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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Friday, October 17, 2008**

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, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya.

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayer

Prayer.

Speaker (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good morning, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Members, before we begin today, I would like to provide a ruling on the point of order raised by Premier Roland on Thursday, October 9, 2008.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Roland rose on a point of order with regard to proceedings in Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, and cited Rule 23(i) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly. This rule states that a Member will be called to order by the Speaker if the Member imputes false or hidden motives to another Member. A point of order must be raised at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Roland rose after reviewing the unedited Hansard for October 8, 2008. I find that he raised the point of order at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Roland felt that Mrs. Groenewegen, by questioning the process of negotiated contracts and by referencing himself as a Member for Inuvik who supported the project and also as the Premier and the Chair of the Financial Management Board for the first eight months of the 16th Assembly, was directly questioning his motives with regard to the capital project under discussion in Committee of the Whole. I will quote Mr. Roland in stating his point of order, found on page 3 of the unedited Hansard for Thursday, October 9, 2008:

"Mrs. Groenewegen...in questioning the Finance Minister, asked this question: '...was the MLA who approved the negotiated contract the MLA for Inuvik, the Premier and the Chair of the Financial Management Board?'...by putting that line of questioning out there, she has tried to, in fact.... I would feel that this is written now forever in the record books: [she states] imputing a motive on my behalf that I had a position to make something happen."

After the point of order I did allow for debate and heard from both Mr. Roland and Mrs. Groenewegen.

When speaking to the point of order, Mr. Roland stated: "In fact, by her line of questioning she was indeed imputing a false motive to the process and my role as the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, thereby putting into question my role as Premier and Finance Minister of the day."

Mrs. Groenewegen, rising to speak to the point of order, offered the following rationale for her line of questioning in Committee of the Whole:

"I'm not a Cabinet Minister, so I'm not privy to the processes that would actually take place behind closed doors in the confidentiality of the Cabinet Room with respect to a Member declaring a conflict or how they'd be involved. I listened to the deputy minister outline the negotiated contract policy, and he said that would necessarily include a letter of support from community leaders, including MLAs. I then wanted to understand that process better. I did not intend to impute any motive. I still want to clearly understand how this project came about."

Members may recall that in prior rulings I have been unable to find a definite authority to assist me in providing rulings of this nature. Previous rulings, both my own and those of previous Speakers, have relied on a careful review of the transcripts of the proceedings in question and the comments offered by Members when providing the opportunity for debate.

The comments that led to the point of order took place on the floor of the Chamber during Committee of the Whole. I relied on the unedited Hansard for October 8, 2008, to review the questions raised by Mrs. Groenewegen during the committee consideration of Tabled Document 93-16(2). I do find the following comments by Mrs. Groenewegen, found at page 62, to be helpful in providing context for her question:

"To my knowledge, this is the largest capital project ever built. Could we get some

rationalization for why it was a negotiated contract as opposed to a competitive process? Were other means of procuring this project considered, like breaking it up into smaller pieces? On a negotiated contract, when the process has been described previously as having to meet with the agreement of the MLA, the mayor and the Cabinet, was the MLA who approved the negotiated contract the MLA for Inuvik, the Premier and the Chair of the Financial Management Board?"

I also found Mrs. Groenewegen's explanation, at page 4, unedited Hansard, from Thursday, October 9, 2008, to be of assistance. She stated: "That's not something I knew. So I was asking questions. I was not trying to answer them or impute any motive."

In making my ruling, I am guided by citation 494 in *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms*, 6th edition. I quote, "...it has been normally ruled by Speakers that statements by Members respecting themselves and particularly within their own knowledge must be accepted." I do accept Mrs. Groenewegen's comments at face value, and therefore, colleagues, I do not find that Mr. Roland has a point of order in this instance.

Before we resume Orders of the Day, colleagues, I leave you Members with the following words from Marleau and Montpetit's *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, at page 504: "Nevertheless, while it is the Speaker who is charged with maintaining the dignity and decorum of the House, Members themselves must take responsibility for their behaviour and conduct their business in an appropriate fashion."

Thank you, colleagues. Orders of the Day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 109-16(2) TEACHER EDUCATION AND ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Strategy for Teacher Education in the Northwest Territories: 2007-2015 Action Plan has been approved and that priorities have been set for the upcoming year.

The two primary goals of the strategy are to increase the number of aboriginal teachers and to increase the numbers of aboriginal language teachers throughout the Northwest Territories. We currently have 109 aboriginal teachers and 30 aboriginal language teachers across the Northwest Territories.

Other goals include preparing education assistants, aboriginal secondary teachers and program support teachers for NWT schools and increasing the number of aboriginal school administrators, college faculty and administration, Education, Culture and Employment consultants and management.

The action plan includes actions such as employing elders in residence to support students, increasing funding by \$300,000 to develop an online library database to support community based programs and implementing a student recruitment program throughout the territory.

Last April marked the first year for graduates from the Bachelor of Education degree program at Thebacha Campus through a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan. This is a strong partnership that will continue to strengthen and evolve to meet the needs of the students and future teachers of the Northwest Territories.

This fall committees will be reviewing proposals for community based teacher education programs and aboriginal language and cultural instructor programs.

The goal is for each region to deliver community based programs, as is currently happening in Behchoko, on a rotation to ensure the goal of a representative workforce is accomplished sooner. The Behchoko model will be used to inform future community based programs. Behchoko has included a unique healing and wellness component that may be of interest to other regions.

We anticipate nine students will graduate from the two year Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program in June 2009 and five students to graduate from the three year Teacher Education Program in June of 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate our graduates and all those who have worked and are working to make the Teacher Education and Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor programs a success.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING SHORTAGE IN NUNAKPUT

Mr. Jacobson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the years, through my leadership positions in Nunakput, there has been a deficiency, an inequality and a crisis far beyond most community based concerns. This is a housing situation.

Although I recognize I may sound like a broken record, I cannot emphasize enough that whatever housing concerns are experienced in other parts of our great territory, they are compounded manyfold in the Nunakput region. There are houses all over Nunakput communities that are unfit to live in, places such as Yellowknife or Inuvik. Former leadership in Paulatuk has frequently told me that operating and maintaining certain decrepit homes is merely throwing good money after bad.

In addition to the decrepit conditions of the units, communities have the enormous problem of overcrowding. Overcrowding in housing units is a symptom of a much larger systemic problem and has caused many community problems. Too many times I see ten to 12 people staying in a small unit. As I visit these units, I grow increasingly frustrated and concerned. I wonder when the government will commit seriously to adjusting these deficiencies. There are many families in Nunakput who have doubled up and even tripled up because of simply having no place to live. That's a shame of this government.

Recently Ulukhaktok was recognized for developing and providing housing for the teachers in northern community based solutions, but these community governments are tight on cash and shouldn't have to be carrying the weight alone. This is a Housing and Education territorial responsibility.

Don't get me wrong. We see all the units being built all over this territory, and they're welcome, but they are barely making a small dent. Making matters even worse, some units are being decommissioned as other units are being built. In other words, we are only breaking even.

Mr. Speaker, this problem has been going on far too long. The buck stops in this House. The government has to make changes.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Jacobson: This has to be the government to make the changes desperately needed in the communities' housing conditions.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ALTERNATIVE REVENUE OPTIONS

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In its recent insightful submission on revenue options to the government, the non-government organization Alternatives North notes that the revenue options discussion paper does not mention the role that

services and programs can play in attracting and holding people in our communities.

Coincidentally, this agrees strongly with the tone of the message I received at my Weledeh constituency meeting last week. This message was that while many people are noticing the rising cost of living, they also are still appreciating the incredible characteristics of our jurisdiction that make this a great place to live and raise our families.

In a nutshell, Mr. Speaker, people raved about the close community they enjoy; about the extremely high standard of education and educational opportunities they have; about the national-level standard of sports training, competition and accolades our youth and athletes enjoy; about the incredible regional, national and international travel opportunities our people experience, and I could go on.

We need to raise the profile on these perspectives and learn from the lessons they reflect. Quality of life is as important, perhaps even more important, than quantity. This does not deny the need to raise revenue, however. Many communities in the NWT do not enjoy the same quality of living as we do here in Yellowknife, and closing that gap is an area this government needs to focus on.

Better and increased programs and services should be a goal that goes hand in hand with reducing the cost of living for Northerners. But to achieve these roles we cannot place the fiscal burden of those programs and services directly on the backs of our citizens. Many people cannot afford increased taxes, and nobody wants to see a sales tax. Taxes such as these place a burden on peoples' incomes, which are stretched thin enough as it is.

Some potentially fruitful options we should pursue are focused mechanisms to tax migrant workers or companies who hire them and those with very high incomes and resource taxes on non-renewable resource development and industries.

Finally, we need to provide the long term security and foresight that instills in our residents confidence for the long term by instituting a heritage fund and a taxation and royalty regime that ensures we gain fair and full benefits from our non-renewable resource development.

Let's listen to our people, embed our decisions within the full context of today's challenges and move progressively in ways that diversify our economy and ensure a good quality of life and secure future for everyone.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DENTAL SURGERY AT STANTON HOSPITAL

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I was asked by a Member of Cabinet why I'm pushing so hard to have Stanton open its operating room for local dentists so that they can perform dental surgeries on young children who require major dental work, work that cannot be performed safely in local dentists' offices. Why am I pushing so hard, considering that the department has already addressed the financial issues and has opened up time in both Inuvik and Hay River? The reason: because it's the right thing to do.

I've seen disks of photographs compiled by Lesli Fisher in Hay River that show a large number of very young children who require significant dental surgery. Quite frankly, the photos are disgusting. Due to the delays in providing services, the teeth and oral health of these children have become so bad that you can actually see pus oozing out of the sores in the mouths of these very young children. If you see these photos, you'll want the same thing I want.

What I want is to get rid of the backlog of children as quickly as possible and stop future suffering of the children in need. I encourage each of the Ministers and the Premier to view these photos. Once you see them, I expect that you'll want the same thing I want.

I would like to acknowledge and applaud the Department of Health and Social Services for the work they've already done on this file. Unfortunately, I feel they have stopped short. I recently talked to an individual intimately involved in the dental surgery program in Hay River. She is extremely pleased they have reached the point where surgeries are being performed in Hay River and Inuvik. However, she has indicated that the sheer quantity of children who require the service is a bit on the overwhelming side. It would be a benefit to all children, as well as to dental clinics in both Hay River and Inuvik, if the workload could be shared and more time could be available, specifically more time in Yellowknife. Actually, any time in Yellowknife would be a good start.

So once again I ask: why is the Minister of Health and Social Services resistant to opening up more time in Yellowknife to get Yellowknife dentists so that they can contribute to the solution? Money isn't the issue. The cost of the GNWT allowing the services to be provided in Hay River and Inuvik is the same as providing them in Stanton. The original budgetary concerns have been addressed.

By not allowing these services in Yellowknife, the department is telling the residents of Yellowknife that they have to pay more out of their own pockets

for things like travel and accommodation. Why? This makes no sense.

The solution is easy. Make time available. The Minister has already indicated that they have only one day out of every eight weeks available to Stanton. That's a starting point. Make that, as well as any dropped time, available in Yellowknife, and we've gone a short distance towards fixing the problem.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I'll be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions on this issue.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWBORN AND
NEWLYWED NAHENDEH RESIDENTS

Mr. Menicoche: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize some births and marriages in the Nahendeh riding.

I'd like to congratulate the following couples, ladies and gentlemen all, for taking the big step and the commitment of marriage. The couples are Jonathan and Dahti Scott of Fort Simpson, Jocelyn Kierstead and Kurt Tsetso, James Tsetso and Christine, Willy Michaud and Amy, Wesley Hardisty and Patricia, Cheryl Tanche and Nathan. And from Fort Liard, Virginia Bedine and Willy McLeod.

And let's take a few moments for a few births in the community of Fort Simpson. To Trish Isaiah, Christine Wrigley, Andrea Grossetete and my niece, Tanya Hardisty. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
LACK OF PUBLIC WASHROOMS IN
DOWNTOWN YELLOWKNIFE

Mr. Hawkins: Today I want to use my Member's statement to encourage the Minister responsible for coordinating initiatives related to homelessness to support this very important initiative. I first raised the topic of public washrooms last week. Since then I've learned that I have support and recognition of this problem from many of my colleagues. I also have the support of many businesses that have spoken out on this issue, and certainly a number of residents who feel it is a serious issue that needs serious measures to deal with. So I recognize that, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly hope there will be a Minister who recognizes that too.

Yellowknife needs public toilets in our downtown. Nobody expects that this alone will completely

solve all our problems when it comes to urination, defecation in the downtown public areas. However, the installation of public toilets can be undertaken relatively quickly and certainly will achieve results. We need to link this to improvements to our housing, treatment for mental illness and addiction to drugs, and this would lead to all types of long term solutions.

I've taken a quick look at what other cities across Canada have done. This is a standard challenge facing many urban communities in our country regarding the significant homeless population. Worth noting, Mr. Speaker, even in the city of Yellowknife, the library downtown has had to take steps because they can no longer offer their washrooms — it's just public washrooms — because it's caused significant problems, and they continue to lose their contractors because of it.

Often municipal governments are asked to take a partnership role but certainly not the lead role, because that belongs to the senior government — in this case our Health Minister, our Minister for the homeless, but certainly the territorial government. However, many Canadian cities have been able to access additional funding sources from that senior government and use partnerships through businesses and NGOs. Many municipalities have purchased special purpose self-contained cleaning units for public washrooms. There are several kinds of standard units readily available out there, and they range, starting at approximately \$50,000. Some communities are able to hose those lanes and doorsteps down all year long. But that certainly is not the case here in Yellowknife, and that's why we need a self-contained unit, so people can go on the coldest days and use the washroom.

At this time may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it is a significant issue, and many cities are working hard on this. I want to compliment cities like Winnipeg. It is a winter city, and they are trying to deal with this problem. I have even read that they have had architects come forward offering free service to design a public washroom to help deal with this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to close by stressing that access to public washrooms is also a health issue. If the Minister has never heard of infectious disease, then let me be the first to tell her about it. There are certainly her officials who can remind her about what problems this can lead to. This is very important to our community. It is very important to the growth of our community. It's certainly important to the health of our community.

Later today I will be asking questions to the Minister responsible for the homeless, who hopefully will understand the significance of this file.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELDER FACILITY IN FORT RESOLUTION

Mr. Beaulieu: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Today I would once again like to talk about the Great Elders Facility in Fort Resolution. I have raised this issue in the House more than once. I have asked questions about this facility, but with all my efforts it seems the community and the department are still not able to find a workable solution that satisfies both. This is an ideal facility that has potential to provide very valuable and much needed service to the community of elders.

Mr. Speaker, from reviewing the responses from the Minister to my questions asked previously in the House, from listening to concerns of the chief and council in Fort Resolution and from many conversations I've had with elders, I believe I may have an understanding of what seems to be the problem. It boils down to a difference of cultures. One culture is concerned with accountability and all that is associated with it. This culture allows itself and its actions to be governed by the ideals of accountability. Included in this is a complex set of policies, legislation, liabilities, regulations and certification, with varying degrees of accountabilities and authorities. The other culture is concerned with caring and all that is associated with it. Included in this is the simple notion of somehow, some way, we'll get it done. Elders care is one such example.

Unfortunately, the kind of elders care I am talking about is not recognized by the department. The care of community elders by grandchildren, family and friends does not fit into the regimented structure of the department. What has to happen is the department has to realize that the communities are the ones best suited to develop and deliver the service and programming for what is needed. The department needs to be flexible with its approaches, and the department needs to seriously re-evaluate the value it places on exploring community based solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the department must exercise its creative side in this matter and not hold steadfast to regimented policies, legislation, regulations that may very....

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Beaulieu, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

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

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I believe the department must exercise its creative side in this matter and not hold steadfast to regimented policies, legislation, regulations that may work very well elsewhere but not for a small community of 500 in Fort Resolution.

I may have questions for the Minister later on today.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PREMIER'S FIRST YEAR PERFORMANCE GRADE

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this morning I had the opportunity to sit on a panel at CBC to consider the performance of our Premier for his first year in office. The short amount of time did not provide enough time to share all the thoughts I had on this matter.

Last night at the Aboriginal Sport Circle Gala former NHL coach and player Ted Nolan gave the keynote address. A theme he presented from his years of working on or with a team is that we have to learn to win with what we have.

We have a team here. We have chosen our captain, our linesmen, but we have to work with other players that the northern constituents chose to represent them. We have to trust the judgment of those we represent, that they chose us on the basis of our experience, skills and traits they saw and respected. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. We all have our supporters and detractors. But for better or worse, Mr. Speaker, this is the talent pool that we have to work with, right here in this room.

I personally have a philosophy of giving credit where credit is due and to use my voice in this role to try to capture the questions and sentiments of the people and the public. In my role as a Regular Member I look for the passion and strength of all Members so that we can be the best we can be. We all have a window of opportunity to effect positive change for the community's region and the communities we represent.

Although I was only able to give the Premier a C grade for his first year in office, I know my assessment could be enhanced by leadership that respects the value and contribution of all Members, including mine. For my part, I will continue to ask questions, offer comment and opinion and, if accepted by the Premier, bring my input to bear for

the benefit of advancing our agenda and his agenda for Northerners.

There is room for improvement on all of our parts. Let's, as Mr. Nolan said, learn to win with what we've got and respect all members of the team.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELDERS ON THE LAND HEALING PROGRAMS

Mr. Yakeleya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I travel to the communities in the Sahtu, the people talk about help they need at the community level with their families, especially with the elderly people. They talk about their hope that they have some support with wellness workers. They thought that when they had the Sahtu health board, they would get this kind of help. They thought that with the health board they would initiate on the land cultural programs. They thought that people in Colville Lake would get help, and they would have on the land programs for the people and the issues they had to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, in my region there's been a lot of deaths. In my communities there's been a lot of hurt. In my community of Tulita, over several months, I experienced a number of families' deaths. We are expected to take three days off and then go back to work or tell our kids — or sometimes we don't even tell our kids — what's happening. We expect them to go back to school in typical fashion to learn while they wonder what is going on with them. How come no one is talking about their grandfather, their brother or uncle?

The people in the Sahtu want an on the land program. Our elders have been telling us: go on the land; it's for a purpose. But somehow we fall into an attitude that we've got to have accreditation from a university. That has shut a lot of doors on my own people with expertise. That shuts them out of true healing.

I am going to ask the Minister if she would support a pilot project like TI'oondih, Nats'ejée K'éh or even wellness centres. Have people on the land. Let our people do our work. We can heal ourselves. Let's give the power back to our people.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GNWT DIAMOND POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Mr. Ramsay: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak again today about diamonds and how it is that the Government of the Northwest Territories is currently sound asleep when it comes to diamond policy, strategy and vision.

It has been ten years of mining diamonds in the Northwest Territories, and we just have not been as successful as we should have been. I believe we still have tremendous opportunity through the review of the diamond policy, strategy and a firm commitment from this government that diamonds and the secondary industry here in the Northwest Territories are going to be fully supported.

Yesterday I spoke of the feasibility work being done on the development of a diamond bourse, or exchange. This work is being carried out by the Government of Ontario. I was very interested in hearing the Minister of ITI's response to my questions yesterday about the development of a diamond bourse. We as a government had officials at these meetings, but I am having a difficult time understanding exactly what we are doing there.

It is obvious to me that the Government of Ontario is interested in a diamond bourse located in either Toronto or Ottawa. How did we let Ontario get out in front of us on this? They have one mine, which recently opened. We have four operating mines and have been in the business for well over ten years.

Yesterday the Minister stated that they determined that we would get more value added by making sure that rough diamonds were made available for the secondary industry. This has happened, and we still do have a cut and polish industry here, but things could be much better. A diamond bourse would put Yellowknife squarely on the world stage as the diamond capital. My fear is that we are out there actively observing and helping another jurisdiction like Ontario scoop our own opportunity. The sad thing is we aren't doing anything about it.

I would like to know when this government is going to wake up and realize the opportunities that exist with diamonds. In the absence of a resource revenue deal with Ottawa, it is incumbent upon us as legislators to ensure that we get all of the benefit we can from these mines before they are gone.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay.

Before I go on to the next Member, I would like to draw Members' attention to the visitor's gallery, to a former MLA, former Cabinet Minister and former Premier; Mr. Richard Nerysoo is in the House. Welcome.

Members' statements, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GWICH'IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATION
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aboriginal organizations have invested a lot of time and a lot of money in regard to negotiating land claim agreements where they had to pay back to the

federal government in excess of almost \$9 million in the case of the Gwich'in. Almost \$75 million is outstanding on the Dene/Métis claim.

Those dollars were paid back for negotiation. People assume negotiations were paid by the federal government; they weren't. Those land claim agreements were there to improve the quality of life for those aboriginal organizations, the people they represent. In the case of the Gwich'in, we have invested tens of millions of dollars into the Inuvik regional economy. They have invested millions of dollars in the infrastructure by accommodating the offices for government departments or band councils or development corporations for infrastructure trade jobs to ensure that we have an economic footing for the Gwich'in members in the Inuvik region.

Yet we are totally being pushed out of every opportunity that seems to be appearing in regard to this government's memorandum of understanding that we negotiated in good faith. We have land claim agreements that were negotiated in good faith, where the Government of Northwest Territories was at that table. They signed off on these legal agreements, but today they continue to totally ignore the economic well-being of those organizations and the people they represent when it comes to things such as office space in the Inuvik region.

Mr. Speaker, there was an office built here in Yellowknife. There was total outcry about the private sector in regard to a federal building that was being constructed here in Yellowknife. They, the federal government, took the responsibility on and sought an independent review to look at the market disruption in Yellowknife in regard to the private sector and the amount of retail space and the effect that this facility was going to have in the long term on market disruption in Yellowknife. But in regard to office space in Inuvik it's basically full speed ahead. Never mind your tens of millions of dollars you invested buying up for the private sector in Inuvik to consider going into the retail business.

This government has an obligation — and not only an obligation but a fundamental right — to live up to the land claim agreements, the memorandum of understanding, and to ensure that there is an economic footing for the land claim organizations to move forward and improve the quality of life of their people.

With that, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking questions of the Premier on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Speaker: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure to recognize the president of my tribal council, Mr. Richard Nerysoo.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 490-16(2) PUBLIC WASHROOMS FOR YELLOWKNIFE HOMELESS

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Speaker, thank you. During my Member's statement today I talked about the concern from a public health point of view. I wanted to highlight the fact that public washrooms are needed because of health reasons and, most notably, infectious disease problems. Recently the City of Yellowknife received a briefing from a contractor through various sources. They talked about the need for public washrooms and the problems that are caused without them.

My questions will be directed to the Minister responsible for the homeless. Ironically, it's the same Minister for Health and Social Services, so maybe she could blend her answers equally. My question for the Minister is: what is she doing in recognition of the homelessness problem in this city and trying to solve the problem of lack of public washrooms for that community that exists in the downtown of Yellowknife?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the homeless, Ms. Lee.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say this must be a story of embarrassment of riches. I have to say that per square foot, or by any measure, this government — the Department of Health and Social Services, ECE, Housing, you name it — pours more money into downtown Yellowknife than anywhere else in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, we fund the Salvation Army. We poured millions of dollars into the Salvation Army, Bailey House, SideDoor youth centre, Centre for

Northern Families. We fund the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. We fund the YWCA. I say a large portion of our capital funding for health and social services is going downtown, building \$15 million — that is \$500,000 per bed.... We are building 28 units for the dementia centre, and we are building a primary care clinic. We have three clinics in Yellowknife that we're combining. Surely, out of all that money the city and the organizations could figure out how to build a public bathroom to serve our people.

Mr. Speaker, if we are missing something.... In my last question, I said I will meet with the city and I will talk to the mayor. The Member knows that I asked this morning that this issue be put on the agenda.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe it is about money. It is about coordination. I have to say to the Member, he must have everything satisfied if he is spending time talking about GNWT funding a public bathroom in downtown Yellowknife, the richest in all our territory. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Minister had her coffee this morning.

You know, it's kind of shocking to hear a Yellowknife MLA — the Minister, who happens also to be a Yellowknife MLA — complain about the investment in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister misunderstood the point. My riding actually doesn't cover the Bailey House. And by the way, the Bailey House and the Salvation Army? That's not in downtown Yellowknife.

The question really comes down to what leadership role is she suggesting? She keeps telling the city to do this. This is not a mandate of the city. I have spoken to the mayor, and he does not want to be downloaded this crappy issue. The question is: what is the Ministry and the Minister responsible for the homeless going to do about establishing a public washroom in the downtown?

Hon. Sandy Lee: I have already indicated that this has got to be something that I have to resolve by working with the city council.

I just noticed that we are building a beautiful park in downtown Yellowknife, by the city. Surely, if we put our good minds together, eight councillors in the City of Yellowknife and Yellowknife MLAs.... We have regular meetings, Mr. Speaker; the Member knows that. We're working on the agenda. I have asked to put this item on the agenda. Obviously, I'm missing something here, because we're pouring

hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars into address homelessness issues and other social issues. I'm sure we could come to a resolution without public investment from the GNWT to build a public bathroom in downtown Yellowknife.

Mr. Hawkins: This is a significant social problem that the Minister keeps wanting to point at the city to solve. This is a shameless approach to pass it on. Would the Minister responsible for the homeless step up and say that she will work to establish a public washroom, without trying to download it to a municipality?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Mr. Speaker, as I've already indicated, I could give him a table of all the dollars we spend for all of these facilities, which we are glad to do. I know that these organizations were saying that they could always use more money. Now, I state again that I'm willing to work with the NGOs and the city government to resolve this issue. I remain, unless I'm convinced otherwise, that this is a municipal issue. They have the capacity and wherewithal to address that.

Mr. Speaker: Final short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quickly, the fact is that public health is run by the Department of Health, which is also led and supervised by the Minister of Health and Social Services. Is public health not an issue under her responsibility that also covers the area of infectious disease?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Obviously, public health is an important issue. I remain convinced that with the resources we have in downtown Yellowknife as well as the capability of the leadership of the city, we could resolve this issue. This is totally resolvable, and we just need to put our heads together and sort this out. I just cannot believe that we provide funding and bed spaces and program money to all of this public infrastructure programming in downtown Yellowknife and they cannot provide a public bathroom facility for people in need. That's a shame, and it's a shame for all of us. The city has to take some leadership.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 491-16(2)
ELDERS' FACILITY IN FORT RESOLUTION

Mr. Beaulieu: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the Great Elders Facility and its use. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on this. Can the Minister advise what internal discussions she

has had with her department on the usage of the Great Elders Facility in Fort Resolution? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's question, as well as commitment, on this issue. As I have indicated already, we have been able to provide additional programming at the Great Elders Facility in terms of facilitating seniors to use that facility more in day programs. I know that the Member and the community are looking for an opportunity for the seniors to be able to stay there and be taken care of.

I want to give the Member a commitment that I am interested in working with the Member on that and working on a wider proposal to go to the Standing Committee on Social Programs to see how we could use this Great Elders Facility better. Thank you.

Mr. Beaulieu: Can the Minister advise if the department can sit down with the community to hear their solutions and what they think of the usage of the Great Elders Facility and how it could be used as a residence for the elders of Fort Resolution?

Hon. Sandy Lee: When this facility was built back in '96 by the Housing Corporation, there was no arrangement made for O&M for 24/7 care. The problem seems to be that we have to.... The solution to this issue is to come up with ways different than how the budgeting and programming is done with respect to a 24/7 intensive seniors' centre, which we will not be able to do in Resolution.

I think there are other things we could consider. I have had meetings with the band leadership and the seniors' community in Resolution. I think the department is very well aware of the commitment and interest on the part of the community to make this work. I'm willing to work with the Member to consider all options we have to make use of those four units at the Great Elder Facility, and I will be coming to the Member and the community with a proposal for further discussion.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Minister, for the answer. Can the Minister commit to communicating soon with an updated status on what the department considers to be a good solution for residential use by the elders of the Great Elder Facility in as far as scheduling and planning and so on.?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Yes, I'm willing to make a commitment to come up with a proposal. I have to work out the details with the department. I have not had a chance to do that. I will make the

commitment to come up with a proposal to discuss with the community to see how that facility can be used better.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister also commit to keeping me abreast of all the plans for the use of the Great Elder Facility so that I, too, can communicate with community governments and elders of Fort Resolution in order that they begin to see some progress on the usage of this as a residential facility?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Absolutely. I would need the partnership of the Member to work together as we move forward on the use of this facility.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 492-16(2)

DENTAL SURGERIES AT STANTON HOSPITAL

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the unedited Hansard of October 3 the Minister of Health and Social Services stated that “anywhere else in Canada, dental surgeries are provided by private clinics. There’s no reason why the private clinics in Yellowknife couldn’t look at opening that.” Not necessarily.

In the South the way it works is very few clinics actually have these specialty services. Most clinics are like the clinics in the Northwest Territories. There are indeed specialist clinics that do it, and I think it’s unreasonable to expect that the clinics in Yellowknife — as opposed to the clinics in Hay River and Inuvik, which are basically the same as the clinics in Yellowknife — can take on that capacity. I think our solution to ensuring that our children are getting the dental surgery they need is to open up time in Stanton.

To that end, I’d like the Minister to commit today to at least opening the one day every eight weeks that they have available as well as any scheduled drop time, when they shut down the wards for regular surgeries, and provide that time to the dentists in Yellowknife so that they can work with the dentists in Hay River and Inuvik to reduce this backlog of children who are suffering from oral problems and require dental surgery.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m not able to commit to having this program be established at Stanton for the reasons that I’ve indicated earlier. It’s the Stanton authority that feels that given all the demands of the services that they

have to provide.... They have to provide insured services first; they have to be able to provide surgeries and other procedures that Stanton has to deliver that other hospitals in the Territories cannot. So that is their first priority.

But I am willing to make a commitment to the Member that I will revisit this issue, including the one day every eight weeks that Stanton has available and what other options there might be. I will give a commitment to the Member that I will look at all options again and get back to the Member as to what the situation is.

Mr. Abernethy: That sounds like a definite maybe.

In moving forward, I’d like to encourage the Minister to actually contact the local dentists and work with the local dentists as well as the individuals that the department has worked with previously in Hay River to find a solution. I think it would be easy, at a minimum, to do the one day every eight weeks as well as any drop time. Will the Minister commit to communicating and talking with the local dentists on this issue?

Hon. Sandy Lee: I guess this is easy as long as we have an unlimited amount of money. That’s something we do not have. We know that Stanton has been experiencing a huge level of deficit. We have programs that we are obliged to provide. Dental service is not an insured service of this government. This is why it is not able to be provided at Stanton.

The secondary issue is that we do need to use all of our facilities. This is something that Hay River can provide, and we want to concentrate those services in Hay River for the south and Inuvik in the north. There are lots of details that I need to work through, but a definite maybe? I’m saying yes to revisiting this issue, because I understand that I need to be able to account for the decisions that I make. I will look at it right through again and report back to the Member as to what all the options are that we have available.

Mr. Abernethy: I like yeses. Yeses are good. I’d obviously like to hear her tell me today that she is actually going to communicate with the local dentists and whatnot. Just as a note, I don’t think the insured services are different in Hay River and Inuvik, so we’re not talking different prices there.

There are savings to the Government of the Northwest Territories to move forward and provide these surgeries to kids. Hay River has indicated to me that they’re quite happy, but they’re overwhelmed. They’re not able to move forward on these oral surgeries as quickly as they’d like. We do need to do something different. Once again I’d like to hear the Minister say that she’s going to do it and not that she’s maybe going to do it. I’d like to hear

her definitely say that she is going to work with the local dentists to find a resolution to these problems.

Hon. Sandy Lee: The problem has never been with the local dentists. Obviously, the dentists would be happy if the government provided a service and facility to provide their services. That is not really the issue. The issue is putting the burden on.... I understand that this is a huge issue for parents with children who need to have dental surgery. What we need to remember is that health care costs are under pressure. We can't do everything for everybody. And when we have limited dollars, we have to do what we are required to do by our health insurance program. Dental surgery is not one of them. We as a legislature have to make choices about what services we're going to provide and not.

Secondary, I think that's an important thing. We as a Legislature have to decide how to use our resources. If we can maximize the use of other facilities, then we need to consider that. I'm willing to consult with any stakeholders to see how we can make this work, and I'm willing to get back to the Member on that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The children are our future, and by dealing with their oral issues now and getting their teeth healthy and their gums healthy and their mouths healthy, we're actually going to save ourselves a lot of money down the road. When they get older and they have poor oral health, they'll be sick people. Obviously, I want her to continue.

I'm curious. I've seen the photos. Has the Minister seen the photos of these young children with their mouths full of sores and wounds that pus out where their teeth used to be? Has she shared that with her Cabinet colleagues? I think that if they were to see these pictures, they would understand the ramifications of not taking action on these issues.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Yes, I have. I was the Minister who was in the room with yourself, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Hay River North. I am the Minister and the department who worked to get this program re-established in Hay River. We understand the needs. It's not about who needs to do what. This is not a government health insurance program. We need to consider how we're using our dollars, and this is what I'm doing. I will get back to the Member after I've revisited this issue.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 493-16(2)
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS
AT AURORA COLLEGE

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to reference the statement made by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment yesterday in regard to apprenticeship and occupational certification and the review that was done. I'm very pleased to hear that a review was done. From my understanding of people who are involved in apprenticeship certification, it was a review that was well overdue.

The Minister stated yesterday that some of the changes that have been implemented are "streamlining activities, making the system more efficient for employers and trades people. There is evidence of results, with the number of registered apprentices climbing by almost 25 per cent...from about 320 for the past several years to just over 400 as of September 1, 2008."

I'd like to ask the Minister: I understand that we run apprenticeship programs at Aurora College in Fort Smith. I'd like to know what apprenticeship programs are offered at that college.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Speaker, we do offer a variety of apprenticeship programs at Aurora College. I can provide the detailed lists of all the different apprenticeship and trades programs we do offer. I can certainly commit to the Member to provide that detailed information. Mahsi.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Minister. I don't actually need a list of those programs, although it might be interesting to have a look at it.

I'm wondering if the Minister can advise on how thoroughly these programs are subscribed to. Basically, I'm wanting to know whether these programs are full all the time. If we have a listing of, say, 20 apprenticeship programs in Fort Smith, do they run all 20 every year? Do they run all 20 every semester? If we have 20 programs, how thoroughly are they subscribed to?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Speaker, those programs would vary depending on the type of interest in the program. Sometimes we continue to work with the industry where there's a need. It depends on the industry's needs. Then we see more students in the program. Most of the time we do have the trades programs to full capacity. But, again, it does vary, depending on certain programs and certain interest from the students and from the community.

Ms. Bisaro: It's my understanding that it does happen that programs are scheduled and they are then cancelled. I wonder if the Minister could advise under what circumstances apprenticeship programs are cancelled.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Some of the programs have been cancelled in the past due to limited seating capacity. We do have certain criteria that we follow, where in order to cancel a program, there should be a certain number of students into the program. I can certainly provide to the Member that information on the criteria and the guidelines we use for these particular courses we offer.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'd like to suggest that cancellation of scheduled programs has a huge impact on both the employer and the employee in this instance. We are concerned why we're losing people to the South, and cancellation of apprenticeship programs is one possibility. I've heard of one instance where that's happened. People plan their lives around scheduled programs, classes and courses, and when there's a cancellation on short notice, it creates large problems for any number of people.

I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not there are any guidelines as to the amount of notice that is required for a scheduled program when it is cancelled, and if not, why not.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Speaker, we certainly don't want to cancel programs unless we have to. At times we have to go that avenue, but at the same time we do, to the best of our ability, communicate to the students and the families, because we realize the impact that would have on the family and the student. We want to give at least advance notice if there's going to be cancellation of a program. That will be part of the communication dialogue from our department with Aurora College and on to the students and the families. We do what we can to communicate with the students who will be impacted when there's a cancellation. Mahsi.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 494-16(2)
ON THE LAND HEALING PROGRAMS

Mr. Yakeleya: Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I asked about the on the land program with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Sahtu health board. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services: would she consider taking this notion to a pilot project in the Sahtu? People in Colville Lake or Délínè or even Fort Good Hope could have such a program,

inviting the department to have on the land healing programs for people in need.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the Member's concern. It is one of the issues I am working on: how to bring the control and the.... I do agree with the Member that the best solutions in healing and grieving and wellness are to be found in communities. I do agree with the Member that we need to revisit the way we are doing that. I'm willing to do that, and I'm willing to work on the proposal and present that to the Members and the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Mr. Yakeleya: My people were very happy to hear the Minister's response in terms of her belief in taking healing programs into our backyard, on the land. I'd ask the Minister if she would commit to sitting down with her colleagues through the various initiatives that they have. It's not to expand bureaucracy or to add another wish list to this government; it's to see how we can coordinate different initiatives from the different departments. Can you come up with, say, \$5,000 to \$10,000 for a pilot project in the Sahtu or any other region that would help people in our own way? That is the commitment I ask of the Minister today.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Yes, I'd be happy to work with the Member on that. Sahtu, as a health authority and health and social services region, has been working really well to improve programs and services there. In order to make real investments, though, and to make a difference and build capacity in communities, we need to do more than just find one program money here, one program money there. I'm interested in changing the policy to see how we could build capacity and put real focus in healing and wellness at the community level. I am working on the proposal, and I look forward to working with the Members as we go forward.

Mr. Yakeleya: I look forward to the Minister's proposal.

Would the Minister look at our wellness workers in the Sahtu region in terms of hiring elders, hiring well established people in the community who know the people very well? I just want to say that we do have good mental health workers when they come into a region; however, it causes some very difficult challenges for us. Would the Minister look at hiring well established community workers in our communities?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Those are the levels of detail that we have to work through. As the Members know, we have not had a chance to review our first full functioning business plan, where we could introduce new programs and revisit the old

programs. That's something we'll be able to do in the month of November. I look forward to working on a new proposal and working with the Members.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Mr. Yakeleya: An elder at Thomas Manuel said to me, "We have a very simple solution. If we could hire one or two people in our community, we can get the job done." But we seem to go into a bureaucracy where we have to bring in outside workers — some of them are very good — to work in our communities. So I ask the Minister again on those details: would she commit to hiring local people who have the expertise and the knowledge in the language of our people and the knowledge of our land to work with our people in an aboriginal context that would serve our people in the best ways?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Yes, I do agree that the local community individuals and organizations and leadership have to be at the forefront in dealing with this issue. I would be happy to make that commitment to work in that way toward that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 495-16(2)
PROTECTING THE INVESTMENT
OF LAND CLAIM ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my Member's statement I made reference to different land claim agreements and, more importantly, the investment those land claim organizations make by way of capital investment. They buy properties from the private sector with regard to retail properties. They've made a lot of investment in purchasing these facilities in Inuvik. They've gone out of their way to retrofit those buildings, bring them up to standard codes and whatnot. Yet it seems like the whole investments that were made could be a loss because of a government project. Nowhere has this government made an attempt to ensure that those investments that were made by the land claim organizations are going to be protected in any way. If anything, they're at risk now because of a government initiative.

I'd like to ask the Premier: exactly where do we stand as a government to protect the private sector's investments, especially those of land claim organizations that invest tens of millions of dollars to get into a certain sector and then find out that the government is competing against them in that particular sector?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Hon. Premier, Mr. Roland.

Hon. Floyd Roland: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, for the record, we have been living up to the commitments through the land claims. One of those examples is the MOUs we've signed with the Gwich'in in the past. We're negotiating with the Sahtu, the Inuvialuit. But those are separate from land claims. That's a process we've entered into to try and work with the corporations so that they can build up capacity in our communities in the North. We must recognize that.

Specifically in the community of Inuvik — and the Member has talked about the office space situation — 93 per cent of the space that is used by the Government of the Northwest Territories throughout a number of departments is leased space. We're working with the private sector in those areas. In fact, some would say that when you look at the mix of the portfolio between owned and leased facilities, we have overextended ourselves on the lease side.

The move that's been planned by the Department of Public Works, working with a number of departments, is to deal with one office space that is leased by another company; it's called the Perry Building. That fell into some safety concerns there, and we had to move staff out and put them in a number of other places — not the most efficient use of our staff, the way they've been put in place.

The department had gone out and issued an RFP initially, and there were no responses back. After that, there were a number of responses, of proposals, after the fact. But because there's interest from a number of groups, it was felt that a tender needed to go out on that space.

Mr. Krutko: With regard to that response, I may even flip the same question with regard to the Yellowknife market. Ninety per cent of the market is private sector in Yellowknife, yet the federal government built a facility here in Yellowknife. They at least had the guts to go out and have an independent review to see exactly what the market disruption would have been over the long term here in Yellowknife in order to satisfy the private sector.

I'd like to ask the Premier: is this government willing to do a similar thing in regard to the Inuvik market and have an independent review to see exactly what the market disruption is over the next ten or 20 years in regard to these facilities that the private sector has invested in?

Hon. Floyd Roland: There's been a lot of work done in this area already. One, looking at the fact that we've had to move people out of an existing space, we've got to make up that shortfall. The department has notified all those who have leased space with the Government of the Northwest Territories in their community that we are not shortening our leases and we're not removing people out of that leased space.

We're going to accommodate that, out of a number of our own older buildings that we have, as well as those staff who were moved out of an existing space that fell into some safety concerns.

The confirmation letters have been sent. There will be no disruption in our existing portfolios when it comes to leased assets.

Mr. Krutko: The government requires 25,000 square feet of space. They're going to build a facility for 47,000 square feet of space. That's double what the government's needs are. That is going to double the requirements and needs in the Inuvik region. If you're talking about office space needs versus the size of a facility that's going to be built, it's twice the size of what's required by the government today. If you can't tell me that the other half of that space is going to be filled by somebody else.... Those people have to come from somewhere.

As a government we realize that the Inuvik economy is not really that secure without a pipeline. These people made a lot of investments in that area to hopefully take advantage of the market in that area. But as a government competing against that market, it's not really fair to the private sector. Why should they invest in this market if this is the way the Government of the Northwest Territories is going to treat them?

I'd like to ask the Premier again: why is this government not doing a market disruption review by an independent body?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I'd like to remind Members that the issue we're talking about is before Committee of the Whole right now in the Capital Estimates. That's the proper place to be debating this. However, I'll allow the Premier to respond. Mr. Roland.

Hon. Floyd Roland: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through that process information was provided to Members on the leased space that's out there in the community. Again, 93 per cent of the office space in Inuvik is leased with a number of companies in the North or in the community as well. As I stated earlier, the department has notified those companies that we are not moving people out of that space. We're replacing existing space that was used and some of our older facilities that are owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just spoke to the gentleman responsible for reviewing, and right now they're doing a review in regard to the requirements in Inuvik region. They're telling me that there's no need for that large an office building

in Inuvik, which will definitely have an effect on the market. If the private sector is already in Inuvik doing this review, how can the Premier tell me they've been talking to the sector that they are concerned about in regard to what effect this is going to have on them?

Again, I'd like to ask the Premier: could you put a hold on this project until a thorough review is done to ensure that all avenues have been taken so there will be no market disruption in that particular area in regard to Inuvik properties?

Hon. Floyd Roland: This project has been delayed since the events that happened with the Perry Building facility. There are limited amounts of space in the community, whether it's one office or two offices, but not enough to properly run the departments, as we have been through — for example, the situation with the Perry Building. As well, we have a number of older assets in the community that are being used right now, and we're either going to have to invest in fixing up the older properties we own or go into a newer facility to replace the space we lost with the closure of two floors in the Perry Building.

Again, the department has notified those who are leasing space from the Government of the Northwest Territories right now that they will not lose that space.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 496-16(2) GNWT DIAMOND POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I want to continue with some questions today for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Again it has to do with diamond policy, strategy and vision of the Government of the Northwest Territories as it relates to our diamond file.

I mentioned yesterday that the previous government blew up the diamond division at ITI midway through the life of the last government. I know we are doing work in the area of developing a review of the policy that's in place for diamonds. I'm wondering: if the division isn't there, who exactly is doing the work of the review of the policy and the strategy?

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

Hon. Bob McLeod: Since diamonds were discovered in the Northwest Territories ten years ago, the Government of the Northwest Territories has been working very hard to maximize the benefits of the diamond industry for NWT residents and businesses.

In particular, we've been successful in developing a secondary manufacturing industry here in the North. I'm very proud to say that it's well recognized within the diamond industry that this has worked very well, and it's being adopted by other countries that have diamonds. As far as reviewing our policies, it is has been ten years, so it is important work that has to be done. Right now we're developing our framework internally, and we will be seeking input from the members of the standing committee. Once we have agreed on the framework, my expectation is that we would seek some outside expertise.

Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Minister that we have to maximize the return we get from having diamonds here in the Northwest Territories. I think the Minister stated that the work was being done internally and that it is a framework. Yesterday I said that time is of the essence. I think we need to be on this. I also heard the Minister yesterday state that we did have people attend the three town hall meetings in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto as it relates to the feasibility of a diamond bourse. What was the purpose of the Government of Northwest Territories attending those meetings?

Hon. Bob McLeod: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to recognize the difference between a province and a territory. Ontario as a province can collect royalties on diamonds that are being produced, so we have to find other ways to maximize benefits to the Northwest Territories. One of the ways we have done that is by requiring an allocation from the diamond mines and establishing a secondary diamond industry. So that is how we're maximizing our benefits.

We had people attend the diamond bourse hearings that were held so that we could stay on top of it and monitor what was going on with regard to the diamond bourse. There has been no indication that this is something the Ontario government will continue with; we haven't seen the report as yet. But we are staying on top of it.

Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the Minister makes a good case. Ontario is a province. The Northwest Territories obviously is a territory, and I believe that it is vitally more important for us as a territory to maximize the opportunity. Ontario has a tremendous amount of other opportunities all over the province, and we are struggling here to find opportunities for our people. We have four operating diamond mines in our territory, yet as a government we just don't seem to grasp that we can do more and we should be doing more in terms of diamonds. I want to get a better understanding from the Minister. Again, were we just there watching an opportunity pass us by?

Hon. Bob McLeod: Mr. Speaker, I guess the way I look at it is that the majority of the diamonds produced in Canada are produced in the Northwest Territories, and if we wanted to develop a diamond bourse and it was concluded that it would be something that would be worthwhile and would benefit the residents of the Northwest Territories, then we would look at doing something similar. But this was a Government of Ontario initiative. They had hired a consultant that went around and held hearings, so we went and listened and heard what people were saying.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, my point is: why is Ontario getting out in front of the Government of the Northwest Territories? Why aren't we getting a consultant? Why aren't we doing some meetings? Why aren't we talking to the industry? Why aren't we trying to set up a diamond bourse and exchange here in Yellowknife, which is the diamond capital of North America? It's going to be located on Bay Street, not here in Yellowknife, where it should be, and that's a shame. Again, we need to be in front of it.

Hon. Bob McLeod: Mr. Speaker, when diamonds were first discovered ten years ago and we developed our diamond policy, we concluded that we would maximize benefits to the Northwest Territories by having an allocation of diamonds provided for the Northwest Territories and developing a secondary manufacturing industry. We are now reviewing our policy. If it comes out that a diamond bourse would provide additional benefits to the Northwest Territories over and above what we already have, then certainly we will look at that as part of our review of our diamond policy.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 497-16(2)
NEGOTIATED CONTRACT FOR
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN INUVIK

Mrs. Groenewegen: Mr. Speaker, my questions today are about the negotiated contract for the construction of the replacement of the two schools in Inuvik. There are land claims in place with respect to negotiated contracts in various regions in the Northwest Territories. In the Inuvik region those land claims extend to include the interests of the Gwich'in people. I would like to know if the Cabinet, when negotiating this contract, requested a legal opinion on any obligation they may have to the Gwich'in for a negotiated contract of this nature in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Hon. Premier, Mr. Roland.

Hon. Floyd Roland: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process of the negotiated contract policy that the government holds is one that has been put in front of aboriginal organizations and governments for their review and consultation with us, and some amendments have taken place. That policy has been on the books for quite a number of years. When the issue of the negotiated contracts comes up, that is when the claims are very specific. If we are going to negotiate a contract, then we have to go to the aboriginal organization that is in the area. In this case, both organizations, the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in, provided letters of support for the negotiation process.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Mr. Speaker, obviously I don't have access to those letters of support. I have seen a list of the people who did provide letters of support, but I haven't seen those letters of support.

I would like to know if the Premier would be prepared to make those letters of support available to this House and to the Members. Also, did the letter of support from the Gwich'in include anything about receiving part of the work that would be associated with this negotiated contract? It's my understanding that Dowland Contracting is 51 per cent owned by the Inuvialuit, and it is also my understanding that.... Well, I'll just leave it at that. Was there anything in the letter of support that could be interpreted as a condition with respect to receiving benefits for the Gwich'in under this negotiated contract?

Hon. Floyd Roland: Mr. Speaker, the letters of support I believe would be in the package. If they aren't, we will ensure that Members get that. In fact, as the department goes through the process of finalizing the contract process, I understand that they are targeting about 90 per cent to fall within northern contractors. So that is one of the reasons the negotiation process is available for projects in the Northwest Territories.

Mrs. Groenewegen: With respect to this negotiated contract, we have learned that a letter of award.... Well, first of all, when I asked the Minister of Education, he said the contract had been awarded. Then we found out that the contract had been awarded but it was just a letter of intent and that the actual contract had yet to be signed. I said: is it legally binding? They said: no; in fact we have secured a legal opinion to the contrary — that, in fact, the letter to Dowland Contracting is a legally binding document.

I would like to know on whose authority the deputy minister of Public Works was acting under in order to enter into that letter of intent to Dowland

Contracting. Was it the Minister of Finance? Was it the Premier? Whose authority was he acting on?

Hon. Floyd Roland: Mr. Speaker, this process and many of the questions that are being asked were asked early on as this went through the infrastructure acquisition plan that's before Members. This project here, as awarded.... There are a number of phases that were awarded. First was the site development, and that is a northern company that is doing that work.

The issue with the construction company, which has now had an offer put in front of them.... But it is conditional, as was laid out through there. I haven't seen the Member's legal opinion, and we'd have to have a look at that if they are prepared to share that with us.

The other side of it is the fact that we followed the existing process that is in place; no changes to that process have been done. Whether it's a tendered process or a negotiated process, the normal process has been followed.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that these capital projects come in phases and that appropriations are voted in various years related to the work that will be done in that fiscal year. However, I am concerned that a letter equivalent to a letter of award was offered to a construction company, Dowland construction, without the appropriation having been voted on in this House. That is still before us today; that appropriation under the Department of ECE is still before us today. So I'm concerned about the timing and the process. Whose authority it was under that that letter was sent is important to me, also whether or not we got the process straight, whether that letter should have been held off until such time as the appropriation was voted on. That's what I'm getting at.

Hon. Floyd Roland: Mr. Speaker, once again, the process has been followed. All the steps we normally do, whether it's this negotiated contract, negotiated contracts in other communities or other schools.... The process has been followed in this area. The deputy minister has that ability to send awards out. It is conditional, as was stated in Committee of the Whole, I believe. An award is conditional on them meeting their conditions as well as this Assembly passing the infrastructure plan.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 498-16(2)
FOOD SERVICES AT
TERRITORIAL DEMENTIA CENTRE

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding food services at the new dementia centre that's being constructed right now. There's a concern out there that the food services won't be adequately delivered or of adequate quality for the long term care people at the dementia centre. I'd like to ask the Minister: will the food services be privatized at the new dementia centre, and will that subsequently lead to the privatization of all the food services at Aven centre?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

Hon. Sandy Lee: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Department of Health and Social Services is providing 100 per cent of the funding and 100 per cent of the O&M. We're creating 28 beds at the territorial dementia centre at almost half a million dollars each for 28 units. We're funding 100 per cent of O&M. It is an NGO organization; it is not a government organization. But we're providing them with the capital funding and O&M to fund that. It's up to YACCS as to how they use their money to provide the services that they do. At the same time, the YACCS board has instructed the staff to work with the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services to work out the details, and they're working on that in a very cooperative manner.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of the old adage that when it walks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. If YACCS is only paid in Sodexo coupons and there's only one place that takes Sodexo coupons and they are privatized food services that offer only short term food delivery based on a seven day meal plan, what is the Minister doing to accommodate the long term meal plan as designed by the single point design that this dementia centre is designed on?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member is trying to say Signal Pointe facility based in Calgary. I want to tell you, and I'm sure he knows from talking to YACCS, that this new facility has three kitchens. It will be a beautiful facility. It's a facility that's very much required in the Territories. It will allow us to take our elders who are suffering from dementia into extended care, some of them for ten to 12 years. It will take care of elders who are being sent away from Yellowknife. It will be a wonderful facility, very needed, and the seniors will be very well taken care of. The Member should be cautious in suggesting that this.... We don't want to alarm the public. This will be a very beautiful facility with beautiful programming.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Speaker, I'm not alarming the public. The bell has already rung. I cannot unring the bell that's been rung, that's been brought to me. The fear and concern is because YACCS is not allowed to build their own independent kitchen at this time. The fact is that no one's one hundred per cent clear where these meals are going to come from, and no one's one hundred per cent sure at this time why you would have three kitchens when you only need one. So where are the meals coming from? Clearly, the question simply is: will the meal plan be delivered by Sodexo, and is that privatization of the meal plan going to lead to the privatization of the meal plan at Aven as well?

Hon. Sandy Lee: The staffing and programming services are the jurisdiction of the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, which is YACCS. I have every confidence that YACCS will use the money they get from the government and provide the best services for the seniors. There is no suggestion or conclusion that any of those services will be privatized.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. A final short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that report it cites that long term patients need long care meal plans. That's typically based on a 30 day meal plan. I'd like to know exactly who will be making the meals for the dementia centre. Is it strictly based on YACCS only having the Sodexo contractors to go to? Or are they able to design and cook and create their own meal plans within their own facility? Which is it?

Hon. Sandy Lee: Mr. Speaker, once again, YACCS has one hundred per cent control over what services they provide. This government provides funding for that. It's not within the purview of this Legislature as to what they do in terms of providing food services to the seniors. I can assure you that those seniors are going to have a beautiful facility, and it's going to be beautiful programming.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 499-16(2)
HIGHWAY NO. 1 REST STOPS

Mr. Menicoche: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of ITI, and interestingly enough, it's on bathroom facilities.

On our highway system on Highway No. 1, ITI provides at the pullover stops the safety cabins and washrooms. There are indications that they're all run down now and they're kind of unsightly. I'm just wondering if there's a plan to replace them in the next little while.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Hon. Bob McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the NWT highway system has long stretches of road without communities or other identifying points of interest in between. We work very closely with the Department of Transportation so that our travelling public and tourists that come up here can have points of interest identified to them and we can make stops available to them when nature calls — also that they can stop safely. We're working with the Department of Transportation so that we can strategically identify and place pullouts. As funding becomes available, we can put in place rest stops and other facilities.

Mr. Menicoche: The roadside pullouts and those rest stops are existing, but some of them are the outdoor type. The Minister didn't really identify when they're going to replace them. Should they be replaced? Can they look at the more sanitary style, the more modern stucco style or the cisterns?

Hon. Bob McLeod: Mr. Speaker, we do have some rest stop facilities. Where it becomes difficult is that some of them are located quite far away from communities. Generally we make arrangements with either a contractor or the Department of Transportation. Those are the arrangements we have in place, and as we progress with our plan, we could look at better and more effective ways to have these facilities.

Mr. Menicoche: Once again I'd just like to ask the Minister if they can develop a plan to replace the toilets. Some of our campgrounds, too, are distant, and maybe they can do some cost savings. Instead of going out there with the sewer trucks, they can stop at the roadside pullouts.

Hon. Bob McLeod: We would look at that where it's feasible. I know that in some instances we do have sewage pickup. I don't know how feasible it is if they have to travel long distances to go to a campsite, but we're prepared to look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Written Questions

QUESTION 39-16(2)
COST OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
IN MACKENZIE DELTA COMMUNITIES

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question in regard to the cost of child and family services in Mackenzie Delta communities.

My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services:

- 1) How many children from the Mackenzie Delta communities are receiving services through Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Social Services?
- 2) Please provide the monthly costs to administer voluntary support services and agreements, plan of care agreements and child apprehensions per child in the Mackenzie Delta constituency under the following situations:
 - care in the parental home;
 - care through extended family;
 - foster care; and
 - treatment from a facility in southern Canada
- 3) What steps are taken when a child turns of age and is released from the care of Health and Social Services?
- 4) What type of planning and support is provided in these children upon their release from care?
- 5) What follow up measures does the Department of Health and Social Services undertake to track these children/young adults over time?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 19
DONATION OF FOOD ACT

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 19, Donation of Food Act, and wishes to report that Bill 19 is now ready for Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

Hon. Michael McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT Response to CR 2-16(2): Standing Committee on

Government Operations Report on the Auditor General's Performance Audit of the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Document 106-16(2), GNWT Response to CR 2-16(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Auditor General's Performance Audit of the NWT Housing Corporation, tabled.

Mr. Hawkins: I'd like to table a document. It is page 3 of the Yellowknifer dated Friday, October 17, 2008, which is today. The article is titled "34-Hour Reading," and it makes specific note of a memo that was received. Thank you.

Document 107-16(2), NNSL article, tabled.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 24-16(2) TIERED VEHICLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 20, 2008, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly recommends implementing a tiered vehicle registration system where fees are based on the fuel economy rating of vehicles, thereby encouraging ownership of more fuel efficient vehicles and supporting the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MOTION 25-16(2) FOOD MAIL PROGRAM AUDIT

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 20, 2008, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that this Assembly communicates its desire for the Government of Canada to undertake a full and detailed audit of the Food Mail Program in order to determine exactly what food items and which clients are currently being subsidized in order to improve program practice and accomplish the stated government objectives of contributing towards healthy diets in the North.

Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MOTION 26-16(2) NWT MILK SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 20, 2008, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a milk subsidy program for all children aged one to 12 in any community where milk costs are 10 per cent or more higher than those in Yellowknife, and further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories include the cost of the milk subsidy program in the 2000–2010 budget and implement the program in early 2009.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Bromley. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 21 APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) 2009–2010

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 20, 2008, I will move that Bill 21, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009–2010, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Motions

MOTION 23-16(2): APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Abernethy: Thank You, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Legislative Assembly is required to appoint Members to the Board of Management in accordance with Subsection 36(3) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that the following Members be appointed to the Board of Management of this Assembly:

Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Member for Monfwi, and

Mr. Jackie Jacobson, Member for Nunakput

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be appointed to the Board of Management as alternate Members:

Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, and

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Member for Nahendeh

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Honourable Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Question has been called.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Minister's Statement 80-16(2), Tabled Document 93-16(2), Bills 14, 15, 16 and 17, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. Under consideration is Minister's Statement 80-16(2), Tabled Document 93-16(2), Bills 14, 15, 16 and 17. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee today is to continue with the Northwest Territories Capital Estimates '09-10 and carry on where we left off yesterday on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): With that, we'll take a short break.

The Committee of the Whole took a short recess.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We have a quorum, so let's reconvene Committee of the Whole.

TABLED DOCUMENT 93-16(2):
NWT CAPITAL ESTIMATES 2009-2010

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We are on page 7-7. Does the Minister have witnesses?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Does the committee agree?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Can I get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses in, please.

Minister Miltenberger, can I get you to introduce your witnesses, please.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: I have with me Ms. Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance and FMB, Mr. Michael Aumond, deputy minister of Public Works and Services, and Mr. Russ Neudorf, deputy minister of Transportation.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. We are on page 7-7, Education, Culture and Employment, Activity Summary, Education and Culture, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the issues that I see coming to light here is that we have a major capital layout in regard to capital projects, but there also has to be a socio-economic component too. And it is capital layout that is out there ensuring that the communities benefit from these projects, not only from the infrastructure itself but also jobs and business opportunities. More importantly, it also ensures that communities do have an opportunity to build capacity around these projects by way of apprenticeship programs — getting people trained in different areas, either in regard to carpentry, wanting to be an electrician or whatnot.

The only opportunity for lot of our communities is these projects, which come along once in a while. Especially with projects in my riding in the past, I know for a fact that these contracts were negotiated in regard to that particular emphasis being put on those community projects. In Fort McPherson, Tetlit Zheh Construction did that project. The project at Aklavik was a joint venture between the aboriginal community and the aboriginal corporation.

Again, the whole emphasis around these major capital projects is to stimulate the local economies and not have somebody just swoop into town, get the contracts, bring their trailers into town, set up a camp and not use any of the community's private sector hotels and whatnot. I think it is important that this government cracks down on the practice that's out there now in regard to how these contracts are being laid out. Sure, you get requests for proposals, but when you start telling communities, "Well, sorry; we don't think you've got the capacity, and you can't negotiate a contract, and it has got to go to one company in the Northwest Territories," I think

we are really undermining the whole emphasis of developing our economies.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance: what are we doing as government to track these capital projects to ensure that local contractors are benefiting from these contracts and not simply on the sidelines watching someone else do it?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government tracks all the contracts, and they issue reports. We have negotiated contract policies. We are of course interested in partnerships. As well, we consider joint ventures. One of the reasons that we had BIP initially was to try to support and maintain local businesses. We track all that information through the work that we do to compile all the contracts the government is engaged in over the course of the year.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chairman, one area that's pretty obvious is.... People who got into a B & B business or a local hotel are struggling to keep their doors open. They've taken the risks and set up these businesses in our small communities, yet people continue to come in and set up their own camps. Again, they're not using, under our policy in regard to using local businesses, local entrepreneurs to accommodate their services in these contracts.

Why is it that there's a loophole there that has continued to be avoided with the so called policies this government has? They allow that practice to continue, which is that we're not using the local hotels, local B & Bs. People are actually going into communities, bringing in their own camps and not using those particular businesses that are established in our communities.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Chairman, the general rule, of course, for the Government of the Northwest Territories is to support and use local resources, to purchase locally as much as we can and use the local services.

If the Member has specific examples or projects or contracts that could be looked at, we would be better able to speak to that in more detail, but clearly, we have a general interest, as does the Member, to make sure that much of that money that we have is spent in and stays in the North.

Mr. Krutko: Well, the project that comes to mind, just offhand, is the Tulita project. The Tulita community corporation has a hotel. It wasn't used. They brought in a camp. Same thing in regard to Fort Good Hope. There's a hotel there that's owned locally. In Fort McPherson they've been building a municipal facility; again, there's a hotel there that wasn't used. There are also individuals who have B & Bs established in those communities, and they're

not being used either. So just on that knowledge that's out there right now, if you're telling me that that's not being allowed, well, it's pretty obvious that it is being allowed. So there's an issue to clamp down on this type of practice.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: I'd like to refer the question to Mr. Aumond, to speak to the Tulita school specifically.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to the Tulita school project the intent was to try and stay in the hotel, but the hotel was full with some longterm residents — some teachers, I believe — who were staying in the hotel for a while. That was the intent. The only alternative for accommodations in Tulita for that project was to bring in a camp.

Mr. Krutko: That's it for now. Thanks.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Next on my list is Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are going to continue today on the area of the negotiated contract for the Inuvik schools replacement and also, I guess, follow up somewhat on the questions I was asking in the House today that the Premier answered.

In question period a few days ago I asked the Minister of Education if the contract had been awarded for the Inuvik schools replacement. I was told that it had been. Later on in Committee of the Whole, upon further questioning actually, I found out that it was a letter of award and it wasn't the actual contract that had been signed.

I want to question a bit more about the process for the authority that the Department of Public Works and Services has to have in order to enter into such an agreement, such a contract. I will set aside for a minute, perhaps, conflicting legal opinions about whether that letter of intent or letter of award is legally binding or not. We'll just set that aside for a minute, because there may be a difference of opinion about that.

In terms of the process is there a record of decision? How does the Department of Public Works know that they have the appropriation authority to enter into an agreement with a contractor for the provision of a piece of infrastructure?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's within the money and follows the process, then the department proceeds apace to award the award contracts.

Mrs. Groenewegen: The letter of award that we're talking about includes money that is yet to be voted on in this appropriation bill that's before us right now. I'd like to ask Minister Miltenberger if he could clarify that. As far as I know, we haven't voted on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment appropriation yet for this next phase of the Inuvik schools replacement, yet the letter of award includes that.

Let's just suppose for a minute that it is legally binding. Isn't there anything that comes from the FMB or from the Cabinet that would indicate a record of decision that would allow PWS to enter into that contract?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department had the authority from the Financial Management Board, up to a certain limit, to award a contract, and that's where our authority is.

With respect to the appropriation level it is a condition of the contract that was attached to the letter of award that the Member brought up that any expenditure made pursuant to the contract has to be approved by the House. Then there are further clauses, if there's no money available, on how that would be resolved between the contract authority, which would be ourselves, and the contractor.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Is there an actual record of decision from the Financial Management Board, signed off by the Minister of Finance, I would suppose, or someone acting for the Minister of Finance which would grant that appropriation authority up to that limit Mr. Aumond is speaking about?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a record of decision.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Can the Minister tell me: what was the date of the letter? I don't have the letter of intent or the letter that's been referred to interchangeably as the contract or letter of intent or letter of award. I don't have that letter in front of me. What's the date on that letter?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: We're just going to check the file here. I think it's July 4, 2008.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Now, supposing that this particular appropriation under ECE gets approval in this House, then the next step will be to draw up and finalize a contract with the party to whom the letter of intent was sent.

I was trying to get at whether there was a significant amount of time between when the letter of intent

was sent and when we were talking about this in the House. Then I was going to suggest that perhaps it could have just waited rather than get us into this quasi, possibly legally binding, agreement. But I see there've been several months in between: August, September, October — three months. Maybe the Minister could tell me: if the price and the details have not been confirmed yet, why would the letter of intent have been sent out three months prior to the discussion in this House on the voting on the appropriation?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Agreement on a price has been reached, and that price is still the same as it was back on July 4. There are some details with respect to security and bonding that still need to be worked out, as I mentioned earlier.

The amount of money the Member is alluding to... We have money in 2008–2009; we wouldn't be looking for any extra money in 2008–2009, nor any more money in 2009–2010 that you would have seen in the 2008–2009 Capital Estimates. The extra money that would be included in the amount we're discussing is for 2010–2011 and 2011–2012.

Mrs. Groenewegen: I know that RODs from FMB and Cabinet are protected and privileged information, but I was wondering if the Minister of Finance could please tell us who signed the record of decision to proceed with this contract.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that record of decision with me, so I couldn't speak specifically, but I could get that information.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you very much. I would appreciate that. Again, just to process: when I asked about Ministers providing letters of support for negotiated contracts in their communities — and Ministers getting involved in discussions about capital projects in their communities at all, I suppose, negotiated or otherwise — it was kind of alluded to that I should know, having been in Cabinet, that there is a process. Something that's a bit curious to me is that if a Minister provides a letter of support to Cabinet for a negotiated contract for a project in their community, does that Minister then leave the room when there's any discussion related to that project in the Cabinet room or in FMB?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Yes.

Mrs. Groenewegen: I guess the reason I ask that, then, is because I find it curious that this morning, when I was asking questions about this negotiated

contract — and I did not direct my questions to the Premier — the questions were not referred to the Minister of Public Works and Services but to the Premier. It's just an interesting point I want to make: if this was being discussed in the Cabinet Room, the Premier and Finance Minister remove themselves from the room, but when it's brought up here in the House and there's a defence to be made for a specific capital project, in fact the Premier would take the questions.

It was on two things this morning. It was on the office complex and this negotiated contract for the schools replacement. That happened two times this morning in the Assembly here. I just wanted to say that that's curious to me, in terms of process.

Could the Minister of Finance please tell me who owns Dowland construction?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: I understand the majority owners are the Inuvialuit.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you. Does the Minister know if the Inuvialuit beneficial shareholders benefit directly from any IRC business interests?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: I didn't quite get the question. Could I ask the Member to repeat it, if she'd be so kind?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. The time has expired, but I'll let Mrs. Groenewegen re-ask the question.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Miltenberger said that Dowland construction — the majority is owned by the Inuvialuit. I just wondered if the Minister was aware if the Inuvialuit beneficial shareholders benefit directly, monetarily, from the IRC business interests.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: That's a level of detail into the internal workings of the IRC and the Inuvialuit that I'm not privy to.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Next on my list is Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just looking at the page for Education, Culture and Employment, I see the various school projects. I just wondered if there was a possibility of getting the school in Hay River, DJSS, started earlier by moving the exact same budget one column over to the left, to get all the projects started. It seems like all of these school projects I'm looking at here are going to be started this year, and then there's some work continuing in Inuvik and also in Fort Good Hope and St. Joseph, except for Hay River, where there seems to be a one year delay. I'm wondering if the government would look at just advancing that project by one year as well.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If ECE completes their program reviews through the education side and it's determined that it's in the best interests for all concerned that we proceed, then we'll of course consider that, the same as we did with St. Joe's here in Yellowknife.

Mr. Beaulieu: That's all the questions I have for this page.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next on my list is Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just following up on the lines with regard to the letters of support for projects. I know that the letters of support, in most cases, are subject to certain wording. Especially when looking at the socio-economic possibilities of jobs, employment opportunities and contracts, that support is subject to those types of arrangements being concluded before these contracts are entered into.

I'd like to ask the Minister: exactly how much weight do these support letters have by way of businesses ensuring there are employment opportunities for affected communities and also ensuring that businesses in those local communities are able to take advantage of these projects to formulate some sort of a joint venture?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These letters are considered a very important part of the process. In the case of the schools in Inuvik there are letters of support from the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit and all the communities, as well as all the affected MLAs. They are an important part of the process.

Mr. Krutko: I had an opportunity to sit down with the former president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council with regard to an individual from Dowland. In those discussions they talked about formulating a joint venture to take advantage of this \$100 million project, yet it seems like there's been a crossing of the minds under new leadership. They're saying that's no longer on the table.

I'd like to ask the Minister: exactly how can you go forward approving an agreement knowing there were letters in which the intent was to formulate these partnerships? Then after you issue the contract, they basically neglect those letters of support in order to go forward on these contracts. What is the avenue in regard to ensuring that there is that weight for local and northern involvement in these types of contractual arrangements?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Chairman, the letter of support that the Member references does indicate that there was a plan or discussions underway to negotiate with Dowland for a role and arrangement with the company so that they could take advantage of opportunities both in the North and outside of the North. But our role is not to track or become involved, once again, in the internal negotiations of private companies in terms of whatever their partnership structure is going to be. What we do know is that we have letters of support from Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and all the MLAs in the community of Inuvik supporting this project.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chair, I know for a fact that in the past there have been situations where the government found themselves caught in the middle, where they allocated a specific contractor who listed their subcontractors on that contract and neglected to give their subcontractors work, where the individual subcontractors countersued, saying: I had a contractual obligation under your contract to be your sub in this contract; I was listed, but you didn't use me. I'd like to know: do you have a list of who the subcontractors are for this particular project, and does that include the Gwich'in Development Corporation?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Not at this point.

Mr. Krutko: I wasn't too clear on what point he's talking about. Not on what point? Do you have the information or don't you?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Chairman, we don't have a list of subcontractors at this time. Once a contract is formalized and all the details are ironed out, then the main contractor will make their arrangements with their subcontractors, at which time we'll have all that information. But at this particular time we don't have a list of subcontractors.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chairman, this is a negotiated contract. Negotiated contracts are a little more stringent than the tendering process. In most cases negotiated contracts ensure that there is local involvement, there is local hire, and there is local preference. In regard to those negotiated contracts, before the negotiated contract is approved by Cabinet, those aspects have to be part of a negotiated contract. So for this government to say, "Well, sorry; we don't have that" or "We don't know..." In order for Cabinet to approve a negotiated contract, there are certain obligations that the contractor has to meet in order to be able to have a negotiated contract signed off.

I'd like to know exactly the elements of the negotiated contract. A \$100 million capital project, by way of a negotiated contract, the biggest one in this government's history, can go by the books and not allow for that process to happen? I find it kind of

odd that this government has approved a \$100 million contract without following the negotiated contracting policy and guidelines. I'd like to know exactly why, in this case, that policy was not followed.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Chairman, all the appropriate policies and procedures have been followed. We are in the process of a negotiated contract process with Dowland, which is majority owned by the Inuvialuit. Once this appropriation is approved, hopefully, by this Legislature, then we will be moving forward to finalize the details. The issue of maximizing northern businesses and employment for Northerners in the contract will be clearly dealt with as well as part of that process moving forward. The initial step first, now, is to conclude the discussions here in this Legislature.

Mr. Krutko: So, again, if that's the case, why is it that a contract went out for 800 pilings in the Inuvik region for this project? A local Gwich'in company had bid on the contract. They didn't even get a letter back to confirm that they had received their tender. If you're talking about local preference and basically allowing for local companies to bid on these projects as subcontractors and not be notified, that tells me that this government is undermining the project by way of project management and not following contracting guidelines that are in place, where you have to identify what the local benefits are and exactly who your subcontractors are. So I'd like to know again: can we get an exact list of the subcontractors on this particular project? Exactly how far into this project are they in regard to these tenders being let, exactly who is bidding on these tenders and who can and who can't bid on these tenders?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Our assumption is that Dowland is aware of this procedure, the process that we're in, and has not signed any contracts with subcontractors but is probably getting pricing and quotes so they can do their own numbers.

Mr. Krutko: Now, this is a major megaproject, and I think that in order to get the maximum benefit out of this project, everyone should at least have an opportunity to bid on some of these items in this contract and ensure that the BIP is being followed. We do have a negotiating policy in regard to everyone having a fair process on bidding on these types of items, regardless if it's site development, pilings or working in regard to roofing or siding or drywalling or whatever. This is a major project.

I'd like to ask the Minister again: can they ensure that they are following their guidelines? Would the government clearly state that they want to ensure that there's local northern involvement in this project, that it's a very high priority of this government? Well, it is. How can you illustrate that?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: We will of course commit to following the policies and procedures that are going to maximize northern business and employment opportunities. As the contract proceeds, that information will become available, and that will be the evidence that we'd be supplying to the Member, keeping in mind, of course, that the main contractor is a northern owned business with a majority ownership by Inuvialuit as a starting point. We will follow through, as the Member has asked.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Time is up. We will go to the next person on my list. Mr. Yakeleya.

Mr. Yakeleya: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask if I could defer a question until later.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up on a couple of things. First of all, Mr. Aumond, in responding to Mrs. Groenewegen, referred to a clause in the contract that was attached to the letter of award that states that the funds and go-aheads were pending approval or appropriation of funds by the House. I don't recall seeing a reference to that, actually, or the attachment to that letter of award. Was that a draft contract that was attached, or was something specific there that we could see?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That would have been included. You would have seen something in the letter of award about it being consistent with the tender documents attached. The tender documents would form the contract. It's a standard clause that we include in all our contracts. There has to be a sufficient uncommitted balance in the appropriation in order to fulfill and continue on with the contract.

Mr. Bromley: Okay; thank you. I understand it wasn't a full contract, but the tender documents would have included that contract, then.

Mr. Aumond: Mr. Chair, the tender documents do form the contract.

Mr. Bromley: The second thing I wanted to follow up on was — let's put it this way — the potential increasing conflict we have with the resolution of self-governance negotiations: MLAs that may end up being in a difficult position of basically serving two governments, one officially and one unofficially, when they are beneficiaries of those governments. I'm not levying accusations here or anything. I'm trying to highlight what's potentially a new and increasing situation we have here.

To me, even a letter of recommendation from an individual — in this case our Premier, who was a beneficiary of the Inuvialuit.... This was an Inuvialuit company. When we're dealing with something that potentially can directly benefit the beneficiaries, it's placing an MLA in that position in a very difficult situation. I think our public expects rigour here to make sure that we deal with potential conflicts of interest. I'm just wondering if the Minister would think this does highlight a need for a review of our conflict of interest guidelines, given the settlement of self-government negotiations that are bound to put more and more of our MLAs in that sort of extraordinary level of potential for conflict of interest — serving two masters, so to speak.

I understand in this case the Premier, the Minister of Finance at the time, removed himself during discussions after he had written a letter of recommendation. But I'm just thinking that this is a sticky bunch of incidents or parameters in this situation, and perhaps it's something that could be reviewed as potential for improving the process.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was any interest to get an opinion from the conflict commissioner, I would suggest we'd have to very clearly articulate the question so that we could get some indication as to the clear question that the Member would want put to the conflict commissioner for his advice. I would suggest at this point that when negotiated contracts are in the mix or being considered.... Right now a letter of support from the appropriate MLA or MLAs is a part of the process. With a negotiated contract, if an MLA happens also to be a Minister, then once that letter's written, the involved Minister, when that issue comes to the table for discussion, would declare their interest and leave the room. If there are further checks and balances that may be required in the opinion of the committee, then I'm sure we would all benefit from that clarity.

Mr. Bromley: I certainly agree with the Minister on this. For clarity, perhaps I could say a hypothetical situation, where we have a Minister of Finance who is also a direct beneficiary, potentially, who could benefit from a project being awarded or negotiated with a company....

Interjection.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Point of order, Mr. Roland.

Point of Order

Hon. Floyd Roland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The discussion about this capital plan that's before the House has now turned directly to a line of

questioning about the credibility of a Member of Cabinet and the process. Questions about the conflict of interest process letters are better held at another table if we're going to go and see an overall piece. That's the Legislative Assembly as a whole, not just Cabinet, who would deal with that piece of it.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, that again, with this line of questioning, under 23(i), I believe it is, the motive is being planted. I know the Member himself has stated that he's not intending to do this, but by a line of questioning following other lines of questioning in this House, in a sense saying, where's the information.... Well, all Members know the information was given. A full package was given to Members, so asking a question saying, "I don't have it" is not correct. It's there; it's in front of Members. All Members of this Assembly have it.

Now, the process itself on this piece. Cabinet has gone out and sought that information, and we followed the process and the rules. Whether it's a Member for the Dene, the Gwich'in or the Inuvialuit, it's considered a broad class of citizen. That question has also been directed with.

Mr. Chairman, the fact is that this line of questioning is not following the capital plan itself. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Roland. I'll take your point of order under advisement and provide my ruling at a later time or a later date.

**Consideration in
Committee of the Whole
of Bills and Other Matters
(Continued)**

**Tabled Document 93-16(2):
NWT Capital Estimates 2009–2010
(Continued)**

Mr. Abernethy: The next person on our list is Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister of Finance has kindly offered to provide some additional information on this matter before us right now, so I have a motion, if it could be distributed.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Please proceed, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**COMMITTEE MOTION 80-16(2)
DEFERRAL OF CONSIDERATION OF
EDUCATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITY IN
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT
CAPITAL ESTIMATES (TD 93-16(2))
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)**

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity "Education and Culture" under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment — Capital Estimates 2009–2010 on pages 7-7 and 7-8 at this time.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is on the floor and is being distributed now. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Honourable Members: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Question is being called.

Committee motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're going to defer pages 7-7 and 7-8. By extension, we will also be deferring page 7-2. Shall we move on to the next department, committee?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The next department is the Department of Transportation. We're going to defer until after consideration of the Activity Summary page 8-2, so we'll move on to 8-4. Page 8-4, Department of Transportation, Activity Summary, Airports, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$17.103 million. Agreed?

Department of Transportation, Activity Summary, Airports, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$17.103 million, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Next is Transportation, Activity Summary, Marine, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$645,000. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to the Coast Guard regulations that we operate under for marine vessels and also the types of weight that can be carried on specific ferries, I know that the pipeline companies are looking at their transportation option of moving goods and services by highway. In regard to crossings I know there were some questions asked about the Peel River ferry having the capacity to take on some of these heavier loads that we're probably going to see during the construction of the pipeline.

I would like to ask exactly what this government is doing to ensure we do have the capacity to replace that ferry so it can carry heavier loads and also that companies see that the public's safety is taken into account and we follow federal Coast Guard regulations. I'd like to ask: exactly what are we doing in regard to movement of goods and services and the safety of people on our marine vessels?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to refer that question to Mr. Neudorf.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Neudorf.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Abraham Francis Ferry that operates on the Peel River is able to safely accommodate all the highway traffic that moves up the Dempster Highway at the present time. It is authorized by Transport Canada, which sets the regulations for all of our ferries.

We have also been discussing the use of the Dempster Highway and the use of the ferries there with the pipeline proponents. They have indicated to date that they expect only minor impact on the ferries. We'll continue to follow up on those discussions with the pipeline proponents as their logistical plans get further developed to see if, in fact, that's the case and to ensure that our infrastructure, be it ferries or highways or airports, will meet their requirements.

The final point is that some of the regulations on vessel stability are changing. We've been informed that this is coming, so we are making the necessary changes to our vessels. The Abraham Francis Ferry is one of those vessels that will need a change at some time in the future, and that's why the one project is here.

Mr. Krutko: Can the Minister elaborate on how far into the future he is talking about replacing this vessel?

Mr. Neudorf: We are not currently considering replacing the vessel. We are looking at and are in the process, actually, of upgrading the vessel.

Mr. Krutko: I know there was a major overhaul in regard to the ferry on the Mackenzie crossing at Tsiigehtchic. There were four engines replaced on the vessel. I know that this summer they had problems with one of the engines, which went down. They were operating with only three engines.

I'd like to know if there was any warranty in regard to that particular project. Why is it that with brand new engines we're already seeing these problems by way of new replacements? Not even a year into

the project we're already having problems with it. What types of warranties do we cover on these types of replacements, and exactly why are we already seeing these types of problems?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Just as a reminder, it's getting a little bit noisy in here. If Members wish to carry on sidebars, they could take them outside of the Chamber. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: I'd refer that to Mr. Neudorf, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Neudorf.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct that we did have a project last year to replace the four engines on the Louis Cardinal Ferry at Tsiigehtchic. That project was successfully concluded, and the ferry has been operating all this summer.

He is also correct that there was a minor issue with one of the engines on the ferry, and that was corrected through some of the warranty work and the contract we had in place.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We're on page 8-7, Transportation, Activity Summary, Marine, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$645,000.

Department of Transportation, Activity Summary, Marine, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$645,000, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Moving on to page 8-10, Transportation, Activity Summary, Highways, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$59.233 million. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have seen, especially this summer and last year, that there have been some major challenges we're facing on our highways. We had a major highway closure on Highway No. 7, and a culvert collapsed on Highway No. 8. The road condition of Highway No. 6, and also....

You know, we're starting to close highways down, and we're finding that it is a question of public safety. Yet we continue to spend major capital dollars on highways that have already been developed with chipseal and major overhauls. We are now in a situation where roads are actually

being closed because of the substandard construction of those highways in the past. Now it's coming to an age where we're actually seeing collapses. We're seeing the roads being eroded by permafrost.

I think it's more important, Mr. Chair, that we as government do a better job to put the money where it's urgently needed in regard to what highways are crumbling, where we're having to close highways because of public safety. More importantly, we have to ensure that the travelling public feels safe on these highways.

We have a major summer cottage industry by way of tourism, but when our highways are being closed and the condition of the roads is so bad that tourists are being told in other jurisdictions not to come to the Northwest Territories, that sends a bad message to the tourism sector.

I think as a government we have to do a better job. I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what we are doing to ensure that those capital investments we're making are made where there's emergency need and where the biggest risk is.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other example that was missed, of course, was the major sinkhole on Highway No. 5. I'll ask Mr. Neudorf to speak to the details.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Neudorf.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member has indicated, safety and integrity of our infrastructure is very important to us and to the Department of Transportation as we operate our highway system.

As the Member has mentioned, though, that operation is presented with quite a few challenges at times. We do have a number of different ways and things we're doing just to ensure the integrity and safety of that infrastructure and the safety.

There is a process in place when there is an emergency situation. For example, when the culvert collapsed on Highway No. 7, we were able to get the highway reopened within 24 hours, and within about six months we had a new structure in place to deal with that problem. Our government was able to respond to that.

At the same time, we've recognized for a couple of years now that infrastructure, particularly bridges and culverts, are aging and that we need to be more diligent and more deliberate in our inspections. There is some additional money that's been given in the last couple of years to establish

more formally some bridge inspection programs to ensure we are fully aware of the condition of our assets and the infrastructure out there.

Highway No. 7 I guess presents another unique challenge in that when we'd gone back and tried to assess what exactly happened, it was a whole chain of events that seemed to lead to the situation we had this past summer, an unfortunate situation. Trying to, you know, plan ahead when it does take time to see the capital dollars and time to get the capital dollars through the process does create some challenges for us, but there is money in our capital plan for Highway No. 7 and to continue to address some of the additional needs that are on the highway. We were able to get the highway back open after some considerable effort this summer.

The final point. There is \$59 million here. We have a highway system that stretches from north to south. It's a very extensive highway system, and \$59 million allows us to address the needs on all our different highways and not just focus on one or two problem areas.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chair, I'd like to move a motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Go ahead, Mr. Krutko.

COMMITTEE MOTION 81-16(2)
DELETION OF \$1.4 MILLION FROM
HIGHWAYS ACTIVITY FOR HIGHWAY NO.5
KM 0-266, CHIPSEAL PROJECT UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chair, I move that \$1.4 million be deleted from the activity Highways under Department of Transportation, Capital Estimates 2009-2010, on pages 8-10 and 8-11, for the Highway 5 Km 0-266 Chipseal Project.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor and is being distributed now. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we can see with the challenges we're facing, we do have to do a better job of allocating capital to ensure we do focus on those urgent parts of our highways that are collapsing, which are basically public safety risks, by reinvesting in those highways that are in substandard condition. I drove Highway No. 5 this summer, and I was totally amazed at the amount of chipseal there and the condition of the road and trying to find a speed bump, of which there aren't any.

I think it's important to realize that we have some really unique challenges in regard to Highway No. 6 and Highway No. 7, especially when we start seeing culverts collapsing on our highway systems.

It's a good thing no one is driving the highways when these collapses are taking place, or we would have fatalities on our highway systems.

The intent of the motion is for this government to refocus and direct its capital investment where it's needed. I think it's important to realize that we have highways that are in very dangerous condition and have to be remediated as more of a priority than highways that have already received chipseal, and also that capital investment will continue into the future in regard to maintenance.

I would like to note that there is still money remaining for Highway No. 5 to do the chipseal project. We didn't completely eliminate all the capital. We still have half the capital to do the work this year, and we have capital for next year, but I think this money should be urgently put into Highway No. 6 and Highway No. 7.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion, Mr. Menicoche.

Mr. Menicoche: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I will be supporting this motion, the main reason being that there's a message that's got to be sent: there are other priorities out there, especially, as Mr. Krutko mentioned, Highway No. 7. That is part of our national highway system.

I've done many Member's statements and questions in the House regarding the events that occurred this spring and this summer. Constituents are consistently requesting a permanent remedy and permanent solutions so that we don't have another closure of Highway No. 7. I've got many written documentations from the department, as well, in response to this concern from the region.

But on the books, Mr. Chair, there's no obvious increment to address the need for Highway No. 7. In fact, they have to take away from other pressing needs of Highway No. 7 in order to address that highway section that closed as well. For me, it's a message to government that says: look, when you're distributing our capital dollars and it comes to safety and maintenance of our national highway systems, you've got to take into serious consideration all the different regions.

As Mr. Krutko indicated, it's a reduction in the chipsealing budget, but it doesn't mean it's not going to get done, Mr. Chair; it's just not going to get all done today. That's the same thing we are faced with in other regions, you know. All we ask is that we take care of our needs. It doesn't have to be all done today. Do it over time, but at least as government say that you're addressing it and you're working towards it.

Particularly with the budget for Highway No. 7 I've noticed that the budget remains the same. Why would that be, especially with all the pressing needs

for that particular section, Mr. Chair, and some other smaller regions like Highway No. 6 at Fort Res too? That's another pressing area that's been spoken about time and time again. I'll let the Member press that need as well.

I just want to reiterate that for me it's a message that when government is sitting there allocating the much needed capital dollars, you've really got to take into consideration the seriousness, particularly in Transportation, of highways being shut down. I commend the government and Transportation for every effort they've made on Highway No. 7, but I'm just afraid that if it happens again next year, then what have we really done? Giving them the additional resources they need in order to have a good strategy and a good plan for maintaining and reconstructing our highways is critical to my decision on this motion, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion, Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Basically, I have the same opinion. I think there needs to be more spending on Highway No. 6, Highway No. 7 and Highway No. 8. I think that all those three highways definitely....

As the Member for Nahendeh said, Highway No. 7 was shut down last year. I think the highway was shut down this summer, actually. Highway No. 6 has not been shut down, but it's a very, very bad highway. When it rains, you cannot exceed 70 to 80 kilometres on the highway without putting yourself in some sort of danger. So it would be good to see something happen to Highway No. 6 as soon as possible.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

Mr. Yakeleya: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion here speaks to allocate some needs. I certainly have driven the Dempster Highway. I went there a couple of years, and I know how dusty it is. I said to several Members that I can't believe that in this day and age driving the highway was so dusty. It's dangerous — very, very dangerous. I've also driven Highway No. 6, a very rough road also. I have had the opportunity to drive Highway No. 7. Highway No. 7 is pretty good. You know, there are a couple of spots that need improvement. I've certainly driven the highway to Fort Smith, a good highway. I know there is a need for the highways here.

I'm somewhat bewildered, because the honourable Members here are talking about highways, and our highway in the Sahtu shuts down on March 31 and opens up in January.

So we will certainly look at these and other communities that do not have highways. It is

something we continue pressing for in our region and other regions that do not have roads into the communities on a seasonal basis. I know it, because I've been on those highways. I think that some of them, especially for the Inuvik region.... I've been on the Dempster, and I would say that road really needs to be looked at in terms of the quality. As the deputy minister says, also look at the integrity of the highway to improve it.

Mr. Chair, my understanding is that the roads were given to us by the federal government with certain conditions and that we have to abide by certain standards in Canada to bring them up. In this day and age the funding that we get as a territorial government is very little, even to put bridges in my region. It's very hard to get bridges in my region, let alone put them in there and get them in on time. The people in my region talk about the goat trail into my region.

This issue is a long one in my region, but I will be supporting the Member's motion in terms of allocating some of the dollars here. I'd like to also remind you that there are communities that do not live on the highway system, that have to live on the winter road system and fly in their food.

I know what this discussion's about. I certainly keep pressing this government about other needs in the regions that do not have highways, that are looking forward to one day having a highway into their region. I'll be speaking more on that as we go forward through the budget. I know it's a challenge for this government; it's also challenging our community on transportation issues. Some of the other areas need to be looked at more closely in terms of safety for the people in their regions.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion, Mr. Ramsay.

Mr. Ramsay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to speak today in favour of the motion. First of all, I think it speaks to the fact that the government.... I can appreciate the fact that they do have \$59 million that needs to be spent in, obviously, different areas across the territory. I do appreciate that. But the government has to listen to Members and the concerns that have been raised in this House and from the travelling public. I think we get concerned when money is being spent.

This isn't deleting every bit of money from Highway No. 5. We're spending money on a highway that is passable — it is a good highway, and I've driven that highway — when we have other highways that are impassable and a danger to public safety. We need to be focusing our efforts on ensuring that the public can safely travel on all of our highways. If the Liard Highway has to close again in the spring and people get stuck out there and the weather turns

and somebody gets killed or injured on that road, that's a big problem.

More than anything this motion is just to send a message. I'm not sure why we're looking at chipsealing roads or redoing roads that are good, that are passable, when we do have roads that obviously need some more attention.

Again, it's not deleting everything. There's more money coming down the road, I should say, in the next few years for Highway No. 5. The thing for me is the message that this sends. I do support the mover of the motion and the motion that's before us today.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to say first off that I'm surprised, because I know my colleague also drove the Dettah Road. I'm surprised that Mr. Yakeleya didn't mention how rough, how very rough, the Dettah Road is. It's short; it should be easy to fix.

Fundamentally, Mr. Chair, I do want to support this motion. I've also driven Highway No. 5. The Highway No. 7 closure really highlighted the critical nature of that situation, especially at the peak of the tourist and resupply season. Of course, we know Highway No. 6 is also in need of attention.

I just want to speak very briefly to say that there are lots of priorities out there, but clearly here's one I think we can all agree on. Highway No. 5 has a section that needs some attention, but not the degree of attention that we've proposed here. We're attempting to correct that, and I'll be supporting the motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be supporting the motion. I just want to note for the record that I do support the completion of the work that does need to be done on the road to Fort Smith, but it's the priority of public safety that I'm supporting. That should not, in my view, ever be a question. If people are at risk in any way, we should absolutely be making sure our dollars are spent in that regard. Public safety over public pride of the road.... It should never be a question of whose road is the prettiest or the smoothest. If people are being put at risk and we have to close roads because of safety reasons, that alone should motivate us to support this. That's why I'll be voting in favour of it.

Again, I want to underscore that I've had the pleasure, in a safe way, to drive that road to Fort Smith, and I agree that it does need completion and chipsealing. I suspect that it will go a long way to help tourism and other factors to help the region.

Again, the reason I'm voting this way, at this time, is the principle of public safety, which I have to put first in this particular case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion, the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Hon. Michael McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I should point out that the description used by the Members of this House to describe our roads is a little unfair. Our roads are all considered to be safe. We may have a few potholes and not open year round, but we have different categories of roads. We have winter roads, gravel roads, roads that have chipseal. They all require investment.

I think everybody in this House recognizes that most of our transportation infrastructure and highway system is at the point where it needs to be reconstructed. They need to have investment and investment dollars that we really don't have except to allow maintenance and ensure that we have the travelling public's safety in mind.

We also, at the same time, have many bridges and many culverts that need to be replaced. They're at that point in the cycle where they need replacing and investment. The Member has mentioned the investment made in the Sahtu. By the end of this government we hope to have at least 39 bridges all constructed and finished in those areas in that region. It really requires a lot of investment.

The rationale behind doing all these projects is to provide transportation for as many months of the year as possible. There is, of course, direction that comes from this House. In the previous government there was, I think, very clear direction by the Members that we needed to invest in roads that connect communities. Up to now the majority of our funding went to roads that had been impacted by resource development, projects and resource development in the area. The bulk of our money went into Highway No. 3, Highway No. 1 and the Sahtu.

We're trying to spread it around. We recognize that we need to invest more money and reconstruct Highway No. 8. We recognize that we need to reconstruct and pick up where we left off on Highway No. 7, and it has to be reconstructed.

A lot of these projects, including the work that needs to be done on Highway No. 1, are a result of deferred investment. Now we're seeing some direction that we thought we had from the previous government to invest in Highway No. 5 and Highway No. 6 to ensure that there are safe roads there and also to try to keep it to a standard that would allow the traffic to travel back and forth. We have plans to reconstruct portions of that road, of highways No. 5 and No. 6. We also have plans to

chipseal a good part of those roads. We'd like to see more investment in there, of course, but at this point we have to identify other sources.

This highway provides a real essential link for two communities, and that's Fort Resolution and Fort Smith. So those two communities are dependent on this road for access to the southern part of Canada and Hay River and also into the North Slave. You know, we need to find additional dollars to upgrade it. We need to do more, of course, to reconstruct it, and there are two sources of funding that we've been pursuing. One is through negotiations with Wood Buffalo Park that would allow us to match dollars or have a partnership arrangement to invest in this highway. The other one is to try to earmark some of the dollars that we have negotiated through the Building Canada Fund to be allocated to these two community links.

There is other investment, of course, that is required to some of the smaller communities: the access roads, Nahanni Butte, Jean Marie, Hay River reserve. They all need investment, and those have to be considered. But in this case this is an issue where we wanted to maintain the upkeep of the road. Somebody's mentioned that the road is in pretty good shape. I am very happy to hear that. We consider it to be a very safe and reliable link; however, we'd like to keep it that way. Investing these dollars to reconstruct portions of it — upgrade it so that we can chipseal it — would maintain that standard. So that's the rationale behind this, and it was also included as part of our business planning that was carried over from the last government.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion, Minister Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to note that while the Members have indicated they want to make a point about how money is allocated, we've spent in my life in this Assembly probably over \$100 million on highways No. 3, No. 4 and No. 2, and we've waited patiently for 12, 13 years to try to get a piece of road upgraded. It is interesting to hear Members tell one of the smaller communities — the ones that already have the best roads in the country — to suck it up and donate some of the money back. There are tens of millions of dollars in there for highways No. 3 and No. 4 but no suggestion that maybe it should be those that have the most that contribute this small amount of money. You folks have decided to reach very specifically into one of the smaller constituencies to make your case and raise the issue of noble sentiment about the message. That will be the will of the House, but it rings somewhat hollow to me, and I can assure you it will ring completely hollow to my constituents.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. To the motion. Question?

Some Honourable Members: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Question has been called. I'll call upon Mr. Krutko to conclude the debate on the motion.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank my colleagues who support the motion. Again, the motion is to ensure that we do invest our dollars where it's most urgently needed. No offence to my colleague in Fort Smith, but there is still \$1.4 million that's going to be expended on the chipseal project this year. I think it's clear that this government has to ensure that public safety is paramount for whatever we do here.

With that, Mr. Chair, I would request a recorded vote on this motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Krutko, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Yakeleya.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): All those opposed.

Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Roland, Mr. Michael McLeod, Mr. Robert McLeod, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Any abstentions? The results of the recorded vote on the motion are ten in favour, seven opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

Committee motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're on page 8-10. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Minister Miltenberger, if I can get you to thank your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, if I could please get you to escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you.

I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

The House resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Abernethy.

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document

93-16(2) and would like to report progress, with two motions being adopted.

I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Orders of the Day.

Orders of the Day

Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there'll be a meeting of the Board of Management at adjournment today.

Orders of the Day for Monday, October 20, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Ministers' Statements
- 3) Members' Statements
- 4) Returns to Oral Questions
- 5) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 6) Acknowledgements
- 7) Oral Questions
- 8) Written Questions
- 9) Returns to Written Questions
- 10) Replies to Opening Address
- 11) Petitions
- 12) Reports of Standing and Special Committees
- 13) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
- 14) Tabling of Documents
- 15) Notices of Motion
- 16) Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
- 17) Motions

Motion 24: Tiered Vehicle Registration System

Motion 25: Food Mail Program Audit

Motion 26: NWT Milk Subsidy Program

18) First Reading of Bills

Bill 21 - Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009–2010

19) Second Reading of Bills

20) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Minister's Statement 80-16(2): Sessional Statement

Tabled Document 93-16(2): NWT Capital Estimates 2009–2010

Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Bill 15 - An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

Bill 16 - Write-off of Debts Act, 2008–2009

Bill 17 - Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008–2009

21) Report of Committee of the Whole

22) Third Reading of Bills

23) Orders of the Day

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, October 20, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

The House adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

