We're not sure how far down the road it is and we'd be glad to sit down with whoever is interested in talking about doing some of the minor repair and how to do it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Question 70-16(1): Coordinated Approach To Government Support For The Arts Sector

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. As I discussed in my Member's statement, Education, Culture and Employment is providing grants through the NWT Arts Council to northern artists. When people go out and provide their product or finish their CDs or do their paintings or whatnot, what is done by ECE is basically an e-mail saying congratulations, this has been done, we've gave the person a grant, it's great, whoo-hoo. It seems to end there. This is sad. There's an opportunity for ITI to work closely with ECE to get this information and learn about these artists and promote these artists. I'd like to hear from the Minister of industry and tourism today that they will work closely with Education, Culture and Employment. They will get these names, they will get copies of these products, and they will include them in their tourism and marketing campaigns as a way to promote and enhance the Arts Society and create a reason for people, another reason for people to come to the Northwest Territories. So I'm looking for that commitment from the Minister today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 70-16(1): Coordinated Approach To Government Support For The Arts Sector

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the Member will be pleased to hear that the Department of ITI and ECE have been working together very closely over the past several years. Both departments funded the development of an Arts Strategy in 2004. We have also funded a follow-up action plan two in 2007. I have listened very closely to what the Member is saying. I fully agree. I think it is a very good idea to support performing artists, especially if they record their work. I know that, in visiting other provinces and territories, other provinces and territories do that, as well. I will be working with my colleague from Education to update our action plan so that we can continue to support our performing artists. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-16(1): Coordinated Approach To Government Support For The Arts Sector

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the document that you are talking about. To me, it didn't address the artists that are out there being supported from the Arts Council. Like I said, there are a lot of musicians out there that have received money and are out there struggling to get their name known. It wouldn't take very much for us to give them a little bit of a nudge through some of our marketing campaign to get their name out there and to utilize them, to ask them along when we are going out on tradeshows and whatnot as representatives of the North to say this is the type of music that is being produced. It is amazing the types of music that are out there. My question is obviously specifically related to those people that are getting the grants. Will you work with the Minister of Education to get those names, to get the product and to include the product in your marketing campaigns?

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

Further Return To Question 70-16(1): Coordinated Approach To Government Support For The Arts Sector

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department has been doing that to a certain extent. You may recall that last year at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, we had a large cultural component and we also had an NWT House where we featured performing artists from the Northwest Territories. We are planning to do something similar at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. We also have been successful in utilizing performers in our various tradeshows over the years. You might recall with Team Canada when we went to Dallas and Russia and Berlin, we used performing artists. So this is something that we would really like to continue to support. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Abernethy. Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Question 71-16(1): Implementation Of A 911 Service

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs who well knows that we do not have a 911 service anywhere in the Northwest Territories. The Minister also knows that the chief coroner of the NWT, as early as 2001, has made recommendations that the GNWT should consider implementing a 911 service in our territory. The need is an issue of public safety and access to emergency services. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that a 911 service saves lives and the response time to accidents and tragic events is much shorter where a 911 service exists.

In May of 2007, the NWT Association of Communities passed a resolution at their annual general meeting that the GNWT formulate an implementation plan to provide 911 dispatch service to all households in the NWT. The Minister is aware that the City of Yellowknife has been working to get a 911 service off the ground for many years now, but it is hampered by a lack of GNWT support. Just this week, Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made the following statements, and I quote, "The government is preparing to undertake some research. There has been a lot of interest from the coroner's office, obviously from the City of Yellowknife and most recently through a resolution from the NWT Association of Communities in saying discussions on how we might get some kind of emergency services advanced." My question to the Minister is this: What research is the department about to undertake and when will it get started?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Return To Question 71-16(1): Implementation Of A 911 Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of things we would have to look at in order to start putting the plan on how to deliver 911 services to the Northwest Territories and also to even deliver it to one of the communities is probably closer to being ready than the rest, and that is the city of Yellowknife. Of course, that is looking at the technical challenges that are in front of us. NorthwesTel has been communicating with us. We can't identify a system right now to support delivery to all of the communities. There are also a number of logistical challenges that we need to identify how we would deal with the system in our communities where they don't have street addresses, and, of course, the biggest factor and the biggest challenge of all is the cost. We have agreed to work with the City of Yellowknife. We have put together a stakeholder committee. We are part of it. We will be working along with them to look at the different options and a plan to deliver 911 to the city of Yellowknife. We will continue to work on what it would take to apply that to the rest of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 71-16(1): Implementation Of A 911 Service

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear the Minister say that they are ready to support the

City of Yellowknife to get 911 implemented, if that is what I heard. I think that is wonderful. The Minister spoke also about the absence of infrastructure in all the communities in the NWT. That is absolutely accurate. Most of our communities can't handle 911 service at this point in time due to technical problems with their telephone service, but I know there is at least one community that is ready for 911. In the absence of necessary infrastructure in every community, will the Minister commit to providing support to the implementation of 911 in at least the one community or more who are ready for the implementation of 911? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 71-16(1): Implementation Of A 911 Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have already indicated to the city that we would be glad to work with them. We would be very happy to explore the different options that are available to us. Of course, we have to look at what type of system we are talking about. Are we talking about a basic 911 system that is available in the Yukon? Are we looking at a complete system like the southern cities have? All those things, of course, have different costs or price tags that come with it. We have to do a lot of work in this area. We have committed to work with the city on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a short supplementary. Ms. Bisaro.

Supplementary To Question 71-16(1): Implementation Of A 911 Service

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have the Minister clarify for me, then, what kind of support he is referencing. Is it simply human resource support or is it actual dollars and financial resources? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 71-16(1): Implementation Of A 911 Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have committed at the stakeholder committee that we will work with them. We have not committed to supply any dollars. We are certainly willing to undertake some of the research. We will be willing to supply some of our staff to make some time to it. Until we know what the options are, it is very difficult to be able to agree at this point, as the Member is asking, to invest and pay for some of this service. Four hundred thousand dollars that the city has identified came out of the community capacity fund. We would like to be able to expand on what they are trying to do and hopefully work together and possibly learn from what has been happening in terms of research and some discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro. Thank you. Written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 9: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**Written Question 2-16(1): Status Of Culverts On The Dempster Highway**

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

Can the Department of Transportation provide a report on the status of culverts along the Dempster Highway? Specifically, I request:

1. a report on culverts that have collapsed on the Dempster Highway;
2. the age of the culverts on the Dempster Highway; and
3. the timeline to replace these culverts.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Written questions. Returns to written questions. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, please? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize a true constituent from Behchoko, Eric Gargan and also my brother David Lafferty. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 11: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS**Mr. Krutko's Reply**

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the 12 years I have been here, I have seen a lot of change by way of Legislative Assemblies, Members, more importantly, coming in with great intentions but at the end of the day, after being here for four years or going on four terms, I think that a lot of the issues are pretty similar in regards to how we, as government, deal with the residents of the Northwest Territories. The challenges continue to be out there. I think it is more important that we find ways and unique ways of facing these challenges and not continue to do the same practice over and over and over and that we don't see any significant change by way of political change, social change and the well-being of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

We have focussed a lot on development in regards to diamond mines and major infrastructure by way of public

hearings for pipelines and whatnot. At the end of the day, the goal of government is to provide programs and services to improve the lives of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I came into the 13th Assembly with a very strong emphasis on healing by way of community healing programs and especially the Ti'oondih Healing Society, the attempts by the Gwich'in to establish a healing program in the Mackenzie Delta to find a way to deal with the social ills that affect all of our communities and our people. But, Mr. Speaker, today we have to evolve to a point where we only have one alcohol and drug program in the Northwest Territories, very little by way of baseline programs and services. Yes, we have improved the capacity of government to provide programs and services such as mental health workers, alcohol and drug workers, social workers, nurses, policing, but yet still, Mr. Speaker, we still have a challenge in this area.

Mr. Speaker, another area that I feel very strongly about is the support of youth and our elders in our communities. We, as political leaders, always make the comment that the youth are our future leaders and we must do what we can to improve the lives of the youth. I think as a young person growing up in the Northwest Territories on how important the support of my community was when I was involved in sport, either cross-country skiing, basketball, soccer, hockey, you name it. For me, that was the stimulant to provide me with the emphasis to realize that living healthy, being active and being an ambassador for your community really made a difference to myself as an individual, but for also my teammates that I had an opportunity to travel with and compete in sport with, but the community made you feel that you were there representing them. I think we are starting to see that coming back to our communities in the Northwest Territories, but it is important that we don't just look at education as the means of solving our problems or the economics of solving our problems. We have to look at the challenges we face in the Northwest Territories by ensuring that the health and well-being are in place to ensure that our young people are growing up healthy, they are physically active but also they are included in our political systems by way of government services through the community associations that we have and not to have them on the sideline saying we know what is best for you, but bring them into the tent and allow them to take. I am very glad to see in all of the assemblies that I have been at, we have a youth and an elder representative at these assemblies. For me, that is the first step; is bring them to the table, allow them an opportunity to speak and take part and not to be left out in the cold. I think that should be applied elsewhere throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we, as government, have to change the way we develop programs through education and training, but now we see an opportunity to allow other parties to partake in developing our education and program services and not to simply leave it up to government. We have seen First Nations government do a tremendous job by way of the Tlicho Government in regards to the community services board. But again, we have to take advantage of those things that work and put them into other areas of the Northwest Territories that gives us that opportunity and provide those services to all of the people of the Northwest Territories and give more authorities to the band, the community governments, the

education authorities in our communities and, more importantly, our students, to tell us exactly what is working and what is not and be able to improve on that.

I think also, Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we never lose sight of our history. The North has a very unique history by way of the indigenous people that basically welcomed the explorers by way of the miners, the prospectors, the fur traders to the Northwest Territories and also for ourselves to realize that we had a very healthy society before the Government of Canada devolved the responsibility of what we call Rupert's Land from the Hudson Bay Company back in the early 1800s. I think a lot of our history has devolved around developments. It is either the gold rush of the 1800s or basically the oil boom in 1921 in regards to Norman Wells, the gold development around here in Yellowknife and then later on the Beaufort Sea development in the 1960s and 1970s, and now the diamond exploration going into the 1980s and 1990s. I think there is an era of our history that we have to learn from. So much of these developments have taken place, but yet the wealth has left our territory with very little to show for those developments in the positive legacy that these developments have had and especially right here in Yellowknife in regards to the two mines that are practically right in your boundaries by way of Giant and Con and the environmental liability that they left behind to the taxpayers of Canada and the residents of the Northwest Territories to be responsible for.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I think it is time we look at sustainable development in a different blind by including looking at the holistic approach of development, not simply looking at it by way of jobs or basically opportunities but look at how it is going to fit in regards to ourselves as governments, as people of the Northwest Territories, to be the true benefactors of these developments and not to have it dictated by Ottawa or dictated by an industry that either functions out of Houston, Texas or Antwerp, Belgium, but to ensure that we, as northerners, benefit to its fullest but also ensure that we are able to sustain the North and become truly independent and not divided by way of handouts from Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most crucial issues I have heard during the election was the housing crisis that we still have in the Northwest Territories, but, more importantly, the decision made by the previous government to consolidate social programs under one envelope in regards to social reforms that took place. I think the biggest impact that we have seen was the effect that it has had on seasonal employees who work part time and depend on social housing as their only means of accommodation. Yet, a lot of these people have never been social clients by way of our income support programs but are being forced to have to go somewhere and request a subsidy which they didn't have to do before. Yet, Mr. Speaker, a lot of people are struggling to maintain a lifestyle and provide for their families under the existing system that we have where we base a system on gross income and not look at the effects of paying taxes right off your cheques to Revenue Canada and then having to pay your rent on top of it. There is very little take home pay to pay the rest of your bills, food for your family and also support services for your other children such as school supplies and whatnot. That's something that has to be seriously looked at by this government. I think sometimes we have to admit that we aren't perfect, we make

mistakes and I would admit here today that we did make a mistake.

Mr. Speaker, also, I would like to state that we have to do a better job by including our communities in the decision-making process that we have. We talk about community empowerment; we talk about allowing communities to make decisions. Again, we have to realize that they are not all going to be successful. They are going to fail, but we also have to be able to have the support mechanism there for them when they do fail, by ensuring they have the capacity, resources and government support to back them up. So when they do make a mistake, we don't allow them to fumble in trying to sustain a non-tax-based concept where there is no tax base in a lot of our small communities. If you look at property taxes, you are probably looking at a \$50,000 or \$70,000 in property taxes. A community can't sustain itself on \$50,000 or \$70,000.

Also, I would just like to state, Mr. Speaker, that I believe, as a government, we have to do a better job in supporting a cultural industry, our crafts industry and, more importantly, the professionals, experts I should say, that we have out there in our elders. We have very few elders that still remain in a lot of our communities. We have lost a lot of elders, yet we aren't taking full advantage of the knowledge, the history and the understanding they have. They are the ones who have seen the world evolve the last 70 or 80 years and seeing how the change has affected themselves, their children, their grandchildren and, in some cases, their great-great-grandchildren. We have to find a better way of not penalizing our seniors from providing that information. A lot of times we have great intentions of how to deliver programs and services but don't realize the financial impact on that individual by receiving per diems or receiving a cheque has an impact on their pension. A lot of them have been affected in such a way that they are reluctant to share the knowledge and information that they have because of that. I think it's so important that we look at how programs and services affect people by way of great intentions, but realize there are penalties with regard to how we provide these programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most critical crises we face in the Northwest Territories is climate change. We see it with regard to our community infrastructure; we see it when we travel on the land, on our roads and in the air by what is taking place on the ground. We have shoreline erosion, public infrastructure shifting, our highways buckling and also the effect it's having on the wildlife, our fish, our birds and, more importantly, our people. People don't realize it unless you talk to someone who has made a living on the land and who has seen the effects on the substance such as caribou, fish, the birds. They are seeing the differences that are out there. I think right now, we, as northerners, have to take ownership of this responsibility to ensure that we do a better job of looking at the well-being of our environment, our people and our land.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most central challenges that hopefully we can keep our fingers crossed that we can get something out of this government before the next election, one of the areas that will have a detrimental or direct affect on all northerners is rebalancing the northern residential tax deductions that we get and make it worthwhile and that we aren't penalized for living in the Northwest Territories. If anything, it should give us an incentive to live in the Northwest Territories. By changing

the northern tax credit, we would be able to keep more of our wealth in our pockets than having to see it all go to Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, again, as a Member of this Assembly and the previous Assembly, as I started off my comments with, four years is a short time. Yet we have very little time to waste by way of bickering on issues that will not get us anywhere. Also, we need to realize we can only accomplish so much in the short time frame we are going to be here.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members of this House to work cooperatively, to work for the benefit of our people and make sure we put our focus and energy on things we can really accomplish and make a difference to improve the lives of the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Replies to opening address. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 11-16(1): Petition To Address Crack Cocaine Problems In Inuvik

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a petition from the citizens of Inuvik beseeching the RCMP to close down Inuvik's crack cocaine houses. There are 770 signatures on the petition, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners are strongly concerned about the presence of crack cocaine in our community and want immediate action to address this growing problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 17-16(1): Appointment Of Two Members To The Human Rights Adjudication Panel

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 5, 2007, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment as members of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel, effective on December 1, 2007, for a term of four years: Ms. Joan Mercredi of Fort Smith and Mr. Adrian Wright of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave earlier today. Are

there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your motion, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 17: MOTIONS

Motion 17-16(1): Appointment Of Two Members To The Human Rights Adjudication Panel, Carried

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 48(1) of the Human Rights Act provides for the establishment of an adjudication panel composed of at least three persons, appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS section 48(5) of the Human Rights Act provides that members of the panel hold office, during good behaviour, for a term of four years, with the exception of the first members appointed;

AND WHEREAS the appointments of two of the adjudication panel members expired on October 31, 2007;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management has considered a number of qualified individuals for appointment as adjudication panel members;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management is tasked with recommending individuals to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment as members of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel, effective on December 1, 2007, for a term of four years: Ms. Joan Mercredi of Fort Smith and Mr. Adrian Wright of Yellowknife.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 1-16(1), Sessional Statement, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We are dealing with Minister's Statement 1-16(1), Sessional Statement. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee today is to deal with the sessional statement in Committee of the Whole today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. I would like to ask the Premier if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. We will begin with the sessional statement. General comments. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to respond to the Premier's sessional statement and I would like to start by building a strong foundation and hitting some common ground.

First of all, there were main points that I strongly agree with, but the first one I would like to touch on is a sustainable future means looking far beyond a four-year horizon, and that's repeated later in the statement. I would like to challenge all Members here, all Members of the House, do we have the far-sightedness that this requires.

The second point I would like to emphasize is working together. That's something all the elders I have worked with over the years have emphasized. I am slowly becoming one myself and so I find myself emphasizing that really critical element. We do need to work together. I think there's a proven track record of great accomplishment when we do.

As a third point -- I am skipping to page 4 of the address -- to me, a very key question is where can we have the greatest impact, not just after the next four years, but over the longer term of our future. To me, it's partly how. The actions that support all our goals, especially at reduced cost, are the ones we want to be investing in. My theme this morning is supporting local business. Using local business or supporting local business that uses local resources will give us big, big returns for our local economies and our territorial economy.

Education really from the bottom up, early childhood education, childcare and housing, these sorts of things are always place-based. In other words, in a way that engages us in our communities and imbeds us in the land we live on.

Also another how there is shifting subsidies from some of the things that are clearly bad for our economy and bad from the environment to those things that are good. I have lots of suggestions I would be happy to chat with you about at some point.

Again, a very important statement, we need to improve the effectiveness by recognizing connections; connections between individual decisions and programs, health and education, economic development and environmental impacts and really between all of those. That's something that I have seen missing. This is a core that has driven me into politics. It is trying to make and emphasize those connections. More on that later.

Again, development must continue to be undertaken in an environmentally sustainable manner. I take great

exception to that. This is not a common area for us. A lot of our development has clearly not been environmentally sustainable. We don't have to go beyond the city limits for that. To me, the greatest issue we have is climate change and we are well on our way to tripling our greenhouse gas emissions from the 1990 level to the time we fully recognized that we need to be reducing those by 50 to 80 percent within the next couple or three decades. So, sadly, that's not a point that I can agree on.

There are many points there, as I was saying, that I do support. I like what I heard and I would like to focus on some of the things that will help us at looking beyond this four-year horizon. To me, the first thing is a policy lens, passing all of our actions, all of our policies, reviewing all of our legislation through this policy lens that looks at the action or policy contribute to net benefits in all three components of sustainability. Really, we want all three -- and that's what sustainability is, a sustainable economy without other aspects of sustainability is not sustainable -- components of environmental, social and environmental sustainability and benefits must be part of every action and policy we take. It's the failure to do that in the past that has led us to some of the big challenges and frustrations, Mr. Chair, that you expressed earlier of same old, same old. We need to do things differently. This lens can be huge in helping us do things differently.

Next I would like to mention climate change because it is so huge and pervasive for me. It pervades all of our policies and so on, all aspects of our lives. The incredible loss of permafrost that we are facing. We've seen nothing yet from what all the scientists say. Loss of 20 to 50 percent of our species, of our different kinds of animals and plants within a 20, 30 to 50-year time frame. The scientists are calling this ecosystem collapse. It's when basically the system starts imploding. That's a huge one for us. We're so connected to the land in every way from the air we breathe to the water we drink and the food it provides, and still does. It's not just the old way of life; we are totally connected and dependent on the land today.

Of course, change in water distribution and quality. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has talked about that. The loss of cultures. The ACIA, the Arctic Climate Impact and Adaptation study that was just done by the Arctic Council, an amazing study and basically predicts the complete loss of the Inuit culture within a generation or two. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Again, these are huge. The science is clear and unanimous. What will our commitment be to this? Again, we're right there now. It's act or be prepared for really, really significant impacts we don't want to even consider at this point.

Economic diversification. This can add to our strength and our local economies, especially, I want to profile here the arts. Investment in the arts such as the Yukon is doing can really give us big returns. It can help with keeping professionals, retaining professionals that we need to retain, as well as adding to the depth and quality of life and cost of living even in our communities. I mentioned before the two aspects of more and better to our economy. I think we're doing well on the more front, although, as I've mentioned, it's precarious. It's now time to focus on better. How can we diversify it? How can we make sure it responds to our values?

One thing that is of great concern to me is fuel costs. The Northwest Territories is so dependent on fossil fuels right

now and becoming increasingly so as we become more mechanized and so on. We want to build more highways and on it goes. We want more flights in and out. We know what's happening with the cost of fuel; it's tripled, probably, in the last five years; certainly doubled in the last couple of years. We need to have that be a...(inaudible)...Everything we do we should really consider what the fuel costs are and alternatives and efficiencies and opportunities for conservation of energy there.

Finally, and another strong point of agreement and support for me is focusing on prevention. I really like that aspect of the address, especially for me it's the social and environmental issues. There are so many things we can do that will be win, win, win for us. Getting at the root causes of our health problems, social problems and environmental problems can really contribute in many ways, as well, to a strong and sustainable economy.

I'd like to emphasize here adequate, available and affordable housing, including resolution of land issues. I mentioned before childcare and early childhood education; well demonstrated to be effective and a good investment. Implementing the Literacy Program including enhanced adult literacy and basic education in small communities. Finally, of course, the place-based education throughout our learning systems where our learning is from early childhood through continued learning as adults is based on our land and in our communities and cultures.

Finally, of course, I think -- sorry, this really is my final one -- the land claims, land use plans, leadership and coordination of government. I think there's a real role, a real challenge for us, as our self-government negotiations come to conclusion. We really need to focus and develop our leadership role. It's a challenge. There's no map out there for us. We're unique in Canada, clearly. Our challenges are huge but I think we're a huge bunch of people with great skills, and with some focus we can provide some leadership there. That will include a discussion on how we will manage our lands and resources over time and so on in really new ways. I think we should be able to come up with new ways of doing that so we're not generating a lot of the issues that the current federal system does. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and I will be pleased to hear others' comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Premier, do you want to respond to some of the points?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't intending to respond to comments. I'll give all Members opportunity to speak towards this sessional statement, then maybe I can also speak at the end of that process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. Does committee agree that's the process we'll use?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on my list I have Mrs. Groenewegen, MLA for Hay River South, then Mr. Ramsay. If anyone else would like to speak, just put your hand up. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sessional statement is the first time we've had a bit of

chance to hear what the Premier's vision is for the territory -- and the Cabinet's vision, I would assume -- since Mr. Roland's election as our new Premier for the 16th Assembly. I can't help but be struck by the consistency with this statement starting off, as now being here for the fourth term, as the similarities that we come across from term to term to term. I guess one of the things that I would like to see...We've all come here to do a job and we want to make a difference and we talk about those aspirations, we put words to it and sometimes it's just so broad and so vast; we have so many issues that we want to advance that sometimes it seems like we don't really have a very viable quantifying what kind of success or what kind of in-roads or how much we've actually advanced this agenda. It's difficult to measure. I think that maybe coming from the private sector where you make a decision and then pretty much you see the results of your decision, what will happen, you see the results pretty quickly. With the government it's different, and we're sort of a vast territory and we cover so many areas of responsibility that it's easy to become discouraged in some ways, because we aren't really able to gauge the difference that our actions and then our words and our energies are making.

I guess I'm a realist. I always like to look at some of these things that we say and some of these policies and try to project and visualize somebody, somewhere, some home, some family, some place, some community where you could actually see where we've taken things from where they are now to a better place, to a better level; where we've made decisions here that have had a direct impact on someone's well-being, someone's ability to take advantage of opportunities for someone's ability to realize their potential. All those things that we talk about, but sometimes I just wish we had a better way to quantify and measure what we do.

I've said this before and I'll say it again, I think, as a government, we have many areas of responsibility which we have to be responsible for on an ongoing basis, but we also have many challenges. In looking at those challenges, we can become overwhelmed unless we take it one...If we just look at the mountain and don't look at how we can address things one issue and one initiative and one step at a time, I think that we become unfocussed and I don't want us to lose that optimism that we can make a difference. I don't want to sound negative, but it's really good when we can somehow measure, if we set a goal and say we want to see 10 percent reduction in the amount of alcohol consumed in the Northwest Territories in the next four years, and at the end of four years we can say, okay, that would be an indicator of something. You know, if we say we want to see 10 percent more graduates from secondary schools in the Northwest Territories in the next four years, and then at the end if we could have a report card at the end of our four-year term. If we could set out some of those things that we'd like to see at the beginning, put a quantity on them and then at the end of the four years we could give ourselves a report card and say, okay, the 16th Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories saw that kind of progress. So in the days ahead I would like to see us try to put those kinds of targets in place, even if it's only in four or five areas.

I've heard Mr. Bromley talk about the environment and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Why not set targets? Let's not make them unrealistic, but let's set

targets and then take concrete steps to realize those reductions. We have the authority; we have the mandate; we have the power to do things. It's just a matter of us making those decisions. So I hope we aren't going to be stuck in a rut of doing things the way we've always done them. I hope we can think with innovation and creativity and find some things, put some targets out there and realize some progress. I couldn't list for you today, Mr. Chairman, all of what those things should be, but as we've had a chance to spend some time together I think we've been able to learn some of the common areas of interest that we have as Members elected to this House. Like I said, I think with everything that's happening in the territory around us, there are a lot of other places we could be, but we have chosen to be here and that choice was supported by the people who elected and put us here and now four years will go by so quickly, but we have an opportunity to make a difference. That's what's important to me. I'm not here to warm a chair or just sit back and collect a paycheque or not make a difference. This is such a unique opportunity to serve the Northwest Territories at this level and sometimes we become even a little bit desensitized to that. We're here all the day, we work, you know, we're here every day, we work with other leaders, and it becomes kind of commonplace to us. But I think we need to always remind ourselves that this is such an unusual and extraordinary opportunity we have to affect the direction of the North and to affect the lives of and the environment, the things that are within our ability to change. We need to constantly remind ourselves of that and take that responsibility and that stewardship very, very seriously.

So I'm happy to be back here. I'm full of issues, ideas and energy from the intense dialogue we had with constituents in the month of September. Certainly the demands on our time and our resources are great, but I'm very confident that we can advance the agenda and I'm looking forward to the completion of a document that will set out the priorities of this government and then working with everyone, all 19 Members, to find ways to ensure that the 16th Assembly leaves a very positive mark on our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Next on my list I have Mr. Ramsay, then Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome you, Mr. Chairman, to your role as chair of Committee of the Whole. Speaking to the Premier's sessional statement, I've got a number of areas that I wanted to cover. First and foremost, I'm very happy to be back here and happy to be back in my role as a Regular Member of this House. I'm also looking forward to my role as the chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure committee and the role that I'll play in hopefully steering the decisions of the government.

I think, for me, and a lot of folks have worked with me in the past, my style is I like to mix things up a little bit; I like to try to get things done. I'm not a guy that tolerates complacency very much. I think, you know, I've seen government operate for a while now and I think a lot of times it's an issue of the old adage of the tail wagging the dog. I think early on in the mandate of this 16th Legislative Assembly, I really think that the government has to grab the bureaucracy by the horns and start steering this ship. Four years goes by so fast and I think as a group, you know, I'm really full of positive energy, Mr. Chairman, in

the fact that I believe wholeheartedly that if we work together, we can achieve some very good things.

I've had discussions with my colleagues on this side of the House -- there are 11 of us here, and there are seven Cabinet Ministers across the way -- and we have a profound amount of power in this style of government and a profound influence on how things can and should happen. When Regular Members on this side of the House want to make things happen, we're going to try our best to make things happen. I really believe strongly in that, Mr. Chairman; we have to be decisive. You know, I'm not interested in babysitting the government. We're here to make decisions; we're here to be leaders and I think it's time to shake things up.

The morale in the public service is going down; it's in the toilet. We have to rescue that. We have to show the public service that this is a government that's not going to let them stifle under managers who won't let them do anything, or managers who won't let them do their jobs. Do you know why they don't want to let them do their jobs? It's because when they let them do their jobs, that means they might have to do something. That's not the kind of government we should be operating here. It's not the kind of government that should allow middle managers to become nothing more than contract administrators. We've got 5,500 employees. There are a number of them out there, Mr. Chairman, who are waiting anxiously for a government that is going to grab people and make them accountable. This is the government that can do that. We have all the power here, so let's do that. Let's empower people in the public service to do their jobs. You know, too many people telling people what to do. I really think that it has to start with us. That's why I'm so excited about this zero-based review, positions, budgeting. Let's start at ground zero.

In the Minister's sessional statement he makes... "We have demonstrated we can govern responsibly and make good use of our resources." Well, to me that's a debatable statement. I don't know if we're making good use of our resources, because I don't exactly know if every dollar we're spending is being spent in an area where it should be spent. There are so many demands on our resources today that unless we go through an exercise like that, we won't know where exactly the best bang for our dollar is. Everybody knows. Everybody's got concerns: transportation infrastructure, public infrastructure, youth, there's health and education. There are a number of issues that are out there that are pressing and urgent to our constituents. It's important that we try to find resources somehow, someway, to address those main priorities. I think we can do that, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to talk a little bit about devolution. In my mind, what I've seen are the losses just keep stacking up. The last government had a number of losses that keep piling up. I mean, we've got devolution and resource revenue so connected, intertwined and connected that I think we're missing some big opportunities. I've said it before and I'll say it again today, that I believe we have to start hiving off areas where we can target and we can get wins. You look back -- transportation, health -- we got some wins. I mean, health is costing us a lot of money today but, you know, it's our responsibility, Mr. Chairman. I believe oil and gas, mining, the environment, those are some things that maybe we should just start concentrating our efforts in certain areas. Oil and gas is perhaps the biggest one. I mean, we're on the verge of a \$10 billion pipeline down

the very spine of our territory and if we're not out there negotiating specifically on that and getting responsibility, getting revenues for that, then we're missing the boat because we're just grouping everything together. I know I asked the Premier last year what he thought it cost the government to negotiate devolution over the years that we have been talking about this. It is probably a staggering amount, 25, 30, 40 million dollars. That is money that we will never get back. In my mind, I really believe we have to start targeting areas and going after them so that this government, the 16th Legislative Assembly, when we are done, do you know what? We can look in the mirror and say, yes, we accomplished some things. If we keep looking at the big picture, I don't know if we can get there. I just haven't seen evidence that we are getting any traction there. So let's get out there. Let's get some winds so that, at the end of this government, we are not scrambling around looking for something to pin our name to or a legacy project and spending \$165 million on a bridge, for example, because the loss has stacked up, because we didn't have devolution, because we didn't have resource revenue sharing. We need to get some wins. We need to get them early on, Mr. Chair.

The cost of living, too, is a big issue for many of my constituents and many other Members that I have talked to in their ridings. In part to the devolution negotiations, and I could never understand why it wasn't part of the negotiations, but to try to get Ottawa to establish a permanent trust fund in the Northwest Territories based on revenues coming out of the oil and gas and you could include mining in that, as well. In the state of Alaska, they have a permanent trust fund and every year that permanent trust fund pays anywhere between \$800 and \$2,400 to every man, woman and child in the state of Alaska. There are 700,000 people in the State of Alaska. There are 44,000 here in the Northwest Territories. There is no way that we should just be sitting idly by watching our resources slip through our fingers with nothing to help future generations, my kids, my kids' grandkids. We should be looking at setting up something like that. If you want to talk about a legacy, that would be something that I am sure this Premier and the government would love to have their name associated with the establishment of a trust fund. We shouldn't give up on that.

Not being the Premier or being a Cabinet Minister, you are not party to all of the negotiations that are going on. You don't get to see... You can tell the Premier, well, I really think you should pursue this, but, at the end of the day, you really don't know how he is pursuing it or how the government is pursuing it. You just take it for granted that, well, I told them about it. Maybe they will do something. On this file, I really do believe we have to make some demands of the federal government to set this up.

The other issue, too, I never really fully understood why, if there is a dispute -- and obviously there is a dispute between the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories on resource royalties -- why would we not negotiate all of those royalties that are being paid to Ottawa go into a trust and are set aside until such a time as the political evolution of this territory is at such a state where groups and the Government of the Northwest Territories and other governments here can access those funds? I don't understand why we wouldn't be solely concentrating right in or zero in on that. Get our lawyers working on that. There is a dispute at play. There are

resource royalties that are being paid to the federal government coming out of the soil here in the Northwest Territories rightfully belonging to the citizens of the Northwest Territories and we should be demanding that the federal government put those aside until we have settled our differences. What is it going to hurt the federal government? They have a \$14 billion surplus. Set it aside. We should be hammering on the desks saying that that should happen. And then you want to see a resolution to land claims? You want to believe it. Land claims would be resolved. There would be a pot of money that would be accruing every year. In order to get access to that, the governments would have to come up with some kind of agreement on cost sharing or revenue sharing and I believe that is the key to the future here is those resource royalties. We need to be going there. We need to be doing that.

I think that is probably about it, Mr. Chair. Again, I wanted to mention that I am very positive about the role that Members have in this government. I know we are new. We are just coming in here, the sessional statement. I know we are not fully through our strategic plan and our vision for the next four years, but I am excited about the opportunities that are out there. I am excited about our people. I am excited about the opportunity to work with my colleagues here, the new Cabinet, my colleagues on this side of the House. Let's get at it and let's get something done. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. At this time, I would like to recognize in the visitor's gallery a former Member of the House, Mr. Roy Erasmus.

---Applause

Next on my list I have Ms. Bisaro, Member for Frame Lake.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Premier for sharing his views and his vision in his sessional statement. At one point, he said that he believes that the 16th Assembly will be a turning point. I have to say that I agree with the Premier. I see the next decade as vital to the progress of the NWT and it is a time when the NWT will need strong leadership. I think that this Assembly is well positioned to provide that leadership.

The Premier also said that if we make the right choices and if we act together, and I agree strongly with those statements as well. It is important for us to consider the views of all the residents of the NWT whenever we consider any action that we take. It is important that we act. We cannot continue to maintain the status quo. We need to go forward. It has been mentioned previously that this is an exciting time. I totally agree with that. I think that there are a lot of things that we can accomplish if we work together, if we continue to think outside the box, as the expression goes, and if we continue to take each other's ideas and refine them to suit everybody within the territory.

The Premier spoke about protecting and preserving the environment. I agree with that statement, as well. I feel that we need to have considered and controlled development from both mining and from oil and gas sectors. I feel we need to reform our regulatory process. We will have to see whether or not Mr. McCrank can do that to the satisfaction of this particular Assembly. I have my doubts, but we will have to wait and see. As we have

development, we have to make sure that we establish protected areas prior to development; that we identify restrictions on development in and around the protected areas and that we do that before development occurs, not after development occurs. It is not going to do us any good if we do it after the fact. We have to be proactive in terms of protecting the environment, and I believe that my colleague has already stated that he feels every action we take must be made in consideration of the affect that it is going to have on our environment and on our climate. I would agree with that. We also need to make sure that we work to mitigate the effects that climate change is already reaping on our fragile territory.

In terms of devolution, the Premier mentioned that we need to manage, control and make decisions to govern resource development. We need to benefit from its revenue. Absolutely. I feel that we need to try to wean ourselves away from the federal government, but I also feel very strongly that we should not take on any responsibility or any programs and services unless we get adequate funding to put them in place and to deliver those programs and services. Any deal that we make with the federal government, as far as I am concerned, has to make financial sense. There is absolutely no reason for us to take over a program and service and not have the funds to be able to deliver it.

In terms of health and social services, again the Premier stated that health and wellness of our people is a pressing concern. I can't disagree with that statement either. The advancement of health, social services and education, day care programs, all of those are things that we need to maintain and to try to improve in every community in the NWT if we possibly can. A number of areas that I consider we need to look at, and this is only a few of many, but realistic funding for non-government organizations, and provision of a larger number of affordable housing units, not that they could necessarily be more affordable, but we need more housing units which are affordable to the majority of our people. We need a reduction in violent crime. That is right across all of our communities unfortunately. We need to work at increasing the level of education in every one of our children in school.

One of the things that we need to work on, I believe, is to develop functional relationships with regional governments, treaty organizations, and municipal governments. There are many organizations out there which are working towards their own goals and visions, but they interact with ours immeasurably. There is no way we can divest ourselves of the actions that other organizations take. We need to work with them. It is going to be impossible for us to work with them if we don't talk with them. I think there has been a bit of a lack in the previous Assembly and probably Assemblies before that. There seems to be a lack of either understanding on the part of both parties when they try to get together to discuss or there is a lack of actually getting together and having meaningful conversations. I think it is something that this Assembly can work on and should work on. I think if we can have a dialogue and if we can actually speak to the other organizations that have an impact on the work that we do, then it is going to be for the betterment of everybody concerned and we are going to get far further ahead than we would if we try to fight with each other.

One of the things that I don't think the Premier mentioned in his statement but that is an important concern for me is the fact that we have a sort of a trend of urbanization occurring in the territory. Some people are moving from small communities into the larger centres. We are tending to get regional centres, Yellowknife for sure which has half of the territory's population, but we are getting increasing populations in Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik. That urbanization puts a stress on our larger towns and city. When residents migrate to a regional centre, it creates needs in the regional centre in improvements in infrastructure or additions to programs and services. It puts a stress on the buildings in those centres, on the roads, on water and sewer, all of those things. I think probably the greater stress, though, is on the programs and services which tend to be required in generally the area of health and social services. People will migrate to the larger centre for a particular health service that is not available in their own community. They will send their children to a regional centre for education because they feel that it is better than what can be had in the community. As soon as you add numbers to the population, the same program or service that was available last year at probably a reasonable level is not going to be available this year because we are starting to tax it by having too many demands on it. We need to consider, when we are providing funding for programs and services, that we are providing it relative to the number of people that are accessing the service.

I think, though, that it is important to remember that any time we have a regional centre, and any time we put money into a regional centre, it is not just benefitting that centre. It is benefitting the whole of the Territories. One of my pet peeves is that we need not necessarily have just a treatment centre for the drying out of people with addictions, but we need a treatment centre which takes them from their addicted self to their clean self and supports them through a period of time until they are integrated back into the community and can exist in the community on their own. I think what we tend to do now is we put people into an addictions centre. We clean them up and then we throw them back out into the community and say, okay, here you go; survive. If they don't have a support system, they are not going to survive. They are going to fall back into the way that they know, the easy way, because it is not easy to take yourself out of an addicted state.

One of the things, I guess the last thing, that I would like to mention is that our economy, particularly in Yellowknife, and I know certainly some of the small communities are not experiencing the joy of a booming economy like Yellowknife is, but a booming economy is a positive but it also creates opportunities. It does create opportunities, but it certainly can and I think is having a negative effect on our government. I think the Premier stated effective and efficient government. That, again, is something which I would agree with him on. It is something to which we should be aspiring, but I see that we do have pressing needs within the public service and outside our public service, particularly for training. Apprentices are one area where I don't think we are doing enough to provide training for people who wish to become apprentices and can then work their way into the economy relative to the development that is up and coming. I am thinking particularly of the pipeline and of the diamond industry.

Enhancement of social problems is also something which is a direct result of a booming economy. The economy brings in lots of money. Lots of money brings in things to spend it on, and that tends to be a detriment to people's health and well-being. So I think that somehow it is something we are going to have to look at during this Assembly, is the educational training and employment needs of our residents need to be addressed. It is important to me that we provide equal opportunity in every community in the Territories for the opportunities that this booming economy is providing. It is not easily done. I can't say that I have a solution at this point. I don't have a solution at this point, but I do think that it is something that we need to work towards.

With that, I think that is about all I have at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. Next on the list I have Mr. Beaulieu. If anybody else wants to speak, just put your hand up. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Premier for his sessional statement, as well. In my own priorities for what I thought that the government should be doing during the upcoming strategic planning process, I would like the government to look at targeting various areas across the Territories. Some of the main areas that I would like to see targeted, for example, in our goal of having healthy and educated people across the territory, I have always felt that it would be a task that would be difficult to achieve, that we are trying to target everybody across the Territories from the very young of our population to the elders. I think that if we just target too many groups or just target everyone, it is almost like a statement that the Premier made. If everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority. So that is my same feeling towards the way that we would be targeting the people to try to create a healthy and well-educated population across the Territories.

I feel that if we concentrate on creating a healthy and well-educated group of youth, then we would actually be achieving some of that objective. I think that, as far as the youth go, in addition to trying to educate them, I think that it is important that this government actually takes a look at some of the smaller communities where it is very difficult to provide youth infrastructure such as swimming pools, which is apparently very costly to operate, artificial ice which is very costly to operate, costly to bring in as infrastructure, but some of the things that government could be looking at is maybe some small infrastructure items, enhancing programs and services in the community, youth counseling and providing youth workers right across the territory where people are concentrating on working with the youth and working with programs. I see that now a majority of the people that are working with the youth across the territory are RCMP officers and teachers. We had a situation in one of the communities. I was talking to one of my friends. He indicated he was the only parent volunteer in a group of people trying to start up soccer teams, basketball teams and volleyball teams in one of the smaller communities and every other adult in the group there was either an RCMP officer or teacher. That's a positive thing, I guess, for individuals that come to work in communities and start to work with the youth and so on.

I would like to see the government make a concentrated effort on reducing the cost of living across the territory. I

think again that it's important that we end up targeting some items that maybe the government could subsidize to help some of the communities where we have the lowest employment, lowest average income, we have the highest cost of living, so that's kind of backwards somehow. If individuals in those communities are lucky enough to be in homeownership, then most of their income goes towards operating the home and so on. So I find that kind of strange that the cost of living...I understand that it's a transportation issue and so on. It's not that I don't understand why that exists, but I don't understand why the government would allow it to continue on for so long without trying to address some of those areas where much needed food items like milk, for example, is something that most families can't afford. Starting right at the beginning of their life with small children, as soon as they are able to advance from drinking only milk which is very healthy for them, they get into other things like Kool-Aid and that's not good for the population. The youth population starts off not as healthy as maybe they should be. Maybe the government could look at some sort of programs like that.

I think it's important also that the Government of the Northwest Territories assist in the process of ensuring that the land resource and self-government negotiations are completed in a timely manner, and that they work with both to be a conduit to try to make sure these land resource and self-government negotiations are completed and that the Government of the Northwest Territories is seen as a government that wants to see these negotiations completed. Sometimes in the smaller communities they aren't seen as that. It would be good if the government could move to trying to complete the negotiations in land resource and self-government areas.

In the area of self-government, I felt that in the community and a lot of the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories, there are various ways that the Government of the Northwest Territories would be able to try to complete the self-government negotiations with the communities. I have talked about decentralization of positions from the GNWT into the communities. I recognize, however, there are housing issues. It's difficult just to house essential staff that we have in the communities like nurses and teachers and so on. So when we bring in other staff into these communities, that could become a challenge. I think this is a challenge that could be met by this government, by the government delegating some of the decision-making and ultimately devolving the decision-making to the communities once the options are in the communities and the positions are reporting to the local aboriginal governments or the community governments.

I feel the Northwest Territories government has a major infrastructure problem. Some of the things we spoke of today in the House with the infrastructure problems in the school, infrastructure problems with the highways and so on, I think the government has to take a serious look at actually borrowing some more money onto advancing some of the debt wall predictions that are further down the line, maybe five or six years down the line, and move that up before repairing the infrastructure costs double. Right now, there's an indication that the infrastructure inflation rate is about 20 percent. So every project that we hold back for five years is going to double in cost, so I think it's important that the government make the decision now and weigh the benefits of doing the infrastructure now,

borrowing the money now, paying the interest on that now versus waiting and paying the extremely high inflation cost on infrastructure development.

I feel that local employment -- Ms. Bisaro just mentioned apprenticeships -- is a key to trying to create some employment at the small community level. I recognize the difficulties in creating apprenticeships, getting people into apprenticeships. I think the Department of Education could do a lot of work in that area.

Some of the items I just want to touch on briefly --, I don't have a lot of time left -- there are housing issues. I believe that housing issues can be addressed by going back to targeting the groups of individuals, whether they be seniors, single households, families and so on. It doesn't do much for the core need if we are addressing family issues when the core need for family issues is lower than, for example, other groups that we are ignoring like singles and seniors. I think that traditional economies, seniors, and the idea of taking a look at zero-based review on infrastructure and O and M are probably things that the government could look at in the future, as well. Mahsi. Thank you.

--Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Abernethy, Member for Great Slave.

MR. ABERNETHY: Me? Thank you, Mr. Chair. I liked the sessional statement. I enjoyed listening to it and I enjoyed reading it afterwards, but I also agree with the comments of my colleagues. There are some areas that obviously I and we feel could have been a little bit stronger. For me, I am not going to go over what my colleagues have already gone over, but there are a couple of areas that I wanted to address, as well.

On page 5 during the statement, you said it's important that we have an effective and efficient government. This is critical to me. Our employees are our most valuable resources. Without them, we have nothing. Without them, we will get nothing done. It's important that they're healthy and happy in the workplace, so they can be as effective and efficient as possible. We've heard, and we continue to hear, about morale issues in the government. I felt that it would have been stronger if you had mentioned more about supporting the public service and creating that healthy and effective work environment. They are our most valuable resource. They are the people who get the work done. I would have liked to have seen some more on how we can create that efficient and effective government that you talk about.

I would also like to have seen a little bit more in there on the voluntary sector. I firmly believe the voluntary sector adds a significant amount of value to the well-being and community of the Northwest Territories. The voluntary sector provides a lot of services and they are able to be very responsive to the people, the people that we serve as well. So I would like to have seen some additional reference in here to the voluntary sector.

Another area that is obviously important to me and close to my heart is art, tourism and culture. We have an amazing territory with many talented people. We have brilliant musicians, we have fantastic painters, craftspeople, writers. They are all out there and we need to work with them to promote them. We need to get their

names out and we need to have them as our champions for showing them what this territory is capable of. On a tourism related point, and I have said it before, if people see and become familiar with the culture and the art and the things that exist, they will come and want to see it. When they are here, they will take advantage of those things. We should be proud of the cultures of the Northwest Territories. We should be proud of the art. So I would have liked to have seen those things in there.

I was very pleased to see the desire to work together with others; aboriginal governments, Members on this side of the room and everybody. So I really liked the statement. Thank you.

--Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Any other Members who want to speak to the sessional statement? If not, I will pass it over to the Premier. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am reading some of the comments made in the sessional statement and there are two things that I would like to comment on today. I first came into the Assembly three years ago today and I had come down here three years ago to the day. I got in in a by-election...

--Applause

...so you can all drop your presents off in my office later.

---Laughter

I came down here and I said before that I spent 22 or 23 years working on the front line, living with the decisions that were made not only in this Assembly, but more so from what we called the Ivory Tower where the decisions were made. Now since being here, I have been in a position where I am part of the decision-making process. I have told people many times that I don't always like what I see. I feel it's my obligation to speak to what I don't like and one I always refer to was reviewing the budget a few years ago. I see where \$1.4 million was cut from the regional housing corporations and the next line I saw the budget in headquarters going up by \$1.4 million and that caused me a lot of concern.

We have spoken to the condition of the highway so many times and we talk about the safety and the well-being of people in the Northwest Territories and I want to get us to a point where we don't just talk about doing things, putting nice words to a piece of paper and coming up with this grand vision. I think it's time we actually have to start putting it into practice and I am not all negative here. I see the government does a lot of good things. One of the things I think they are too good at though is giving too much money away. I say that because you see people who are able to work sometimes choose not to because they make more on income support than they do going out and actually getting a job. That's something we actually have to look at. I have said before there are people who need it. There is a difference between wanting, deserving, needing and there is a lot of people who need it. Those are the people these programs were designed for.

So it's just like raising a spoiled child. You give, give, give and then you try to wean them off and you end up with some push back. I think that's where we are getting at

right now. They have to realize that there is a whole world of opportunity today that many of us as we were growing up didn't see. In our day, in our father's day, our grandfather's day, to be the custodians at the school, they were the well paid ones. They had the nice 16-foot fiberglass speedboats with the 60 horse Johnsons. As our age group came into the workforce, you could get apprenticeships and that's where a lot of us started, was with the apprenticeships. As more and more of our people became trained to start looking at some of the positions that they brought people up from down south, they start cutting all the benefits and that from bringing them up here.

I still have concerns with that and I hear it from constituents who are qualified and are trained to take over a lot of these positions, but for some reasons they are still being left out in the cold and not getting the positions they are trained for, even though they are born, raised and committed to the Northwest Territories. I think that's something that I will continue to address.

Then I go back to some of the infrastructure and I think Tom made mention of it before. We have to take, in my opinion, a common sense approach to everything. I think common sense sometimes is the best attribute you could bring to the table. If something is not working, common sense says it needs to be fixed. If something is working, like the rental assessment at ECE, Housing Corporation, common sense says to leave it alone because it's working. Let's just leave it be. If there are improvements that have to be made, let's improve them. Common sense will bring us a long way, I believe.

I am looking forward to the next four years. I think we can, in my opinion, these are probably the most important four years in our history coming up. We talk devolution, resource revenue sharing and I was discouraged at one of our briefings where we were told by a member of the public service, don't expect to see any progress during these next four years. That's not a fair comment. That's coming from our public service. Maybe it's not going to happen and part of the reason it's not going to happen is a lack of the will of the people of the Northwest Territories, the leadership of the Northwest Territories should all get on the same page. That's been our problem. What's good for one area of the Northwest Territories may not be good for another. We will do what we can to slow down the process. In the meantime, we continue to have our pockets picked. We have had our pockets picked since 1986 to the tune of a few billion dollars now. That's money that's taken out of pockets; that's money taken out of residents' of the Northwest Territories pockets; that's money taken away from our children, grandchildren. As leadership of the Northwest Territories, not just us in this room, there are so many different governments in the Northwest Territories and, as leaders, I think we all have to stand back and have a serious look at that and say we can't allow ourselves to be -- I am not going to use the word -- having stuff taken away without our permission. We can't allow that. You have to band together. That's a challenge. It really is a challenge. It's been tried before. I know there are some that do try and get everybody on the same page and go for a common goal.

So the next four years, we have a lot of work to do, but I think the best approach we can take to the next four years is a very common sense approach. Common sense is a good attribute to have. It helps you through a lot of things. When you look at things with a common sense approach,

I think you make more progress. We, Cabinet, and I have said new attitude, new government should have a new attitude. If some of the people that are taking our direction, taking your direction, are trying to steer you in a different direction, then I think it's time to change the captains and get people in there that are willing to work for the people of the Northwest Territories following your direction, our direction. If you have people out there that aren't willing to do that, then we have to change them because if we don't change them, we will go through the next four years like the last four years where -- and it's been said a few times and I have said it before -- the tail is wagging the dog. We can't allow that to happen. We have to give them direction and we have the best interest of the people we represent in mind. I am sure the last thing the government wants to hear is we want more money, we want more money. We have a lot of money, but it's just leaving the Northwest Territories and we should try to see what we can do to keep that here.

So, Mr. Chair, I just thought I would add my few comments to comments that had already gone around the room. I am looking forward to the next four years and seeing what we can accomplish. I think if we all put our minds to it, use some good common sense, we can accomplish quite a bit in the next four years. Quanam.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Sessional statement. I have Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Bromley. Mr. Ramsay, second round.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take up too much more time. I just wanted to say I really enjoyed listening to my colleagues speak about the sessional statement and what their priorities are for this government and the coming four years. There are a few other issues that I just wanted to touch on that I believe this government has to pay attention to. The first one is the migrant worker issue. We've got over 3,000 migrant workers in the Northwest Territories that take with them over \$300 million out of our territory every year, annually, and \$300 million is a lot of money that circulated locally in our local economy would go a long way. I don't think it can be underestimated the importance of trying to get people to move here, to live here and to stay here in the Northwest Territories. We can't afford to have 3,000 migrant workers, especially when we still have pockets of high unemployment in some of our smaller communities. Any agreements that are signed in the future for resource development projects have to include a tiered approach so that if they don't have any employees from the area that the diamond mine or the resource extraction is taking place, such as the North Slave region, they would go to the Mackenzie Delta and they would find some people there who wanted to work before they went down to Edmonton, Saskatoon or wherever looking for employees; Newfoundland, for that matter. I believe we have to put our people to work here first. If companies are doing business in the Northwest Territories, our people should be front and centre and should be getting jobs and they shouldn't be flying people in and flying people out and taking money out of our territory. It's bad enough that we don't get any resource royalties from the federal government, but when the jobs and the money also leave, it's a double whammy for us. It begs a question of how real is our economy anyway.

When you look at some of the big contracts that are signed with joint venture arrangements with northern companies, they sign these big contracts with southern firms that have the expertise and the manpower, they come in and do the work with their manpower and pay a small percentage to the northern joint venture company, five percent, six percent. It's just a paper transaction. It doesn't mean there are any more jobs for northerners. I think that's a key area that this government needs to focus on: how to get people to move here. If it's through taxation, I will be the first to say I am not a big fan of taxation, but if we've got 3,000 migrant workers out there taking \$300 million annually out of this territory. Taxation might be the answer, Mr. Chairman.

I also wanted to mention that, to me, the environment certainly is front and centre. We certainly need to look at ways and means to protect our environment. We also need to come up with a balanced approach in doing that because we also need opportunities for our people. We need that sustainable development. We need opportunities for people. We need to protect the environment, as well.

I also believe that we need to work with other governments, aboriginal governments across our territory. During the life of the last government, there was just a little bit too much infighting. We all didn't get along. It's too small of a territory with too much at risk for us not to get along with one another and to try to sing off the same song sheet when it comes to dealing with the federal government. So we need to really be leaders and get out there and work with the other governments in our own territory and have a united voice with the federal government.

In closing, there is one other thing that I wanted to mention. The last government again started out with the agencies and board review. They got to a certain point -- there is 112 of them in the territory -- where decisions had to be made, didn't want to make them, put the review on the shelf, collected dust. Let's get out the duster, get that thing off the shelves and let's make some decisions on boards and agencies. It's costing us a tremendous amount of money. Let's do that. That should be one of the first orders of business. We shouldn't even need to wait for a strategic plan or visit to dust that off and get to work on doing some work there. That was some of the best work that I saw when I was here the last four years, was the work that was done on the agencies and boards review. It was thorough and well done. There were some good recommendations in there and we needed to start making decisions and we didn't have the guts last time to do it. Let's get out and do it, Mr. Chairman.

Again, thanks to all the other Members with their comments and it is going to be an exciting four years and I am looking forward to being part of it. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really will be brief. Just kidding. I appreciated those points that Mr. Ramsay raised and I also have questions about those migrant workers. I can't understand our growing the economy when we can't already have people to serve coffee in a coffee shop.

I just wanted to briefly say one additional thing. Ms. Bisaro mentioned the rate of violence we are dealing with in the North. By far the vast majority of that is violence against women. I think really a prevention way of dealing with that that we need to get more active on is gender-based analysis. I would like to see us include that as part of the social sieve or lens that we put through things. I find that women do add a real valuable perspective on just about everything and, of course, they have different experiences to bring and often some real frontline experience, as well.

I just wanted to add that one note. Thank you very much.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Sessional statement. With that, I will allow the Premier to respond to comments. Mr. Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Members for making their comments on this. A number of comments saying they would liked to have seen more to this. Purposely it was as it was because we have yet to complete the work of the 16th Assembly and in the spirit of working together, I felt, and my Cabinet colleagues felt, it wouldn't be appropriate if we started to say this is where we think we need to go. We do realize there are 11 votes on the other side of the floor that has a significant impact on us in the decision-making we make. We are 19 Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly and our work in the next four years will dictate what our children and grandchildren will have to look forward to in the Northwest Territories. Many good points raised. Many initiatives that are worthwhile and should have attention put to them. A number of good things have been said. For example, Mr. Beaulieu talked about targeting. We need to focus our expenditures in a number of areas and he used youth as an area. We've heard about effective and efficient government. We've heard about zero-based review or program review. We've also looked at taking a common sense approach to the decision-making we will make. The old adage if it isn't broken, don't fix it. The other comment is a major infrastructure problem that is brewing. That is more true than a lot of Members are aware of. Mr. Bromley raised a number of issues in looking at the decision we make and the question of how can we have the greatest impact of four years and beyond. I think that is going to be quite a shift for a government to look beyond its four-year mandate and look to the decisions it makes and how it impacts on our children and our grandchildren.

So there are a lot of areas to do. Mrs. Groenewegen mentioned taking one step at a time. I agree. We have an opportunity, and another point she mentioned is an opportunity to effect change. If we are really truly going to effect change in government, it is not by a shotgun approach to the issues we are going to have before us. We, as an Assembly, I believe if we are going to make directional change in how the government looks and how it delivers on programs, we are going to have to pick a number of specific areas, focussed areas and focus our attention and achieve on those areas, achieve a measurable increase in the level of service or delivery of a program or the results that we have. Once we achieve those, then we can shift and go through a next set of priorities. But I have also been part of governments who have come in with a very broad agenda and trying to be everything to everybody. When you talk about investing in

the people of the Northwest Territories, to try to see what we have actually done, that is one of the reasons I believe why it did take so long to measure results within a government. I, too, when I first got into this role as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, came down here, as I told people in my constituency, coming down with fire in my belly and I am going to make some changes. I was disappointed to see how long it took government to change. It still takes a long time to change things, but with the work of 19 Members and some focussed attention, we can start to make a significant difference in how we see things change for the people we represent in the Northwest Territories. We are going to have to be focussed. We are going to have to make some difficult choices. What areas do we want to see as a priority? Then we are going to have to agree. Those other areas that aren't as high a priority are going to have to take second tier, in a sense, in some of that decision-making or the available dollars we would have to us.

We have made changes in the past. Governments have reacted in the past to the fiscal pressures they faced, so an easy task, for example, would be for us to say if we are having challenges, let's just set a target of four percent. We hear that number of forced growth. Or, for example, the first budget of the 15th Assembly, it was a target reduction that all departments had to go and meet a specific target reduction. That is the easy way to do business, because departments can go back into their systems and their silos, as Members have talked about from time to time, and make changes to their existing programming. If we are going to affect change, we are going to have to look at how we deal with things. Youth is not just a Municipal and Community Affairs and sports issue. It is not just an Education, Culture and Employment issue. We see youth in our education systems and our justice systems and our health and social service systems and in the sporting area. It is going to have to be an approach that we take. We are going to have to set that direction about how we approach it across the table, not just one Minister and one department, but a number of Ministers and a number of departments to start to make some significant change. That is the type of government I would like to be a part of. I hope that is the type of government Members would like to be a part of. So when we sit down to finalize our plan, our footprint, our handprint in the Government of the Northwest Territories 16th Assembly and affect change, we do have an opportunity. It is an exciting time. We can make a difference. We can make some changes happen sooner rather than later. But it will depend on the choices we have. There is a need for us to speak with one voice in the North, one voice from aboriginal governments, community governments, territorial governments and the message we send. There has to be some recognition from all parties that we can sit, and I picture this and I try to use visual things.

When we talk about devolution and resource revenue sharing, it used to be termed in the 12th Assembly, I believe, as the Northern Accord. It has since turned to devolution and resource revenue sharing. Can we say, as the past governments, and are we as willing, as the 16th Assembly, to sit there and continue to have discussion and not move forward when we know the pressures we are under to try to deliver programs and services in our communities? I would say that we have an opportunity to make a change, but we can't keep on trying to push the same old truck out of the ditch that all we have been able

to do...If you have been stuck in a ditch in the Northwest Territories in the wintertime and you don't have a tow truck to pull you out and you are pushing up a hill, you tend to spin your tires and weave a little bit sideways along the edge of the ditch without really getting out onto the road. That has been our problem. We need to get out of the ditch and onto the road so we can make some progress. Some good roads, yes.

---Laughter

Building a solid foundation for the future should be our goal, not about what will happen at the end of four years. If we do our job right, the four years will take care of themselves, and the people will recognize us for those decisions that we make.

I look forward to working with Members in the next number of days when we sit down and finalize our goals as the 19 Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly where we can go and steer the ship and where we can make a difference. I want to be a part of that team. I hope we can work together in delivering that. I also realize there are going to be some times when we make those tough choices. You are going to ask the tough questions about why we did this. Is this the best way to do it? Sometimes we are all going to have to accept the lesser of two evils may be the best choice. That would be the difficult time. It is going to be the political will around this House that is going to make a difference. If we don't have that political will, I will guarantee you, we will be talking about the same issues at the end of our term as we start talking about at the beginning of our term. So the political will, we have that authority as I have heard Members. I agree. We do have that ability, but it will take working together and that is not as easy as said, but I am willing to be a part of that decision-making process of building a better Northwest Territories for our children and their grandchildren. Thank you very much.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sessional statement. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are going to save our questions until after our comments, so we have a cast of thousands of questions over here. Just kidding. That is what we decided to do. I am not sure if Members have any questions or not. There is one question I do have. I would just like to ask the Premier -- I probably should have asked this on the day you ran for Premier and not today; it is a bit late now -- I hope there is going to be a real culture of working together. You talk about change. There is one thing that is very quickly within our ability as 19 Members to change here. I really hope that we are going to have an atmosphere of working together in this Assembly. I know that we can't sit here and ask for things that are unreasonable and expect that the Cabinet side is going to respond favourably to everything we ask. If we ask for things that are completely not within reach, but at the same time it is very frustrating on this side of the House if we feel like we just get kind of thoughtless answers, just kind of standard pat, party line answers. That is very frustrating for us.

The way I would like to see us all here together is we have just given you extra work. You are just like us. We are all equal, but we have entrusted you with some extra responsibilities and you have agreed to take that on. But

that is the only difference between us. We have a job to do on this side of the House. You have a job to do over there, and we have entrusted you with more work, more decision-making and just a different level of responsibility. I hope that we can work together just kind of keeping it in that context because, otherwise, we can be kind of frustrated.

I have already noticed, just in the two months we have been here and the folks we have elected to Cabinet, I have already noticed styles emerging. It is refreshing in some instances, I will say already, to see responsiveness and to see the creative thinking and the demeanor of Ministers in this government. I hope that is something that we can continue going forward.

Having said that, Mr. Chair, I have no idea if the Members have questions or not, but I guess it is open to them if they do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Are there any other comments or questions in regards to the sessional statement? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: I would just like to hear the Premier say the word environment, if I could.

---Laughter

That is all I ask, Mr. Chair. I don't think I ever heard it. I would just like to hear it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. With that, Mr. Premier, could you bring music to the ears of Mr. Bromley by way of saying...

---Laughter

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have a musical note in my body. I don't know if it will sound like music, but, as I said in the sessional statement, the environment will play a huge role in the Northwest Territories in how we proceed, whether it is the environment in this Assembly, our people, our children, the land, the water. Like I said in my speech when I sought this position, my father walked this land; he lived on this land; it provided for him and he is now part of this land. I intend to be a part of this land as well as raising my family, so we do need a healthy environment to do that.

If there are any other questions, I would say hopefully Members will give us a chance once we set the direction of the Assembly and they task us with coming up with a way we are going to fit it into the strategies, into the goals of implementing the priorities, that is when we will better give you thorough responses to the issues that will come before us. So, again, I would like to thank Members for their words and advice and look forward to working together to make this place a better place for our children. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thought our Premier said he wasn't musical. I never heard such music. Thank you.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Are there any other comments or questions in regards to the sessional statement? If not, does the committee agree that...Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I'm sorry. You were going to ask if we consider this matter concluded first. Sorry. Yes. I just wanted to make a motion to report progress, but you finish what you were doing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. With that, does the committee agree that the Sessional Statement 1-16(1) has been concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, committee. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of reporting progress? All those against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

With that, I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Minister's Statement 1-16(1), Sessional Statement, and would like to report that consideration of Minister's Statement 1-16(1) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Is there a seconder? The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, November 30, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions

8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
23. Prorogation

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, November 30, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:25.

